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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 95

Santa Monica Daily Press



SCHMIDT FEELING GOOD
SEE PAGE 10

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME ISSUE



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

FOR THE LONG HAUL: **The City Council is expected tonight to extend the contract of RNC Genter Capital Management, which manages the Woodlawn Cemetery's perpetual care funds. The contract is estimated to cost about $42,600, or 0.6 percent of the $7.1 million portfolio. A portion of the sale of all burial plots, crypts or niche is reserved for perpetual care services.**

Homeless network close to launching

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

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A new and highly anticipated computerized network for homeless service providers is almost ready to go live.

Almost.

The City Council tonight is expected to authorize a series of contract negotiations related to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), tying up loose ends before the network goes live this spring.

The modifications to the three contracts — estimated to cost an extra $68,300 — is part of a $110,900 spending package the council is slated to approve.

The new system was developed from a 2006 recommendation of the Urban Institute to replace a 14-year-old network — ClientTrack — that was installed for agencies to track clients, bringing it into compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The contract amendments include a $28,500 increase to an agreement with

SEE CONSENT PAGE 8

Section 8 tenants fight to buy Venice apartments

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

VENICE Kendra Moore is quick to name the reasons which she believes make her home for the past 24 years nearly impossible to leave, speaking proudly of the area's racial and economic diversity and smiling when reflecting on raising four children there.

But there's a sense of underlying frustration and exhaustion when Moore talks of a decades long struggle by the tenants of the Holiday Venice apartments to purchase the Section 8 housing development in the historically working-class Latino and black Oakwood neighborhood, hoping to retain affordability forever by doing so.

The residents argue that purchasing the development will be necessary to ensure the apartments remain accessible to the area's low-income and poor families because of the current property owner's plans to begin prepaying his mortgages to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which could lead to the affordability restrictions being lifted.

A group of tenants, including Moore, who heads the Holiday Venice Tenant Action Committee, plan to meet with HUD officials in Washington D.C. next month, urging them to deny the request to prepay the mortgages.

"Once he prepays the mortgages to HUD, he can do whatever he wants," Moore said

SEE APARTMENTS PAGE 9

Autopsy pending on body found off Santa Monica Pier

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

LOS ANGELES An autopsy was pending Monday on a badly decomposed body recovered from the ocean about 3 miles off the Santa Monica Pier.

Lifeguards recovered the body Sunday afternoon after it was spotted by a boater who notified authorities, said Los Angeles County Fire Department Capt. Terry Hearst.

Coroner's investigators will attempt to identify the person and establish a cause of death.

Because of the state of decomposition, the gender and race were not obvious, according to lifeguards.

A spokesman for the coroner's office said the victim was possibly male.

Hearst said it was possible the person drowned in the surf zone and was carried offshore by currents, tides and winds.

