



BUSTA NIXES PLEA
SEE PAGE 17

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE UNDER THE WEATHER ISSUE



Photo courtesy City of Santa Monica
CROWDED: Narrow sidewalks have made walking bridge to pier difficult.

Bridging convenience gap

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER Josie and John Young love visiting here, but the tourists from London just wish it was a little bit easier to find their way.

The couple routinely hike up and down the Santa Monica Pier when they visit the city's most indelible landmark each winter, but that

hike has become increasingly dangerous as the years pass.

"We often have to walk into the street if someone is coming in the opposite direction," said Josie Young, as she stood at the top of the pier bridge at Ocean Avenue. "Just now, we had to move out of the way because a man was walking with a stroller. I think it would be a good idea to make (the sidewalks) a little

wider ... It would definitely be a lot safer."

The Youngs aren't alone. For decades, visitors, residents and those involved in the tourism industry have expressed frustrations with the narrow sidewalks and 13-inch high curbs along the pier bridge.

There is also the matter of the complicated

SEE PIER PAGE 6

FAITH

THE FAST AND THE FERVENT

Religious locals abstain for a cause
STORY PAGE 9

Christine Chang news@smdp.com

Gary Limjap

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Joyce Bond

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Calendar

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Yoga for the Lenten Season

725 California Ave., 8:30 a.m. — 4 p.m.

To register, contact Larry Donnelly, St. Monica Pastoral Care Ministries,
at (310) 319-9764 or e-mail larry@stmonica.net.

Kiwanis Club Weekly Meeting

1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.

The Santa Monica Kiwanis Club holds its weekly luncheon with guest
speakers at the YMCA. For more information, call (310) 828-1766.

'Altar Boyz'

11301 Wilshire Blvd., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.

'Altar Boyz' is a musical-comedy spoof about a fictitious Christian boy-band on the
last night of their national 'Raise the Praise' tour. Tickets are on sale at the
Wadsworth Theatre Box Office, by phone at Ticketmaster (213) 365-3500
and online at www.WadsworthTheatre.com.

Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre

1211 Fourth St., 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

For more information, call the Playhouse box office at
(310) 394-9779, ext. 2 or visit www.SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com.

Nordic LAttitudes

601 Santa Monica Blvd., Main Library hours

The Santa Monica Public Library, Friends of the Library, and Moore Ruble Yudell
Architects & Planners are presenting a six-week design and discussion called Nordic
Lattitudes, an educational exhibit showcasing the best in Nordic furniture and lighting
design. For more information, visit www.smpl.org/nordiclattitudes.

'The Edge of Form'

2903 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. — 5 p.m.

The debut works of Joe Pinkelman, Susie McKay Krieser and Darlyn Susan Yee
will be on display. For more information on the exhibit and/or the artists,
visit www.TagTheArtistsGallery.com or call (310) 829-9556.

Fitness Class (Mambo Mania)

1711 Stewart St., 7 a.m. — 8 a.m.

For more information, call (310) 515-4840.

Thursday, Feb. 22, 2007

'Altar Boyz'

11301 Wilshire Blvd., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.

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Ticketmaster (213) 365-3500 and online at www.WadsworthTheatre.com.

Yoga for the Lenten Season

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To register, contact Larry Donnelly, St. Monica Pastoral Care Ministries,
at (310) 319-9764 or e-mail larry@stmonica.net.

Laughter Yoga

717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — noon

Laughter Yoga combines yoga breathing and laughter exercises to increase health
and vitality, to decrease everyday stress and to promote a more positive mental
attitude. This is a donation class — pay what you can (suggested donation \$5-\$10).
For more information, call (310) 471-5773.

Weekly LeTip Business Networking Group

11th Street and Wilshire Boulevard, 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Weekly networking over lunch at El Cholo to provide additional leads
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Call to reserve a spot, (310) 356-7519.

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.

CORRECTION

A picture that appeared in the Feb. 17-18 edition of the Daily Press (page 19) incorrectly identified the man speaking with SMPD Chief Timothy Jackman. The subject should have been identified as Rick Hamer, co-owner of A&R Textbooks on Pico Boulevard.

‘Black Widows’ to await trial even longer

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA Helen Golay has tired of playing the waiting game.

In what has become a defining characteristic in the murder trial of the so-called “Black Widows,” the preliminary hearing scheduled for Tuesday was delayed yet again. The new hearing date is scheduled for March 12, according to Jane Robison, spokeswoman for the LA County District Attorney’s Office.

The 76-year-old Santa Monica landlord and her alleged accomplice, 73-year-old Olga Rutterschmidt, of Hollywood, stand accused of murdering two homeless men and collecting millions of dollars in their life insurance payouts.

Upon receiving a hefty 1,000 pages of discovery from Deputy District Attorney Shellie Samuels, Public Defender Michael Sklar, who is representing Rutterschmidt, requested that the long-awaited preliminary hearing be delayed another month. Over the objections of Golay’s defense attorney, Roger Jon Diamond, the request was granted.

Sklar was not available for comment on Tuesday.

“I objected to the continuance as I had throughout (the case),” Diamond said on Tuesday.

Diamond just finished thumbing through the thousand pages of discovery a few days ago and said he would’ve been prepared by the original preliminary hearing date.

“I read it, took notes and analyzed everything,” Diamond said. “I’m ready to go.”

It’s been a story of delays since the elderly duo was arrested in May of last year on federal insurance fraud charges. Those charges were dropped in the summer when murder charges were filed against the women on July 31.

For months, the attorneys would meet in the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center in Downtown Los Angeles in an attempt to set a date for the preliminary hearing. Each time, Sklar, who joined the case several months after Diamond, would request more time, further postponing the proceedings.

Things seemed to look brighter for the Golay camp on Jan. 18 when prosecutors dismissed the charges against her, immediately refiled them and arraigned Golay again.

SEE WIDOWS PAGE 8



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

SAY CHEESE: The city’s four bronze dolphin statues are actually proverbial piggy banks for people to donate money instead of giving out cash.

A fish out of water

Officials to remove one of two bronze dolphins to save cash

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

THIRD STREET PROMENADE It’s time to flap good-bye to flipper.

Tired of watching good money go to waste, literally, those responsible for promoting and managing downtown have decided to remove one of two bronze dolphin sculptures here that visitors place cash in as an alternative to panhandlers.

City staff and representatives from the Bayside District Corp., a public-private partnership that helps promote and manage downtown, are pulling the plug on the 1200 block’s dolphin because water, grime and other debris are continually seeping into the lockbox where money is stored, rendering much of the money useless, according to those familiar with the project.

The lockboxes for the two dolphins on the promenade are flush with the ground

and quickly fill up with water from rain and pressure washing, requiring a wet vacuum and toilet auger to clean them out. The 1200 block dolphin poses even greater problems because it is located on a downward slope, making it especially vulnerable to water and debris.

Kathleen Rawson, executive director of Bayside.

“The lockbox is full of water, scum and who knows what else the money is swimming in,” Rawson said. “There has been a maintenance problem with the dolphins for some time now.”



THE LOCKBOX IS FULL OF WATER, SCUM AND WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE THE MONEY IS SWIMMING IN.”

Kathleen Rawson, executive director of Bayside District Corp.

When it was last emptied in June 2006, six gallons of water runoff were removed from the lockbox.

City and Bayside officials have tried to come up with solutions, including installing a new lockbox with water-proof pieces, but nothing has worked permanently, said

It makes sense to remove the dolphin near the North Pavilion now because a wine and cheese bar is moving into the space, bringing with it an outdoor dining area that will overtake the dolphin’s digs.

SEE DOLPHIN PAGE 8



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Raising doubts: Board responds

(Editor's note: The following is an open letter from the SMMUSD Board of Education to the Santa Monica and Malibu communities.)

Editor:

Over the past three months, questions have been raised about our school district's ability to give a 5 per-cent raise to our teachers and still maintain the required budget reserves for economic uncertainties ("Those good vibrations might be premature," Feb. 17-18, page 1). As a board, we strongly supported this raise because we believe it is essential to attract and retain highly qual-ified teachers. Over the past several years, when state funding for schools was uncertain, our teachers asked for little in terms of increased compensation. We believe that in this year, when education is fully funded by the state, it is important to provide our teachers with a com-petitive raise.

To address the questions that have been raised, Superintendent Dianne Talarico requested the assis-tance of the state's Fiscal Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), a recognized authority in school finance. The Board of Education received FCMAT's report this past week and discussed it at the board meeting of Feb. 15. In brief, the FCMAT report contains the following findings:

■ Most important, the report affirms the board's con-viction that the district is able to give our teachers a well-deserved 5-percent raise while maintaining the required budget reserves.

■ The report identifies several areas where the district can improve its budgeting practices in order to use our limited resources more efficiently. The board welcomes these recommendations, which will help us to stretch our resources in order to improve the education we provide to our students.

■ The report raises concerns about the district's declining enrollment, a consequence of a more restrictive policy regarding out-of-district permits that the board approved a few years ago with the goal of reducing over-crowding in our schools. We have closely monitored enroll-ment since the new policy was implemented and we are aware that declining enrollment will result in a deficit in our operating budget unless we make budget reductions. The board will take active steps to address the projected deficit beginning with this year's budget development process.

We applaud Superintendent Talarico for her leader-ship in requesting FCMAT's objective and impartial assessment of our budget. We are also indebted to Mr. Anthony Bridges of FCMAT and to his staff for their meticulous examination of our district budget and for helping us to improve our practices, and to our district's own fiscal staff for their expert work on behalf of our students and staff.

Finally, we thank the communities of Santa Monica and Malibu for the support you provide to our schools. We are uniquely fortunate to have one of the most supportive school communities in California, and we could not pro-vide an excellent education to our students without your generous assistance and ongoing support.

Board of Education

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

Mean streets just got a little meaner

Editor:

I read the story about the arrests for the shooting at the low-income housing project behind Edison School, and the murders of Eduardo Lopez and Miguel Martin ("Raids net alleged killers," Feb. 9, page 1). I checked the LA County Sheriff's Web site Sunday evening and discov-ered that Noah Farris, Victor Torres and Jon Carrillo – three of those arrested and accused of involvement in the gang-related shootings in Santa Monica – were released.

Why wasn't the public advised of their release? With every shooting in the Pico Neighborhood in close proxim-ity to a low-income housing project, are those of us who live adjacent to the projects in the Pico Neighborhood really safe?

Mathew Millen

Santa Monica



Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Party girl's shelf life stands test of time

THERE IS NO LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT award for party girls, no old-timer's day and no hall of fame. There is no future in being a party girl; just boredom between parties and a lonely life once the invitations stop com-ing. It may look cute when paparazzi are tak-ing pictures of them on the red carpet rolling in the front door, but when those same paparazzi are taking pictures of them in a red body bag being rolled out the back door, it ain't so cute any more.

No party girl in recent memory has pro-vided better evidence of this than the recent-ly departed Vickie Lynn Hogan, better known as Anna Nicole Smith.

Hers was a classic story. Born in a small town in Texas, her father left home when she was very young, her mother re-married a few times. She dropped out of high school by the age of 15, was married by 17, a moth-er by 18, and a single mother stripping for a living by 20. By 24, she had captured the party girl's holy grail — an 85-year-old bil-lionaire with a weak heart and an engage-ment ring. She then lived through a whirl-wind three years in which she became a Playboy Playmate and a Guess model, ush-ered in a "new era of voluptuousness," and became wife, then widow of billionaire J. Howard Marshall. She was left out of his will, but years of litigation seem to have left her about \$90 million from his estate. She truly became a household name when "The Anna Nicole Show" debuted on E! in 2002. The show and its star were TV gold and, though it was canceled, the camera fell back in love with Anna Nicole when she lost almost 100 pounds and returned to sex-symbol status.

When the infant became the new "must-have accessory" in Hollywood, she got preg-nant. Her baby girl was born in the Bahamas in September. Three short days later, six tragic months began with her 20-year-old son dying from a combination of anti-depressants and methadone (his mom's fridge was full of the stuff) and ended when she was found dead in her hotel room in Hollywood, Florida last week. It's sadly ironic that while Anna Nicole chose to turn her body and her life into grist for the media-driven mill that is our celebrity and sex-obsessed popular cul-ture, her little girl won't have that option. She's in the birth class of 2006 with Suri Cruise, Jayden James Federline and Shiloh Nouvel Joie-Pitt — Hollywood offspring trapped by their names.

It's no coincidence she died the same week that Britney Spears, mother of two, drank her way around New York City (embarrassing herself and her kids) and Lindsay Lohan took a break from rehab to go out clubbing. Anna Nicole's life is a les-son: party girls age fast.

Anna Nicole's lone "talent" seemed to be that she was attractive enough that teenage boys wanted to masturbate to pictures of her. Britney and Lindsay, on the other hand,

have decades of productive years in enter-tainment ahead of them. It must have been hard to grow up as a "Disney Kid" with all the pressure to be a completely and totally Ivory-clean, vanilla-bland straight arrow all the time. It couldn't have been easy knowing all of your non-Disney friends were out par-tying when you were rehearsing and missing out on your teens. But that's why the job pays such obscene amounts of money.

**IT MUST HAVE BEEN
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THE TIME.**

The most successful female recording artist in history, Madonna, has sold about 120 million albums since she started record-ing in 1982 and is worth more than \$300 million. She puts on a great show, but she can't sing. Britney Spears, by contrast, actu-ally can sing, and has sold more than 76 mil-lion albums since 1998. By the time she's Madonna's age, there is no reason why Britney shouldn't have sold 200 million albums. I can only imagine what she would be worth by then.

Lindsay Lohan is the red-haired Hollywood icon of her generation, a multi-talented Molly Ringwald for the new centu-ry. She has been blessed with pop star pipes, a model's face, a beach body, and skin that is both freckled and flawless. She is that rare triple-threat — singer, model, actress — and she's way ahead of schedule. At 20, she's been in front of the camera for 17 years and her timing and instincts reflect that experience, as does her \$7.5 million salary and the fact that Robert Altman cast her opposite Lily Tomlin and Meryl Streep. By the time she reaches Meryl Streep's age, there is no reason why she shouldn't have won three or four Academy Awards and earned \$500 million.

Then again, there might actually be one reason why Britney and Lindsay don't reach their full potential and earn about a billion dollars between them — they might get par-tied out before they have the chance.

KENNY MACK is a writer and comedian living in Santa Monica. He can be reached at kenny-mack@gmail.com

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Visit us online at smdp.com



The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West L.A.

Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Biofuels may not be a pollution cure-all

Dear EarthTalk:

What are the environmental pros and cons of switching to plant-based "bio-fuels" to reduce our reliance on oil?

— Jim Dand
Somerville, MA

THERE ARE MANY ECO-BENEFITS TO replacing oil with bio-fuels like ethanol and biodiesel. For one, since such fuels are derived from agricultural crops, they are inherently renewable — and our own farmers typically produce them domestically, reducing our dependence on unstable foreign sources of oil. Additionally, ethanol and biodiesel emit less particulate pollution than traditional petroleum-based gasoline and diesel fuels. They also do not contribute to global warming, since they only emit back to the environment the carbon dioxide (CO₂) that their source plants absorbed out of the atmosphere in the first place.

And unlike other forms of renewable energy (like hydrogen, solar or wind), bio-fuels are easy for people and businesses to transition to without special apparatus or a change in vehicle or home heating infrastructure — you can just fill your existing car, truck or home oil tank with it. Those looking to replace gasoline with ethanol in their car, however, must have a "flex-fuel" model that can run on either fuel. Otherwise, most regular diesel engines can handle biodiesel as readily as regular diesel.

Despite the upsides, however, experts point out that biofuels are far from a cure for our addiction to petroleum. A wholesale societal shift from gasoline to biofuels, given the number of gas-only cars already on the road and the lack of ethanol or biodiesel pumps at existing filling stations, would take some time.

Another major hurdle for widespread adoption of biofuels is the challenge of growing enough crops to meet demand, something skeptics say might well require converting just about all of the world's remaining forests and open spaces over to agricultural land.

"Replacing only 5 percent of the nation's diesel consumption with biodiesel would require diverting approximately 60 percent of today's soy crops to biodiesel production," says Matthew Brown, an



Photo courtesy of Getty images

A major hurdle for biofuels is the challenge of growing enough crops to meet demand, something skeptics say might well require converting just about all of the world's remaining forests and open spaces over to agricultural land.

energy consultant and former energy program director at the National Conference of State Legislatures. "That's bad news for tofu lovers."

Another dark cloud looming over bio-fuels is whether producing them actually requires more energy than they can generate. After factoring in the energy needed to grow crops and then convert them into biofuels, Cornell University researcher David Pimental concludes that the numbers just don't add up. His 2005 study found that producing ethanol from corn required 29 percent more energy than the end product itself is capable of generating. He found similarly troubling numbers in making biodiesel from soybeans.

"There is just no energy benefit to using plant biomass for liquid fuel," says Pimental.

There is no one quick-fix for weaning ourselves off of fossil fuels and the future will likely see a combination of sources — from wind and ocean currents to hydrogen, solar and, yes, some use of biofuels — powering our energy needs. The "elephant in the living room," however, that is often ignored when considering energy options is the hard reality that we must reduce our consumption, not just replace it with something else. Indeed, conservation is probably the largest single "alternative fuel" available to us.

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

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This week's Q-Line question asks:
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Access to pier getting easier

FROM PIER PAGE 1

course drivers must take to reach the parking lot adjacent to the pier, known as the 1550 Lot. Studies have shown that 60 percent of people entering the lot do so by making an illegal U-turn on Pacific Coast Highway.

The narrow road and high pedestrian traffic on the bridge can also make it difficult for emergency vehicles to get through.

"The lack of direct access to our pier and beaches remains an issue, not only for visitors, but for our residents," said Misti Kerns, president and CEO of the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). "During the recent beach summit, it came up on several occasions, both locally and outside of our community, as a negative.

"We must ... offer people options before they arrive."

The safety of the 650-foot bridge has also been called into question. Following the Northridge earthquake in 1994, the bridge suffered extensive damage, resulting in the permanent closure of stairs located on the south side. The current condition of the bridge could lead to collapse if there is another major seismic event, studies show.

Still, a solution to all those concerns may be in sight.

The Pier Restoration Corp. (PRC), a City Council-appointed body in charge of managing and promoting the pier, has endorsed one of six alternatives outlined in an environmental impact report being circulated throughout the city. PRC officials have been trying to gather support for the proposal before going to the City Council in late March.

**I THINK IT WOULD
BE A GOOD IDEA
TO MAKE (THE SIDEWALKS)
A LITTLE WIDER. IT WOULD
DEFINITELY BE A LOT
SAFER."**

Josie Young
tourist from London

City staff could not be reached for comment on which alternative will be recommended to the council.

Known as Alternative 2, the plan calls for a vehicle ramp to run parallel with the bridge before turning slightly north and connecting with the 1550 Lot. The north sidewalk would be removed and the south sidewalk, which runs adjacent to The Lobster restaurant and the Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, would be widened considerably, to 16 feet.

The plan would require moving the famous pier sign 13 feet to the north, allowing for a wider, 28 foot roadway, according to PRC officials.

"We believe Alternative 2 is the best option because it is the only option that meets all of the objectives for the project, including better access, improved public safety, preservation of the historic integrity

Taking the long way home

Driving Directions to the Santa Monica Pier as found on the city's official Web site (santa-monica.org)

From westbound Interstate 10 Santa Monica freeway, take the 4th/5th Street exit and stay to the right. Turn right onto 5th Street. Turn left onto Colorado Avenue (first signal). Continue west to Ocean Avenue. The Pier is straight ahead. To park, turn left onto Ocean Avenue, then right onto Seaside Terrace (just past the traffic signal). At the stop sign, turn right onto Appian Way and continue to the large parking lot serving Santa Monica Pier. For additional parking, turn left on Appian Way or continue straight to reach lots serving the Beaches. Look for the blue signs.

DAILY PRESS

of the pier and improves traffic flow through downtown and better connects downtown businesses with the pier's 4 million annual visitors," said Ben Franz-Knight, executive director of PRC.

"By shifting pedestrian access to the south, we further our mission of educating the public about the pier's historic nature by increasing their awareness of the Loeff Hippodrome and Carousel, both a national and city landmark," he said.

While the pier sign is a national landmark, the pier bridge is not. Franz-Knight said the sign has been moved in the past, most recently in the 1950s, when it was relocated from the middle of the bridge to the top, improving visibility from Ocean Avenue.

PRC has presented another option, whereby the sign would be moved just 5 feet to the north, allowing for a 24-foot roadway and an 8-foot walkway on the south that would widen to 16 feet further down the bridge.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Prior to 1939, the pier — built in 1909 — and its available parking was accessed from a mostly level, packed dirt road starting at what is now Ocean and Colorado avenues. In the mid-1930s, the opening of PCH brought more tourists to Santa Monica via automobile, creating more of a traffic bottleneck at Appian Way. The addition of the McClure Tunnel necessitated the construction of a concrete bridge to the pier.