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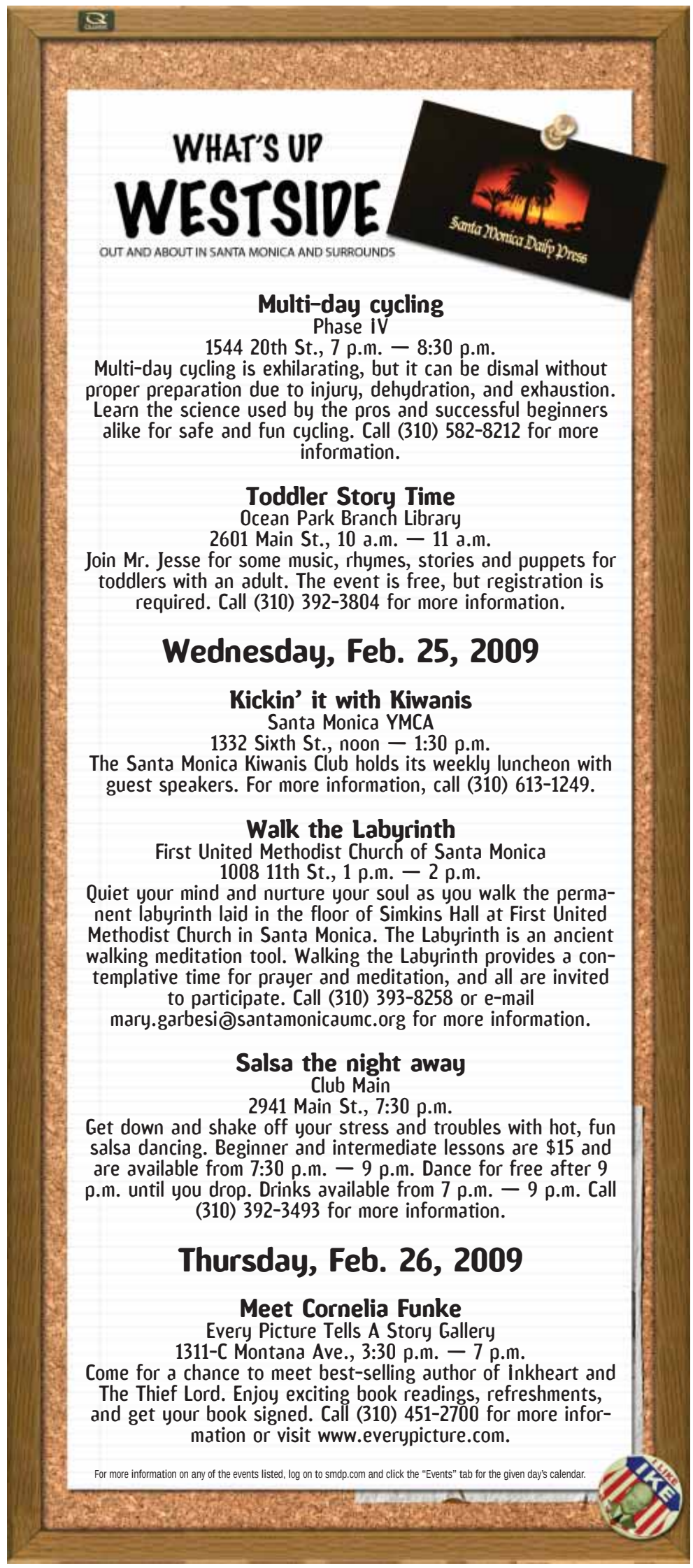
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Multi-day cycling is exhilarating, but it can be dismal without proper preparation due to injury, dehydration, and exhaustion. Learn the science used by the pros and successful beginners alike for safe and fun cycling. Call (310) 582-8212 for more information.

Toddler Story Time
Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St., 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.
Join Mr. Jesse for some music, rhymes, stories and puppets for toddlers with an adult. The event is free, but registration is required. Call (310) 392-3804 for more information.

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009

Kickin' it with Kiwanis
Santa Monica YMCA
1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.
The Santa Monica Kiwanis Club holds its weekly luncheon with guest speakers. For more information, call (310) 613-1249.

Walk the Labyrinth
First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica
1008 11th St., 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Quiet your mind and nurture your soul as you walk the permanent labyrinth laid in the floor of Simkins Hall at First United Methodist Church in Santa Monica. The Labyrinth is an ancient walking meditation tool. Walking the Labyrinth provides a contemplative time for prayer and meditation, and all are invited to participate. Call (310) 393-8258 or e-mail mary.garbesi@santamonicaumc.org for more information.

Salsa the night away
Club Main
2941 Main St., 7:30 p.m.
Get down and shake off your stress and troubles with hot, fun salsa dancing. Beginner and intermediate lessons are $15 and are available from 7:30 p.m. — 9 p.m. Dance for free after 9 p.m. until you drop. Drinks available from 7 p.m. — 9 p.m. Call (310) 392-3493 for more information.

Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009

Meet Cornelia Funke
Every Picture Tells A Story Gallery
1311-C Montana Ave., 3:30 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Come for a chance to meet best-selling author of Inkheart and The Thief Lord. Enjoy exciting book readings, refreshments, and get your book signed. Call (310) 451-2700 for more information or visit www.everypicture.com.

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.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MID-CITY

Art heals

Saint John's Health Center fuses art and healing in a unique way with a new Media Artwall planned for the new state-of-the-art Howard Keck Diagnostic and Treatment Center that is scheduled to open next year. The interactive feature is the first digital art program of its kind and is comprised of 16, 50-inch video screens with more than 17 feet of digital display, hospital officials said.

The Saint John's Media Artwall will provide an innovative and unusual curatorial framework in which to display local community artwork. Saint John's Health Center invites members of the community to participate in the second call for submissions through March 31. Saint John's is accepting submissions from emerging and established artists from the hospital and local community including children's artwork.

"Art carries a therapeutic message that can greatly enhance the healing environment," said Marla Koosed, Saint John's Art Program curator. "Instead of presenting art in a traditional manner, we want to engage visitors in a sensory experience that evokes a soothing, therapeutic setting. Blended with Saint John's reputation for leading-edge care, the new center will provide an environment for rest and healing."