The new overpass opened on June 17, 1940. During that year, the Santa Monica Pier Businessman's Association installed the famous pier sign to let the public know the new roadway was open.

THE COSTS OF PROGRESS

Alternative 2 wouldn't come cheap. Estimates place costs at around \$7.5 million. It is the second-least expensive alternative on the table, discounting the alternative that recommends no upgrades at all.

The project would be paid for by a combination of state and federal funds, plus contributions from City Hall.

Other options include making the bridge accessible only to pedestrians, or extending the ramp down into and under the pier.

The PRC board is not fond of those alter-

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Photos, rendering courtesy of City of Santa Monica

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE? Plans to remodel the Santa Monica Pier bridge are being bandied about due to increased traffic flow, outdated sidewalks and confusing parking directions. (Top) The pier was reached via packed dirt roadways in the 1920s. (Above middle) The pier as it appears today, with automobiles and pedestrians sharing an outdated bridge. (Above) One alternative for the pier's remodel calls for a wider sidewalk to the south end of the bridge and north-side turnoff leading directly into a beach parking lot.

natives because of cost and historical integrity. In the pedestrian-only alternative, 280 parking spaces currently on the pier deck would be removed and have to be replaced, which could cost up to \$12 million, not including lost revenue to the pier, Franz-Knight said.

The bridge would also need to remain accessible for emergency, maintenance and service and delivery vehicles. Closing the bridge to vehicular traffic changes the character of the pier and the sign, which is used by many cross-country travelers as the symbolic end to their journey, Franz-Knight said.

There is hope that once an alternative is selected, construction could be completed by 2009.

The CVB, which closely monitors activity on the pier, has not made an endorsement of any alternative and rarely does, said Kerns.

“That said, it sure seems that the second alternative is the best option and we trust the PRC with this because they have a very direct connection with the pier,” Kerns said. “For a walkable city that promotes itself as such ... it's kind of misleading for our most visited attraction not to have safe, adequate access.”

Those interested in viewing the environmental impact report for themselves can find it on the city's official Web site (www.smgov.net).

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Between Wilshire & Montana	= No Listings	\$ 875,378
South of Wilshire	= \$ 1,139,333	\$ 671,831
Sunset Park	= \$ 1,296,650	\$ 620,000
Ocean Park	= \$ 1,543,714	\$ 1,116,333
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One less dolphin on beach

FROM DOLPHIN PAGE 3

In addition, city officials may be considering new ways in which the public can donate. A recent review of Santa Monica's continuum of care for the homeless suggested other programs for the donating public, including one in Baltimore where the city installed old parking meters in hotels, stores and restaurants where shoppers were encouraged to drop coins into them for future distribution to providers.

The ditched dolphin will be stored until a future use for it is determined, Rawson said.

"I'm not sure what we are going to do with it yet," she said. "I think it really depends on what the city wants to do in terms of other fundraising options."

The Dolphin Change Program was created in 1993 by Bayside and was funded in partnership with the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce to help raise money for social service providers working with the homeless. The program, with the tagline "Make your change help, not hurt," was created in response to aggressive panhandling that was becoming prevalent on the promenade and throughout downtown.

Each dolphin, which are made from bronze and aluminum, cost approximately \$5,000. Since the program's inception, a total of four dolphins have been installed, including two on the promenade, one on the Santa Monica Pier and one on Main Street.

In 2006, Bayside collected \$7,000 from the dolphins and awarded a grant in the amount of \$5,000 to OPCC (Ocean Park Community Center) Daybreak Day Center



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

NOSE DIVE: A child gets up close and personal with a bronze dolphin on the Santa Monica Pier on Tuesday. Excessive water damage to one of the city's four dolphins prompts removal.

and Shelter. To date, grants exceeding \$120,000 have been given to groups including Step Up On Second, OPCC, CLARE Foundation, Westside Food Bank and Chrysalis, according to a city staff report.

The dolphins were designed by sculptor Peter Ehrlich, who could not be reached for comment. City staff has likewise received no response from the artist. The cultural affairs division has been consulted and agrees with the removal of the dolphin, as it is not part

of City Hall's public art program.

Miriam Mack, director of economic development for City Hall, expects the dolphin to be removed in the coming weeks and said city staff is committed to finding another location to place the public piggy bank.

kevinh@smdp.com

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Preliminary date postponed yet again for pair

FROM WIDOWS PAGE 3

Judge David Wesley granted Diamond's request to dismiss the charges after the Court of Appeals ruled in a different case on Jan. 10 that a preliminary trial must be set no later than 60 days after the arraignment.

Golay was originally arraigned in September.

If Rutterschmidt's defense is unprepared by the scheduled March 12 preliminary hearing, only one week will remain before Diamond can request that the charges be dismissed again, with March 19 being exactly 60 calendar days after the second arraignment date.

Investigators contend that Golay and Rutterschmidt are responsible for the murders of Paul Vados, 73, and Kenneth McDavid, 50, who were killed in separate, yet similar, hit-and-run crashes in 1999 and 2005, respectively. They believe that Golay and Rutterschmidt concocted a scheme in which they befriended McDavid and Vados when they were still homeless, setting them up in apartments and gaining their trust. The women then allegedly convinced Vados and McDavid to sign the women onto their insurance policies.

Golay, who owned three apartments in Ocean Park at the time of her arrest, has come a long way from her comfortable living conditions in Santa Monica.

melodyh@smdp.com

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Going hungry to assist the needy

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Catholicism isn't a prerequisite for fasting anymore.

More than a hundred Santa Monicans of all religions and hundreds of thousands more people worldwide will participate in a day-long fasting event today in which they will donate the money they would've spent on food to the charity of their choice.

The goal is to make as big a dent as possible against world hunger.

Approximately 854 million people in the world are hungry, and every day, a child dies every five seconds from hunger, according to Bread for the World, a national Christian organization.

The day-long fast is the brainchild of Santa Monica resident Rich Halverson, who through his non-profit, Global Fast, is encouraging people to abstain from eating and instead dish the money out among a number of charities that have partnered with his organization.

The event coincides with Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, a traditional period of fasting and self-denial among Catholics for the 40 days leading up to Easter Sunday. The intention to hold the event on Ash Wednesday was to encourage Catholics who were fasting anyway to part with their meal money.

Those who foresee a dizzying day without food are encouraged to give up only a meal or two, or even withhold from the daily dose of coffee.

Participants don't necessarily have to donate money to the partner charities,

Halverson said, as long as they do donate to a noble cause.

Politicians from around the world have contacted the 25-year-old Halverson, informing him that they do intend to spread the word to their fellow countrymen. People in the Philippines, Uganda, Mexico, Spain, South Korea, Canada and Colombia are expected to participate.

"It's been really great how people have responded," Halverson said on Tuesday. "They just love the idea and the biggest response we get is that the idea is beautiful."



**WE LIVE IN A PLACE WHERE WE CONSUME
80 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S GOODS AND
YET WE ARE 20 PERCENT OF ITS POPULATION."**

Trevor Debenning, teaching director, Risen Church

Several tenants who live with Halverson in a Downtown Santa Monica apartment building are planning to participate, including Eric Cooper and his girlfriend, Linda Shockley. The Global Fast message resonated with the couple, who then e-mailed friends and family about the organization.

For Cooper, surviving the gap between breakfast and lunch is challenge enough.

To clear his mind of food, Cooper found a way to make the fast a little entertaining — he bought bottles of water from around the world and will consume a different bottle every hour or so.

"I've fasted three times," Cooper said. "It's a

miracle I can do it."

The task is less daunting for his girlfriend, who has gone through several three-day fasting sessions. Subsisting on a diet of only water, Shockley said she may even fast for another day if she is up for the challenge.

Halverson, a writer and former Miami journalist, has come a long way since he founded the organization in July of last year. There are currently about 500 volunteers across the nation who are spreading the word about Global Fast. The idea came to Halverson after he completed a five-day fast.

water and a little bit of help from the big guy in the sky will sustain him.

"The idea is you substitute (food for prayer) and that's what makes it a time of spiritual growth," Halverson said. "You're relying on your spiritual life and prayers to sustain you."

Several religious houses have endorsed Global Fast by encouraging members of their congregations to participate.

The members of the Risen Church plan to donate their savings to Beyond the Borders, an organization that aims to help poor children from Haiti, according to Trevor Debenning, the teaching director at the church on California Avenue. Debenning plans to fast the entire day and has calculated that he will be able to donate at least \$10 to Beyond the Borders.

"We live in a place where we consume 80 percent of the world's goods and yet we are 20 percent of its population," Debenning said. "If we can take an entire day to withhold eating food and take the money and be able to give that money to fight global injustices, then that's for the better of the good of the world."

As a member of the Metro Calvary Chapel on Fourth Street, West LA resident Mike Trabun learned about Global Fast from Cooper and Shockley, both of whom are followers of the chapel. It will be a first-time experience for Trabun, who will not eat breakfast and lunch and sees the fast as a starting point for longer sessions in the future.

Those interested in learning more about Global Fast and partnering charities can visit their Web site (www.gf07.com).

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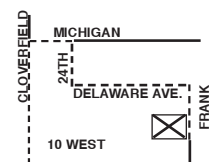
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Educator faces murder charges

BY GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press Writer

BAKERSFIELD Students at Fremont Elementary School knew Vincent Brothers as the tall vice principal who would sometimes join them on the basketball court. In this oil-rich city, he commanded respect as a mentor and Christian family man.

Or so it seemed.

His estranged wife, Joanie Harper, their three young children and his mother-in-law were found shot and stabbed to death in their home on July 8, 2003, in what Bakersfield police called the most gruesome crime they'd ever seen.

Brothers, the sole suspect in the vicious slayings, was arrested nine months later and charged with five counts of first-degree murder. Opening statements are scheduled for Wednesday in the 44-year-old former school administrator's trial in Kern County Superior Court; he faces a possible death penalty.

Brothers has pleaded not guilty and claims he was out of town when the bodies were found. But prosecutors say he staged a last-minute visit to his brother's home in Ohio to create an elaborate, far-fetched alibi.

"Brothers' former stature in the community makes this exceptional," said Joseph Hoffmann, a death penalty expert at Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington. "That's a significant hurdle for the prosecution to overcome."

Fresh out of California State University, Bakersfield, Brothers started out as a substitute teacher in the city's schools in 1987. He

quickly rose through the ranks to become vice principal of the grammar school by 1995.

He planted roots in the city 100 miles north of Los Angeles and was a regular at Sunday church services.

But Brothers appears to have had tumultuous relationships with women. Harper was his third wife — the first two having ended in divorce. In 1990, the year his first marriage ended, Brothers was convicted of spousal abuse, according to police. The second marriage lasted only a few months and was described in court filings as "turbulent."



BROTHERS' FORMER STATURE IN THE COMMUNITY MAKES THIS EXCEPTIONAL. THAT'S A SIGNIFICANT HURDLE FOR THE PROSECUTION TO OVERCOME."

Joseph Hoffmann, a death penalty expert at Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington

Brothers and Harper married in January 2000, divorced and later remarried. Their three children, Marques, Lyndsey and Marshall, were 4, 2, and 6 weeks old at the time of the murders. The fifth victim was Harper's 70-year-old mother, Ernestine Harper.

Defense attorneys have recently suggested in court filings that other suspects were responsible for the murders, but they did not elaborate.

According to Deputy District Attorney

Lisa Green, Brothers flew to Columbus, Ohio, then rented a car and drove back to Bakersfield to kill his family. The car's odometer showed he had driven 5,400 miles around the time of the murders, police said.

A criminal complaint also alleges that Brothers' brother, Melvin, used his credit card and forged Vincent Brother's signature in Ohio on the day of the killings to help cover up the crime.

Jury selection has dragged on for weeks, mainly due to the intense publicity surrounding the case, while a gag order has prevented attorneys from discussing the case

with the media. The two sides have filed close to 150 motions in the case, according to court clerks, and the trial itself could last months.

The list of potential witnesses, filling 10, single-spaced pages, reads like a list of who's who of Bakersfield — from school administrators to local preachers and fire officials.

Defense Attorney Michael Gardina emphasized that point in a motion filed in late December seeking to move the trial to Los Angeles.

Organizers break ground on internment camp museum

By the Associated Press

PINEDALE Organizers broke ground on a site for a memorial to more than 4,800 Japanese-American internees held in Fresno County during World War II.

Residents of California, Oregon and Washington were taken to Pinedale, just north of Fresno, in 1942 after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an order to relocate 120,000 Japanese-Americans to internment camps after Japanese forces bombed Pearl Harbor.

Families were put on trains and taken to the interim camp for a couple of months before being transferred to camps in other states.

"What I remember most is that the concentration camp destroyed our family," James Hirabayashi, 80, of Mill Valley said Monday at the groundbreaking of Remembrance Plaza.

Armed soldiers guarded the wooden barracks, which were surrounded by barbed wire, said Hirabayashi, whose family was uprooted from Tacoma, Wash.

The \$150,000 memorial will include a landscaped plaza with a fountain and a "story wall" with information about the camp and the people who lived there.

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A catch 22

Life in deep oceans in danger of being subject to overfishing

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
AP Science Writer

SAN FRANCISCO With declining catches close to shore, commercial fishing is turning to deeper waters, threatening species that live in the cold and gloom of the deep oceans, according to researchers.

A panel at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science said Sunday that overfishing in deep waters is putting at risk the least sustainable of all fish stocks.

"We're not really fishing there. We're mining there. We're taking what appears to be a renewable resource and turning it into a nonrenewable one," said Elliott Norse of the Marine Conservation Biology Institute in Bellevue, Wash.

"The number of people who want fish is not going down, but the number of fish is," Norse said.

The shift to fishing at depths of more than 600 feet is new. These areas began to be exploited after overfishing caused a decline in catch in more shallow coastal waters, said Norse.

Much of the deep water fishing occurs around seamounts, extinct volcanoes that rise from the seafloor to within several hundred feet of the surface.

Many species tend to congregate at seamounts because they can find food and mates there, making them also easier to catch, said Norse.

Selina Heppell of Oregon State University said slow growth and reproduction makes deep-living species particularly vulnerable because they are slow to replenish their stocks.

Some deep species don't mature until they are 40 years old and then may live

240 years, Norse said.

Such fish reproduce slowly, Heppell said — for example while skipjack tuna may spawn every day in summer, deep-living orange roughy spawn only every two years.

"Never eat anything that could be older than your grandmother," she said, quoting Milton Love of the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Hempell agreed with Norse that congregating together increased their vulnerability and noted these fish are the least monitored and protected in the oceans.

In addition, Heppell said, rising market value of fish has led to marketing campaigns to increase sales, such as renaming the slimehead fish orange roughy and the toothfish Chilean sea bass.

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WANT FISH IS NOT GOING DOWN, BUT THE NUMBER OF FISH IS."

Elliott Norse
Marine Conservation Biology Institute

Krista Baker, a graduate student at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada, reported that about 40 percent of deep sea species in Canadian waters are either endangered or show significant decline.

She estimated that because of slow reproduction it would take 12 to 90 years for stocks of routhead grenadier fish to recover if fishing were halted, and 13 to 130 years for roundhead grenadiers.

Grenadiers have a lifespan of over 60 years, she said, and they are still being fished.

☒ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Obama campaigns for Boxer

BY LAURA KURTZMAN
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Presidential contenders are jumping out of the gate earlier than ever, but Sen. Barbara Boxer has them all beat: she announced Monday she will run for re-election in 2010, nearly four years from now.

"You can't wait until the last minute," the Democrat said before raising \$350,000 at a fund-raiser with Sen. Barack Obama. Like many other presidential candidates, he declared his own campaign almost a year before the first nominating contests and some two years before the 2008 vote.

Speaking at a news conference before her fund-raiser, Boxer sidestepped a question about whether the prospect of an Arnold Schwarzenegger senatorial campaign had prompted her to announce so early. The Republican governor has said nothing about such a run, but political insiders have been abuzz about the possibility for months.

Boxer said she needed to start raising money now because she needs \$20 million

to buy television ads and must raise it in small increments, due to campaign finance regulations.

The last time she ran for re-election, in 2004, Boxer said she was not ready for her opponent, although he was a little-known Republican, former Secretary of State Bill Jones. He never raised much money, and she won by a wide margin.

If raising money was her objective, Boxer had a hot ticket in Obama, a best-selling author whose chief subject has been his own conflicted biography as the son of a white American woman and a black man from Kenya.

Obama's message, that America that can transcend its racial and political divides, could prove a powerful draw to the politically active Democrats who pay attention to races at this early stage. Some 1,400 of them were scheduled to hear him speak.

Obama was heading to Los Angeles Tuesday for a rally and a Hollywood fundraiser.

☒ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

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Free workshop reveals 7 ways to slash college costs

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

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

ents make when planning for college.

The workshop dates are Thursday, March 1st (7L15-8:45) Santa Monica Main Library, Saturday March 3rd (10:00-12:00 Noon) Santa Monica Main Library, Tuesday, March 6th (7:15-8:45) Montana Branch Library. The workshop will be taught by Shanee Chavis an affiliate of the College Planning Network, Inc. the nation's leading expert on paying for college.

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

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Days on the Market

Jodi Summers

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Understanding capital gains tax

EVER NOTICE HOW DOING YOUR taxes gives you a headache? The IRS has a complex taxing system. Currently, the tax rate on short-term capital gains — assets held for one year or less — are taxed at your normal income tax rate, which is 10 to 35 percent. When you sell a taxable item, such as real estate or stocks, that you have owned more than a year, you pay a sliding scale of fees that can range from 0 to 28 percent depending upon the nature of the capital gain. The taxes you pay on any given sale depend on your income-tax bracket, the type of asset you sold, and how long you held it, and when you sold it. Smartmoney.com's Bill Bischoff, offers highlights on the breakdown of who pays what with long-term capital gains.

HOMES AND SMALL-BUSINESS STOCK

■ The 0 percent rate

Eligibility: Homeowners who owned and used their home as a main residence for at least two years before selling; some shareholders of small-business stock.

If you sell a home you've owned and used as your main residence for at least two years out of a five-year period, you are allowed to exclude up to \$250,000 of gain tax free. If you are married, you can potentially exclude up to \$500,000.

If your gain exceeds the amount you can exclude, the difference is treated as a long-term capital gain eligible for the 15 percent maximum rate (or 5 to 10 percent if you're taxable income is low enough).

INVESTMENT SECURITIES

■ The 5 percent rate

Eligibility: Individuals in the 10 to 15 percent federal income tax brackets with net long-term capital gains from selling investment securities held for more than one year.

Individuals in this bracket in 2006 earned a taxable income of up to \$29,700 for singles, \$59,400 for joint filers, \$39,800 for heads of households, and \$29,700 for married individuals who file separately.

Here's how this rule works. Let's say you're filing jointly and had \$55,000 of "regular" taxable income in 2006 and a net long-term gain of \$10,000 from stock sales. The first \$4,400 of gain from the stock sale will be taxed at 5 percent. The remaining \$5,600 (\$10,000-\$5,600) will get taxed at the standard 15 percent rate. If the net long-term gain is \$4,400 or less, the tax rate is 5 percent on the entire gain.

■ The 15 percent rate

Eligibility: Individuals in the 25 percent federal income tax bracket or higher with net long-term capital gains from selling investment securities held for more than one year.

■ The 25 percent rate

Eligibility: Property owners and real estate investment trust (REIT) investors in

the 25 percent income-tax bracket or higher who hold property for more than one year.

Investment real-estate gains are taxed in two ways. If you claim depreciation deductions, at least some of those gains are taxed at a maximum rate of 25 percent.

For example, say you own a rental property and have deducted \$32,000 of depreciation over the years. That depreciation reduces your basis in the property and results in a bigger taxable gain (or smaller loss) when you sell. Say you sold in 2006 for a \$100,000 gain. The first \$32,000 (called an unrecaptured Section 1250 gain) is taxed at a maximum rate of 25 percent. The remaining \$68,000 of gain is taxed at the standard capital gains rate of 15 percent.

THE TAXES YOU PAY ON ANY GIVEN SALE DEPEND ON YOUR INCOME-TAX BRACKET, THE TYPE OF ASSET YOU SOLD, AND HOW LONG YOU HELD IT, AND WHEN YOU SOLD IT.

If you own shares in a REIT, when the REIT sells a piece of depreciable property and distributes the profit to its shareholders, you are taxed at the 25 percent maximum rate.

COLLECTIBLES AND SMALL-BUSINESS STOCK

■ The 28 percent rate

Eligibility: Any collector in the 28 percent tax bracket or higher; some small business stock shareholders.

Net long-term gains from collectibles (stamps, coins, baseball cards and the like) are subject to a 28 percent maximum rate. This rate also applies to the taxable part of a gain from selling certain small-business stock that qualifies for a special 50 percent gain exclusion rule. Basically, these are shares in relatively small corporations that were originally issued to you and that you've owned more than five years.