This campaign is the second call for submissions. More than 250 pieces were submitted for the inaugural exhibit, scheduled for 12 weeks during late summer/early fall of 2009. The second exhibit will run in the fall/winter of 2009.

Artists may wish to consider how they would incorporate or modify existing work, or create new work to best engage viewers in this experience. While there is not a specific theme to the second exhibit, artists should consider themes that are conducive to a healing atmosphere, hospital officials said.

Accepted mediums include painting, drawing, photography, video and mixed media (including metal, sculpture, textile and collage). Children's artwork also is acceptable.

"Ongoing exhibitions of selected artwork will rotate throughout the year and we will always be on the lookout for new and innovative work from local artists," said Koosed. "The Media Artwall will give viewers a sense of what the local community brings to the Saint John's experience."

To learn more about how to participate and submit art, visit www.stjohnsartwall.com. DAILY PRESS

DOWNTOWN

Time to share

The Santa Monica Bay Area Human Relations Council is hosting a meeting with community leaders and community members who attended the Presidential Inauguration in Washington D.C. They will share and reflect on their experiences and interact with the audience in these discussions, to be held on Feb. 26 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Roosevelt Elementary School Auditorium.

The council believes the Jan. 20 Presidential Inauguration of Barack Obama was a very positive and inspiring event for the nation and the world and would like to share this experience with the Santa Monica community. Speakers will include Councilmembers Bobby Shriver and Richard Bloom, as well as former Mayor Nat Trives.

Given the state of the current economy, an event providing hope and a positive uplifting experience is something to be shared, said SMFD Chief Jim Hone, a member of the council.

Light refreshments will be available for those attending. Parking is available on the school property and surrounding area. The event is free. DP

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
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Santa Monica Daily Press Visit us online at smdp.com



Photo courtesy C. Crego

BREAK ON THROUGH: **Santa Monica's Heliodoro Robles on the attack against Eagle Rock on Saturday. Dolphin U16 boys started the day with a convincing 17-10 win, which was followed up by a convincing win by the girls team.**

SM rugby dominates Eagle Rock

BY KILIAN KERWIN
Special to the Daily Press

The Santa Monica Rugby Club dominated Eagle Rock Athletic Club in league rugby play Saturday.

The Dolphin U16 boys started the day with a convincing 17-10 win. The Dolphins pressured ERAC from the opening kickoff and scored early with great forward play resulting in a try by Chris "Kentucky" Collins. Captain Nadav Djiji took advantage of a ERAC penalty and took a quick tap, dashing by himself over the goal line for SMRC's second score.

An errant clearing kick by Djiji midway through the second half turned out to be tactically successful as wing Brett Tulchin sprinted 40 yards to outmaneuver the ERAC fullback and snatch the bouncing ball. A deft dive over the try-line secured the victory for the Dolphins. ERAC scored in the last play of

SEE **RUGBY** PAGE 9

Octuplets' mom tells own mother she had no choice

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES— In a videotaped squabble with her mother posted Monday on a gossip Web site, the woman who gave birth to octuplets said she had no choice but to use the embryos she had because her only other option was to destroy them.

"I'm not going to destroy the embryos, period. Done, done, done," Nadya Suleman told her mother in a video taken last week and posted on RadarOnline.com. "You can't go back and alter the past."

Angela Suleman had told her daughter

SEE **OCTOMOM** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Far from doing its fair share

Editor:

I wrote to the SMDP several times a few years ago on the topic of Santa Monica's homeless. A former resident for six years, I was back in town visiting, and was interested to see the issue again discussed in your editorial ("No place for a home," page 4, Feb. 20). I was pleased to learn that the city is helping to create a supportive housing apartment complex near the ocean.

The message and tone of your editorial, however, can be summed up in one acronym: NIMBY ("not in my backyard"). You start by giving lip service to the principle that shelter is a basic human right. You then proceed to suggest and imply that housing and shelter for those who cannot provide for themselves might be provided more appropriately through "a regional approach" (read: located in Culver City). Although Ocean Avenue is perhaps an unnecessarily tony location, you yourself acknowledge that to locate such projects in more residential areas is "more difficult ... given neighborhood opposition."

You suggest that free housing by the beach might be a disincentive to get one's "... life back on track by finding a job ... ." I expect, however that many of those who would be living in supportive housing, who are today among the so-called "chronically homeless," will never be able to fully support themselves, because of physical and mental disabilities.