For more information on capital gains, try www.smartmoney.com.

For making capital gains and other tax scenarios work for you, please consult your accountant.

JODI SUMMERS negotiates investment properties for Sotheby's International Realty. For your real estate needs, e-mail Jodi Summers at jodis@verizon.net, or call (310) 260-8269. Visit her websites at <http://www.SoCalInvestmentRealEstate.com> or <http://www.santamonicalandmarks.com>.

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In your Space

Alan Johnston

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Red-hot GOZONE entices investors

IN AN EFFORT TO STIMULATE INVESTMENT in the hurricane ravaged section of our country, the government is offering significant tax incentives to real estate investors and small business owners via the GOZONE program.

On December 21, 2005, the president signed the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 (H.R. 4440). The act provides relief for taxpayers with business interests in the GOZONE. Qualifying real estate assets and businesses must be located in the areas hit by hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. You can visit www.irs.gov for a complete listing of the qualifying areas.

The act provides a deduction of 50 percent of the adjusted basis for real property using the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) with a recovery period of 20 years or less; computer software; water utility property; qualified leasehold improvements; residential and nonresidential real property. A key to eligibility for a commercial property is currently used in a trade or business where the original in-service date is post Aug. 27, 2005. The original in-service date for residential income property must be prior to 2009. There is an additional deduction allowed of up to 50 percent of the cost of debris removal if the waste is from structures damaged during the hurricanes or the demolition of existing structures too damaged to be recovered.

Taxpayers may also elect to carry over a Net Operating Loss (NOL) for up to five years. What and how properties qualify for the NOL carry over are specific and should be discussed with a tax professional familiar with the GOZONE. There are some exceptions regarding the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMTI) for a NOL with a five year carry over. It should be noted that the 50 percent depreciation also applies to new property built prior to 2008 and there are increased tax write offs for small businesses with operating losses incurred post Aug. 27, 2005.

While GOZONE incentives are attractive from a tax planning perspective, both long and short-term economics must be considered, and, as with any investment, a well defined exit strategy is key. As always a consultation with your legal and tax professionals should be considered a necessity.

For more information contact www.irs.gov, www.gozonefordummies.com and www.gozoneonline.com

You can reach **ALAN JOHNSTON** at 1-877-4 TM 1031 or alan@tm1031exchange.com. Visit www.tm1031exchange.com for a complete list of investment properties and to download the TM 1031 Tool Kit.

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Common-sense planning for an accessible home

BY JAMES AND MORRIS CAREY

Associated Press

With the nation's baby boomers approaching retirement, universal home design takes on new importance.

Universal home design means being mindful of everyone rather than just the "average" person, and designing with common sense. It doesn't mean modifications only for the elderly or disabled; it's considerate planning that enhances a home's livability — and value — by making it comfortable and accessible to everyone.

In most cases, changes can be made that some people won't even notice, but that will be greatly appreciated by those who need them. For example:

- Providing clear and even walkways for those with walkers or in wheelchairs.
- Making doors 36 inches wide.
- Lowering light switches and raising outlets.
- Making some closet rods easier to reach.
- Kitchens and baths require special attention: A lower counter, pullout shelves, lever-type faucets and door handles, roll-in showers and tubs with sturdy grab bars can make life easier for many people.

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Meet the best of Santa Monica at our annual Business Expo, presented by LAcAR GUY Family of Dealers. With dozens of booths, a fun raffle, and a chance to meet your community leaders it's a great opportunity for businesses to interact with the community.

March 15 5:00 - 7:30pm
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Home building at lowest level since '97

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Housing construction plunged to the lowest level in nearly a decade last month as the housing industry continued to struggle with a severe slowdown. Meanwhile, wholesale prices dropped by 0.6 percent in January, the biggest amount in three months, providing fresh evidence that inflation pressures are easing.

Construction of new homes and apartments plunged by 14.3 percent in January, pushing total activity down to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.408 million units, the Commerce Department reported Friday.

The decline pushed activity to the slowest pace since August 1997 with construction in January 37.8 percent below the pace of a year ago. The steep decline last month followed two months of construction increases which had raised hopes that perhaps the worst of the housing slump was over.

The weather was blamed for part of the setback. November and December had been unusually mild while more normal winter weather returned to much of the country in January, depressing building activity.

However, economists said the depth of the decline showed that housing was still facing major problems after a five-year

boom which ended last year with falling construction and declining sales of both new and existing homes.

David Seiders, chief economist of the National Association of Home Builders, said that builders were slashing sales prices and offering other incentives such as upgraded kitchens and free decks to move homes.

"The use of incentives has not abated," he said. "The percentage of builders trimming prices has been increasing and the use of non-price incentives is expanding as well," he said.

The report showed that applications for new building permits, considered a good barometer of future activity, fell in January for the 11th month out of the past 12, dropping by 2.8 percent to an annual rate of 1.568 million units.

By region of the country, housing construction was down 28.5 percent in the West, 15.2 percent in the Midwest and 11.8 percent in the South. Construction starts were up only in the Northeast, a gain of 8.9 percent.

Analysts said the weakness in January construction meant that housing, which shaved more than a percentage point off economic growth in the last half of 2006, will continue to be a drag going into the new year.

On Thursday, the National Association of Realtors said that sales of existing homes fell in 40 states in the fourth quarter of 2006 and home prices dropped in 49 percent of the metropolitan areas surveyed, the widest price decline in the history of the Realtors' survey.

The decline last month occurred because of a 4.6 percent plunge in energy costs, reflecting lower prices for gasoline, natural gas and home heating oil.

But even outside of the volatile energy and food categories, inflation pressures were

THIS MARKET WILL NOT FIND A BOTTOM UNTIL THIS INVENTORY IS WORKED OFF AND THE ONLY WAY FOR THAT TO OCCUR IS THROUGH FURTHER PRICE DECLINES."

Mark Zandi

chief economist at Moody's Economy.com

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com, said he looked for prices to continue falling.

"This market will not find a bottom until this inventory is worked off and the only way for that to occur is through further price declines," he said.

In the inflation report, the Labor Department said that the 0.6 percent drop in its Producer Price Index was the biggest one-month decline since a 1.8 percent fall in October.

well contained, rising by a modest 0.2 percent as the price of new cars and trucks fell as automakers struggle with huge inventories of unsold cars.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress this week that the central bank believed inflation pressures would gradually recede over the coming two years as the economy expands at a moderate pace.

Many private economists believe the central bank is close to achieving its hoped-for soft landing.

Santa Monica Daily Press

The Agent Directory

Your guide to local real estate agents

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BASEBALL

Embree feels at home in Athletics bullpen

By the Associated Press

PHOENIX, Ariz. Oakland closer Huston Street waited all of three days before approaching veteran relief pitcher Alan Embree for some shop talk.

“He’s pretty straight up and fun to be around,” Street said on Monday. “He can provide some veteran leadership, and the guy can still throw 96-98 miles an hour.”

Embree is with his ninth major-league team this spring. The 13-year veteran signed with the A’s because his role in the bullpen is defined, the team has a chance to win, and he’s close to his family in Washington state. Besides, he’s still got a love for the game.

“My arm is ready,” he said. “Right now it’s more about touch and feel for my pitches. I do still have a passion for the game. The older I get, the more I appreciate spring training too. Six weeks? I need more time.”

The A’s signed Embree to a two-year deal in December to assure a strong bullpen should left-hander Joe Kennedy join to the starting rotation as expected.

The top eight returning members of the bullpen — Kennedy, Street, Chad Gaudin, Kiko Calero, Justin Duchscherer, Brad Halsey, Ron Flores and Jay Witasick — combined to go 23-13 with a 3.51 ERA. Halsey, who also made seven starts, recorded a 3.99 ERA out of the pen.

“Barring injury our bullpen will be a strength again,” Street said. “(Embree) makes us that much more stable. We’re so deep it’s tough just to make the team.”

Embree had one of his best years with the San Diego Padres last season. He appeared in 73 games, though he only pitched 52 1-3 innings, striking out 53 and walking 15. His 3.27 ERA was the third-lowest of his career, and the appearances were a career high.

“(A’s GM) Billy Beane said he saw me pitch last year and didn’t think I was being used optimally,” Embree said. “It’s nice to know I’ll have a fixed role with this ballclub.”

He was used as a situational lefty with the Padres. Beane envisions the 37-year-old Embree as a candidate to pitch anywhere

from the seventh inning on. That’s exactly what Embree needed to hear.

“First you know that the A’s will be competitive year in and year out whatever the payroll,” Embree said. “When we played the A’s, you saw they didn’t quit. They played the full nine innings. That was one of the big things that made it intriguing. I like the West Coast. It’s a comfortable atmosphere for me. It’s not just about family but Oakland is the second closest place to home (Vancouver, Wash).”

“THE OLDER I GET, THE MORE I APPRECIATE SPRING TRAINING TOO. SIX WEEKS? I NEED MORE TIME.”

Alan Embree
veteran relief pitcher

Embree also likes the current makeup of the bullpen.

“We have such good personnel I know I don’t have to carry the load,” he said. “There are a bunch of young guys who know how to handle themselves. They are responsible. You don’t have to walk anyone along.”

A’s manager Bob Geren believes Embree will make a difference in the clubhouse too.

“I talk to him every day and I like his attitude,” Geren said. “He’s confident, yet free-spirited, relaxed. He seems like he has the perfect relief pitcher’s attitude.”

He also has plenty of postseason experience, winning a World Series title with the Boston Red Sox in 2004. He’s appeared in 31 postseason games and has a 1.66 ERA.

“The heavier the workload, the more consistent I am,” Embree said. “I want the ball every day. I take pride in that. I think I can go four or five days in a row. You just have to know your body and over the past four years I’ve had a good feeling.”

BASEBALL

Big Barry arrives in Arizona with renewed love for fans

By the Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. Barry Bonds arrived at spring training Tuesday with two waves for the swarm of people waiting to see him, then quickly entered Scottsdale Stadium to get to work. Noticeably absent were his two personal trainers, Greg Oliver and Harvey Shields, who no longer can be with the San Francisco slugger at the ballpark.

Bonds, who spent the weekend in Las Vegas for the NBA All-Star game, was flanked by his two publicists and a Major League Baseball security guard assigned to him.

He joked with new teammate Barry Zito in their corner space of the clubhouse, then the 42-year-old Bonds made his way through the room and greeted outfielder Jason Ellison, infielder Rich Aurilia and pitcher Matt Morris. Clubhouse staff head-

ed his way with undershorts and hats.

Bonds took part in a team meeting before walking to the field for the Giants’ first full-squad workout. He was scheduled to hold his annual spring media address afterward. He begins his 22nd major league season, and 15th with San Francisco, needing only 22 home runs to break Hank Aaron’s career record of 755.

“It’s going to be interesting to see how this shakes out,” new center fielder Dave Roberts said of the Bonds’ hype. “We’d be naive not to think he’s going to be a big part of this team. He wants to win as much as anybody.”

Bonds, the seven-time NL MVP still facing constant questions about whether his home run pursuit was fueled by steroids, finally signed his \$15.8 million, one-year contract last week.



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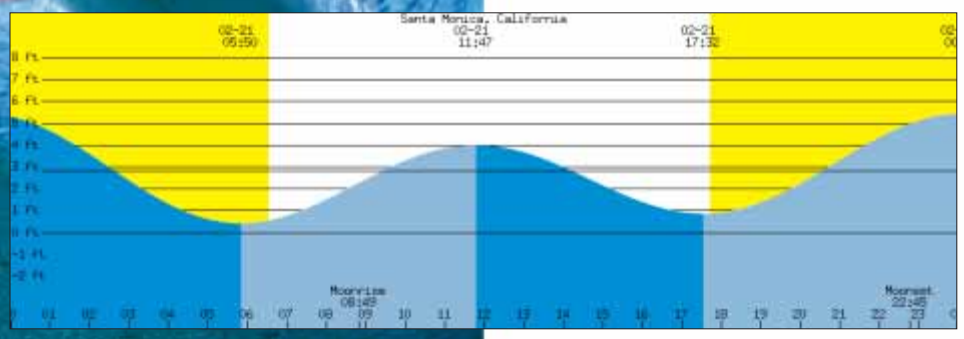
SURF CONDITIONS

SWELL FORECAST (5-7 FT)
Today's size is expected to drop to chest high + around west facing breaks. Standout west facing breaks may pick up some head high sets at times, likely for the dawn patrols, but infrequent on those pluses. Weather is looking moderate, winds light but likely onshore, and the tide at more manageable levels.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
MORE WEATHER EXPECTED DURING SECOND HALF OF WEEK...
NW WITH SW FRIDAY, SATURDAY...

WATER TEMP: 59°

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **February 13, 2007**

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills — 14
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 0
Number of wet days — 10
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 36 / 29
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather — 7 / 12

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Camille Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lockase and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Mutador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	B
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+
Loriga Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
Selbstia Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A+	A+
Panero State Beach at creek mouth	B	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Panero Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	A+
Sartrider Beach at Malibu Calvary fence	A+	B
Sartrider Beach (beach location)- daily	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	F
Carlson Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (joint zone)	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19049 PCH stairs	A+	A+
Perra Creek at Los Tunes County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Tapanga State Beach at creek mouth	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	A
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A

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.

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LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	B	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Palga Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chantaugay)	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	C	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	B	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	D	B
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Xanter storm drain	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A	D
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	A
Venice City Beach, at the Race Ave. storm drain	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	B	B
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	B
Venice Beach- projection of Topaz St.	A+	D
Marino del Rey, Mothers' Beach- flagpole tower	B	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballinas Creek mouth	A	B
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+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	A+

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

Enjoy being a duo, Libra

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★ Dynamic
★★★★ Average

★★★★★ Positive
★★★★ So-So
★★★ Difficult

- ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★★★ In the a.m., follow through on what you know is important. The planets shine on you, giving you adaptability and vision. An investment could seem a bit extravagant. Don't hesitate to use your charm. Tonight: Treat yourself to that special item.
- TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★ In the morning, you might be slow to get going, but you'll still accomplish a lot considering your snail's pace. By midday, you have a surge of energy. It's important to have a discussion before you make a decision or take action. Tonight: Whatever pleases you.
- GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★ Aim for more of what you want. Consider options that surround a friendship. You might not be in sync with a boss, but you don't have to have a disagreement. Sometimes "yes" is the appropriate response. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.
- CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★★ Others often seek you out for advice, but in reality they want you to take more responsibility. The answer to this situation lies within you. Do you have enough time? Does this matter mean something to you? Tonight: Get together with friends.
- LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★★ Try to eyeball the complete situation. Realize others often cannot grasp where you are coming from, which is part of the problem. Be willing to explain piece by piece. You also might need to take the lead here. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.
- VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★★★ A discussion with a partner could be more important than you realize. Loosen up and relax with different options. Respect others' views, and you'll find that this is a mutual process. Relax with the moment. Tonight: Follow the music.

- LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★★ Let others make the first move, and you might be a lot happier. Perhaps what you imagined is far from the reality of what is really happening. Put aside special time to deal with a particular pal or loved one. Tonight: Enjoy being a duo.
- SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★ Dive into work. You will want to get a lot done, and quickly at that. Midafternoon, whether you planned it or not, getting together with others stars – be it a meeting or a friendly get-together. See what others put on your plate. Tonight: Choose from all your invitations.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★★★ Your creativity adds to even the most serious tasks. You laugh and relax with others. In fact, you might be the only reason they are relaxing. A discussion helps many see the other side of the question. Tonight: Relax – you deserve it.
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★ If you can work from home, you will get more done. If you can take the day off, please do. Even you, the workhorse of the zodiac, need a timeout. Make plans with a friend or loved one. Tonight: Try to enjoy yourself.
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★ Your words trigger magic in another's brain. Without realizing it, you disarm someone. Friendship prevails. Later on, you might need to shut down some of your sunny personality if you are to get anything done. Tonight: Curl up with a good book.
- PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★ Make sure you actually have what you think is in your wallet and checking account. Start the morning organized, and you can relax as the day ages. Communication stars. Chats, even in the hallway, could be important. Tonight: Hang out.

Born Today
Poet W.H. Auden (1907)
Actor Kelsey Grammer (1955)
Singer Charlotte Church (1986)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
(c) 2006 by King Features Syndicate Inc.



Happy Birthday!
Your spirit blooms this year. This energy cannot and will not be denied in the following months. Be careful about an innate tendency to overspend or go overboard. Extremes of all nature will seem to tempt you. Learning to say "no" might be instrumental. Realize your goals and don't get tangled up in other people's objectives. Your career demands attention. If you are single, you'll meet people easily. Others find you delightful, but will you find them equally attractive? If you are attached, don't get into unnecessary arguments. Accept that both of you think differently.

LIQUID ICE ENERGY DRINK

This Is No "Bull"

"If you're gonna play the game you're gonna need the energy"

Rehabbing it

BRITNEY SPEARS entered rehab Tuesday after a bizarre weekend that included shaving her head and getting a new tattoo. Spears' manager, Larry Rudolph, told People magazine's Web site that Spears, 25, had voluntarily checked herself into an undisclosed treatment facility. "We ask that the media respect her privacy as well as those of her family and

friends at this time," Rudolph was quoted as saying. Calls to Spears' representatives by The Associated Press weren't returned Tuesday. Since she announced her separation from Kevin Federline in November, Spears, the mother of two young sons, has been seen partying heavily, and her appearance has been increasingly sloppy.

On Friday night, Spears grabbed an electrical shaver at a San Fernando Valley salon and shaved her head completely bald. Video on KABC-TV showed a newly shorn Spears with tiny tattoos on the back of her neck as she sat for a new tattoo – a pair of red-and-pink lips on her wrist. Entertainment TV shows and Web sites reported Friday that she had gone in

Troubled Spears checks into treatment facility

and out of rehab that week. Esther's Haircutting Studio, where Spears shaved her head, set up a Web site to auction off her hair and other items for a minimum price of \$1 million, J.T. Tognozzi, who owns the salon with his wife, told the AP on Tuesday. "This is it, the opportunity of a lifetime," according to BuyBritneysHair.com.

The winning bidder gets Spears' dark, knotty hair extensions, the clipper she used to cut them off, the Red Bull she drank at the salon and her cigarette lighter. Tognozzi said he'd placed the items for sale on the eBay auction Web site, which later took them down, for reasons unknown to him.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUDSON GOES TO 'CHUCH'

For Oscar nominee **JENNIFER HUDSON**, there was no question where she'd celebrate her success in the week leading up to the Academy Awards – at her family's church. "I don't do clubs. I don't drink. I don't smoke," Hudson told a boisterous crowd at Progressive Baptist Church on the city's South Side on Monday night. "I'm not having no club party; I better have a praise party." Hudson, 25, headlined a gospel concert named in her honor, "An Evening of Praise With Jennifer Hudson," accompanied by the acclaimed Soul Children of Chicago. She won a Golden Globe Award last month and is among the nominees for best supporting actress at the Oscars on Sunday for her role in "Dreamgirls." Many of the more than 3,000 people in the audience Monday were nonchurch members drawn in to hear Hudson and others sing. "It's an exciting time because the city is so rich in the gospel tradition," said audience member Brenda Morgan.

AP

Busted Busta Rhymes considers plea

BUSTA RHYMES rejected a prosecutor's offer of six months in jail on two assault charges Tuesday but is considering a judge's deal that would let him plead guilty to misdemeanor assault and remain free. Manhattan Criminal Court Judge Tanya Kennedy said the 34-year-old rapper could plead guilty to third-degree assault and receive a conditional discharge. Rhymes, whose real name is Trevor Smith, is accused in one complaint with beating Edward

Hatchett, 39, his former driver, "with a closed fist about the head and neck" and kicking him in the ribs and torso during a dispute over back pay. The Dec. 26 attack outside Rhymes' lower Manhattan office left Hatchett with cuts, bruises and substantial pain, a court complaint says. In the other case, Rhymes is charged with assaulting a fan, allegedly for spitting on his car, after an Aug. 12 performance at the AmsterJam Music Festival on Randalls Island. Assistant District Attorney Harrison

Schweiloch had offered Rhymes six months in jail to cover both assaults with orders of protection for the victims. Rhymes, free on \$3,500 bail, didn't speak in court or while leaving the courthouse. If he accepts the judge's offer and meets the conditions of the proposed sentence – which would include five days of community service, two weeks of youth lectures and six months of anger management classes – the charges would be dismissed in six months.

AP

Contestant took long road to 'Idol'

As a tear rolled down her face, **LAKISHA JONES** received the news she so badly wanted to hear: She was an "American Idol" semifinalist. The 27-year-old single mother and bank employee who hails from the blue-collar city of Flint long has dreamed of making it in the music business. Now, she's a step closer thanks to the hugely popular Fox talent show. Jones, who bears both a vocal and physical resemblance to Aretha Franklin, wowed the judges with a

pair of the Queen of Soul's standards: "Think" and "Until You Come Back to Me." After her initial audition earned her a trip to the next round in Hollywood, Jones jumped into the embraces of her waiting family, snatched up her daughter and broke into tears. Even ultra-mean judge Simon Cowell smiled. "Love this girl," he said. "Love you, LaKisha. You're a good old-fashioned belter." Fox declined a request to interview Jones. But in

her appearances on the show and a video posted on the "Idol" Web site, she appears humble before the judges and passionate about her family – especially her daughter, Brionne, who turns 4 on Wednesday. "I just believe in being real, being who you are and staying strong in your beliefs," Jones said on the video. Jones says the performer she most admires is Whitney Houston, who has had her share of ups and downs. She also identifies

with Fantasia Barrino, a single mother who won in the show's third season. "It's hard juggling, trying to live your life dream of becoming a singer and also being a mom, a full-time mom," Jones said. Jones' grandmother, 89-year-old Ruth Morris of Flint, recalled how Jones' passion for singing has grown since she got her start at age 5. "She is a person that loved people and she's always been great, wonderful," said Morris, day,"

AP

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Hickey & Boggs (NR)
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-1506

Babel (R)
10:15am, 3:45, 7:15, 10:30
Because I Said So (PG-13)
10:55am, 1:30, 4:35, 7:30, 9:55
Breaking and Entering (R)
11:00am, 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 10:15
Night at the Museum (PG)
10:30am, 1:15, 4:00, 7:00
The Queen (PG-13)
1:25, 9:45

AMC SANTA MONICA 7
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4AMC

Breach (PG-13)
11:10am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:25, 10:15
Bridge to Terabithia (PG)
1hr 35min 11:00am, 1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:35
Children of Men (R)
11:40am, 2:25, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
Dreamgirls (PG-13)
10:35am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:30, 10:35
The Messengers (PG-13)
10:30am, 12:35, 2:40, 4:50, 7:05, 9:25
Pan's Labyrinth
(El Laberinto del Fauno) (R)
10:40am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55
Tyler Perry's Daddy's Little Girls (PG-13)
11:20am, 1:50, 5:00, 7:45, 10:25

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

Captive (Cautiva) (NR)
11:00am
God Grew Tired of Us: The Story of Lost Boys of Sudan (PG)
11:00am
Letters From Iwo Jima (R)
1:20, 4:45, 8:00
The Lives of Others (Das Leben der Anderen) (R)
1:10, 4:35, 8:15
My Country, My Country (NR)
11:00am
Puccini for Beginners (NR)
11:00am
Venus (R)
1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
Volter (R)
1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

MANN CRITERION
1313 Third Street Promenade
(310) 395-1599

Ghost Rider (PG-13)
11:00am, 11:40am, 1:40, 2:20, 4:20, 5:00, 7:00, 7:50, 9:40, 10:40, 12:15am

More information email news@smdp.com

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO LAST PUZZLE

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

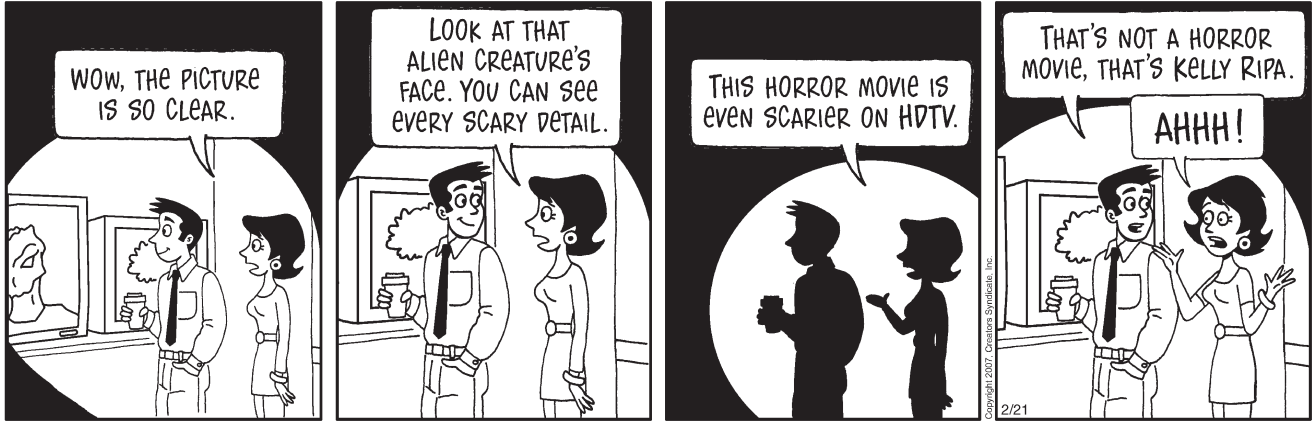
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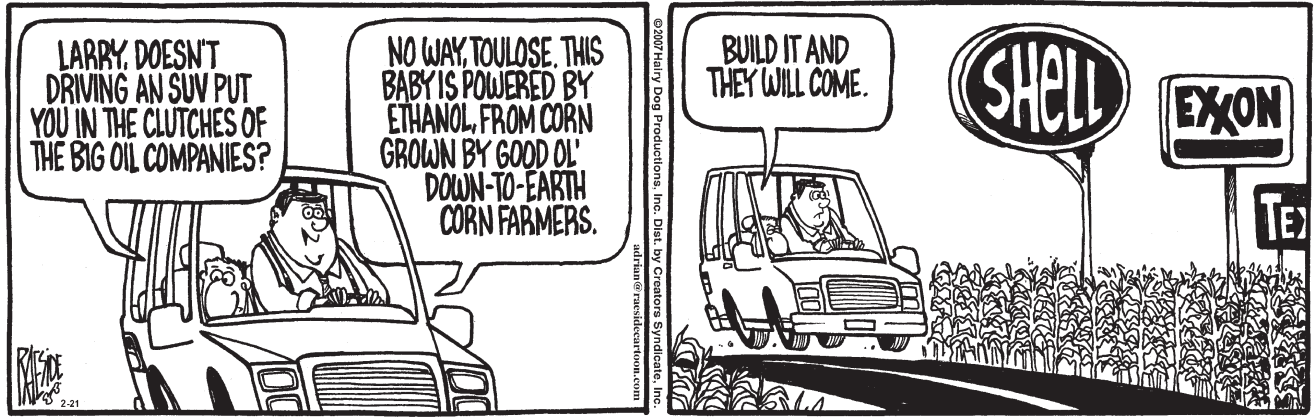
Girls and Sports



The Meaning of Lila



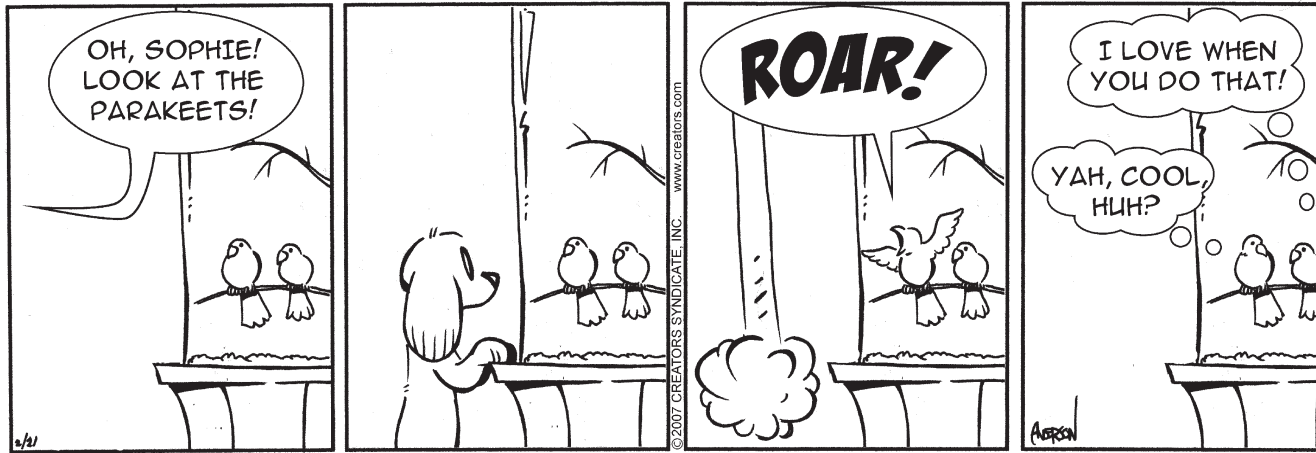
The Other Coast



Garfield



Dog eat Doug



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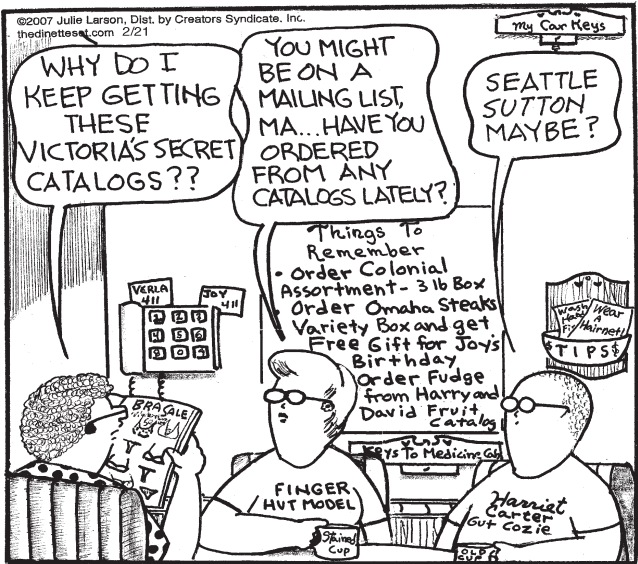
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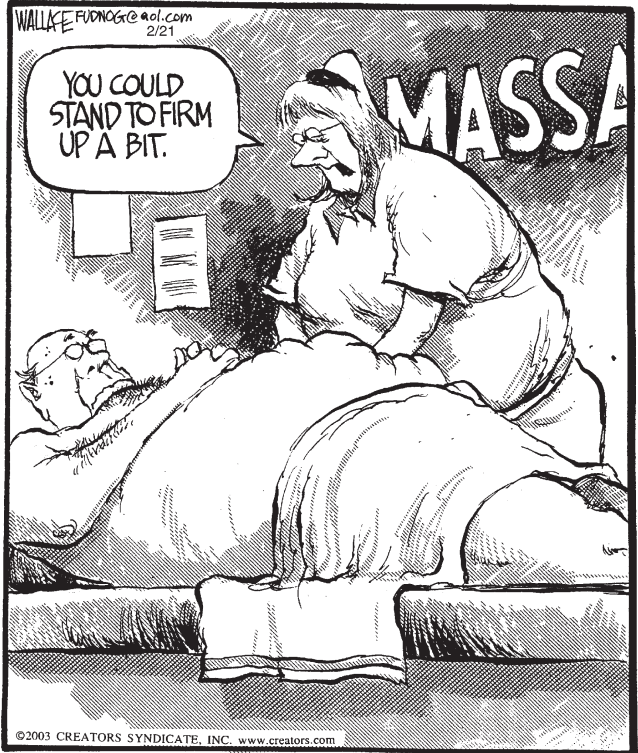
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



din0221.TIF

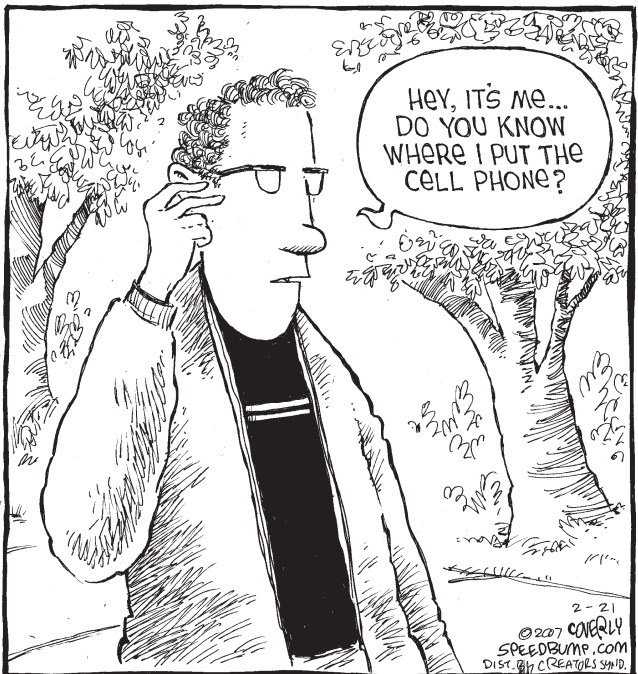
Natural Selection

By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Mystery Photo

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Beverly Reichel is the winner of the most recent Mystery Photo contest, correctly identifying that this shot was captured of the Stanton Macdonald Wright murals at the the Santa Monica Main Library. Reichel wins a prize from the Daily Press. Look for a new Mystery Photo in Tuesday's edition.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 DVR button
- 5 Wee plant
- 11 Boat's trail
- 12 Wake up
- 13 Vicinity
- 14 Saw the sights
- 15 Port spot
- 16 Intimation
- 17 Dismay
- 19 Medium for some sculptures
- 22 Skier's place
- 24 Successful
- 26 Elbow
- 27 Vacation spot
- 28 More than pudgy
- 30 Bonnie's partner
- 31 Gift from Santa
- 32 Nerd's kin
- 34 Young miss
- 35 Tick off
- 38 Change
- 41 Catch off guard
- 42 Warring woman
- 43 Ibsen's home
- 44 Candles
- 45 Dmitri's denial

DOWN

- 1 Ear cleaner
- 2 Literary plantation
- 3 "Fine!"
- 4 Casserole bit
- 5 Gown material
- 6 Right away
- 7 Decisive win
- 8 "— Gang"
- 9 Try out
- 10 Slugger Williams
- 16 Shade
- 18 Big galoots
- 19 Minuscule
- 20 Shivering
- 21 Foil's kin

- 22 Set eyes on
- 23 Timber wolf
- 25 Khar-toum's river
- 29 Film worker
- 30 Animator's frame
- 33 Small songbirds

- 34 Stare
- 36 Hold power
- 37 Macramé bit
- 38 Wrestling need
- 39 Thurman of film
- 40 Phone bug
- 41 Heir, at times

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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MEGA MILLION
1 9 26 46 51
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: \$150M

Super LOTTO
1 21 39 45 46
Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: \$38M

Fantasy 5
12 22 28 32 37

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 7 1 7
EVENING: 2 4 0

DAILY DERRY
1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 11 MOney Bags
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1.45.48

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

■ Unsavvy: In 2003, Bryn Mawr College student Janet Lee had apparently not watched enough movies or television to understand that drug smugglers often use condoms (swallowed by human "mules") to get cocaine and hero- in into the country. Lee attempted to board an airliner with several flour-filled condoms that she said her classmates and she employed to squeeze as stress relievers and said she was astonished to be arrested at the Philadelphia airport and jailed for three weeks until the lab could verify that the substance was flour. In January 2007, the city of Philadelphia agreed to pay her \$180,000 to settle her lawsuit for her wrongful detention.

■ Britain's National Phobics Society said in November it would launch a campaign to help the estimated 4 million people in the U.K. who are fearful of using public restrooms. According to the NPS, in serious cases, sufferers intentionally avoid liquids and even deprive themselves of good jobs because the workplace restroom situation is unsatisfactory. "(I)t's certainly no laughing matter," said ■ Texas judge Keith Dean, recently defeated for re-election, decided as he was cleaning out his desk in December that he would order the release of a man that he controversially sentenced to life in prison in 1990. Tyrone Brown was 17 when he committed a \$2 robbery, and Dean put him on probation but changed it to life in prison when Brown shortly afterward tested positive for marijuana. (The Dallas Morning News in a series of 2006 articles had reported that Dean had failed to additionally punish a murderer who had tested positive for cocaine several times after his release on probation.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1804 The first self-propelling steam locomotive makes its outing at the Pen-y-Darren ironworks in Wales.

1848 Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels publish the Communist Manifesto.

1925 The New Yorker publishes its first issue.

1986 Nintendo releases The Legend of Zelda.

1988 Jimmy Swaggart, on his own televangelism program being taped in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, confesses that he is guilty of an unspecified sin and will be temporarily leaving the pulpit

WORD UP!

apogee \AP-uh-jee/, noun: 1. The point in the orbit of the moon or of an artificial satellite that is at the greatest distance from the center of the earth. 2. The farthest or highest point; culmination.

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PART/FULL-TIME SALES position available at ZEROMINUSPLUS, Fred Segal SM. Please e-mail zerominusplus@earthlink.net or call (310)395-5718.

RADIO INTERVIEW campaign sales person p/t flexible SM (310)998-8305 * 84

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Notices

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. HC-95846-C Loan No. 0391619103 You are in default under a Deed of Trust dated 1/30/2004. Unless you take action to protect your property, it may be sold at a public sale. If you need an explanation of the nature of the proceeding against you, you should contact a lawyer. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by the duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to satisfy the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. Trustor: Juan Carlos Ramirez, a married man, as his sole and separate

Notices

property Recorded 2/26/2004 as Instrument No. 040448294 in Book -, page - of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, Date of Sale: 3/7/2007 at 10:30 AM Place of Sale: At the west side of the Los Angeles County Courthouse, directly facing Norwalk Blvd., 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA Property Address is purported to be: 1217 20th Street 303 Santa Monica, CA 904040000 APN #: 4276-014-039 The total amount secured by said instrument as of the time of initial publication of this notice is \$60,148.53, which includes the total amount of the unpaid balance (including accrued and unpaid interest) and reasonable estimated costs, expenses, and advances at the time of initial publication of this notice. Date: February 08, 2007 Executive Trustee Services, LLC 15455 San Fernando Mission Blvd Suite #208 Mission Hills, CA 91345 818-361-6998 Ileanna Petersen Trustee Sale Officer ASAP# 824445 02/14/2007, 02/21/2007, 02/28/2007

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DORIS LEVY CASE NO. SP007061

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of DORIS LEVY.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by RONALD R. LEVY in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that RONALD R. LEVY be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act with limited authority. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.)

The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 03/09/07 at 9:15AM in Dept. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner WASSERMAN, TERRY K. A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORP. 3800 HIGHLAND AVE., #300 MANHATTAN BEACH, CA 90266 2/14, 2/15, 2/21/07 CNA-1087864# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

First American Title #3078251 Trustee Sale # 06-3028 Trustee Sales Line: 714-573-1965 Notice of Trustee's Sale YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DELINQUENT ASSESSMENT LIEN

Notices

DATED 6/27/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. Notice is hereby given that on 2/28/2007, at 11:30 AM At the front entrance to the Pomona Superior Courts Building, 350 West Mission Blvd., Pomona, CA under the power of the sale pursuant to the terms of those certain covenants conditions and restrictions recorded on 07/8/2003 as instrument number 03-1946848 which reinstates original CC&R's recorded 6/24/62 Book M1553 Page 153, of official records of Los Angeles County, S.B.S. Lien Services fka California Association Lien Collections, LLC., as duly appointed trustee under that certain Delinquent Assessment Lien, recorded 6/30/2006 as document number 06-1449108 in book page of the official records of said county, and pursuant to Section 1367 of the Civil Code of the State of California will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for lawful money of the United States, all right, title and interest in the following commonly known property known as: 930 3rd Street, Unit 306 Santa Monica CA 90403 with the Assessor's Parcel Number of 4292-023-041. Said property is legally described as: Legal unit consisting of Parcels 3-F, and G25 and G-26, Lots F and G, in block 49 as per map recorded in book 39 page 45 of miscellaneous records. The owner(s) of said property as of the date of the recording of said lien is purported to be: Thomas Black, an unmarried man The undersigned trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The sale will be made without covenant or warranty regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to satisfy the obligation secured by the lien. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$8,024.89 Payment must be in cash or a cashier's check drawn on a State or National Bank, a check drawn by a State or Federal Savings and Loan Association, Savings Association or Savings Bank specified in Financial Code Section 5102 and authorized to do business in the State of California. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The Notice of Default and Election to Sell the described property was recorded on 8/31/2006 as instrument number 06-1947755 in the official records of Los Angeles County. S.B.S. Lien Services is a debt collector and is attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Dated: 1/26/2007 S.B.S. Lien Services fka California Association Lien Collectors, LLC 31194 La Baya Drive Suite 106, Westlake Village, CA 91362 (818) 991-4600 By: Cherie Steinberg, Trustee Sale Officer P274261 2/7, 2/14, 02/21/2007

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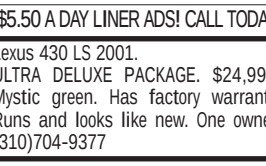
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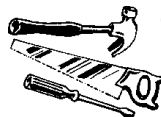
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