Finally, you suggest that other communities in L.A. County will do less than they should for the homeless "because they know that Santa Monica will go above and beyond." The implication is that Santa Monica is doing more than its fair share. This is not even close to being true, at least it was not the last time I did the math. Given the total number of homeless persons in the county, and given the fraction of the county's population, and wealth, that resides in Santa Monica, Santa Monica falls far short of providing shelter or housing for the number of persons for whom it should be responsible.

Let Santa Monica truly do its fair share for the homeless. Then let it challenge other communities to do the same.

David Sirkin
Tehachapi, Calif.

Doing a great job

Editor:

As a former daily newspaper reporter and editor, I am in awe of the reporting and writing – both quantity and quality – produced daily by Melody Hanatani. She is an important Santa Monica resource. You should give her a raise, a housing allowance, endless Starbucks gift cards – something to reward her hard work.

Mark Shepherd
Santa Monica

One and the same

Editor:

I wonder if anyone else was amused by this sentence in the SMDP article (Feb. 18) concerning our crack City Council choosing a new council member: "Some believe that ... [SMRR], the city's leading political party ... will use its muscle to get one of its members elected, while others believe developers and big business will win out." Given the ceaseless build-up in traffic largely because the city has become essentially a construction site /tourist destination over the past two decades, and given its well-financed opposition to Prop. T in November, I thought that SMRR and the developers and big business were one and the same. Silly me.

Ron Di Costanzo
Santa Monica

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Visit us online at smdp.com



What's the Point?

David Pisarra — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The intimacy of the promenade

HIS SEAFOAM GREEN EYES SPARKLED. I asked him where he liked to play. He said he didn't like the Sydney Opera House. He preferred the Third Street Promenade. It was more intimate.

When he played in Sydney dressed in his "white monkey suit, [he] couldn't see the audience because of the stage lights." On the promenade he could look people in the eyes. I had to agree. It's what hooked me.

At 20 something, he's played professionally in major international venues, and for free to the public. He has been the producer, engineer and performer on his CD. As a violinist he has worked with almost every type of musician, from various gangster rappers to the Pacific Symphony, and the Los Angeles Ballet.

Josh Vietti is a "pop violinist." His music grabbed me one night as I was rushing through the crowds to see "Frost/Nixon" with friends. The high pitched flight of his violin was playing against a house beat backdrop, and soared over the general roar of the promenade on a Saturday night. I was immediately drawn in by the sound, and then sucker-punched by this blond haired, whirling dervish of activity. He looked straight at me, with a big toothy grin, and I was taken with him.

I wanted to know this man who was mashing up the sounds of a classical instrument with the rhythms of funk, soul, rap, house, trance, and a doing it in a way that made it accessible to me. It took a few weeks of schedule juggling, mostly because his schedule is not like that of most 20 somethings who dream of having a record deal, "some day."

This young man is doing corporate events, private parties, working on the promenade at all hours, producing his next album, creating a brand for himself on the Internet and has found time along the way to develop a sense of himself, and garner a wisdom that I was mightily impressed with.

"No experience is bad if you can learn from it," he told me in response to a question about performing in public. "It's crazy on the promenade, but more intimate, and I prefer it, because it's in your face."

His face shows the determination of the successful. It's about focus, and as he put it, "I never thought I'd work this hard in my life." But clearly it is paying off. His degree from Cal State Long Beach in Communication and Rhetoric has honed his skills. His was the easiest, and most enjoyable, interview I've done in a long while. The ease and grace he displays in his playing, like any good professional, carried over to his off-stage persona.

Perhaps it was because he'd been through many interviews before, but I prefer to think that it was his natural fluidity in the world. As he put it, "I prefer to go with the current of life, it seems easy, but most people have a hard time with it." I pressed him on that, what did he mean?

I WAS IMMEDIATELY DRAWN IN BY THE SOUND, AND THEN SUCKER-PUNCHED BY THIS BLOND HAIRED, WHIRLING DERVISH OF ACTIVITY. HE LOOKED STRAIGHT AT ME, WITH A BIG TOOTHY GRIN, AND I WAS TAKEN WITH HIM.

Destiny. That's what he meant. "It's my destiny to be a violinist. Destiny is embracing your inherent gifts and trying to improve your talent and skills, even if not recognized by society as a traditional money making operation."

This from a 20-something year old. I was dumbfounded when he said that. I asked him where he wanted to go professionally.

He wants his own show, but doesn't have an agent or a manager, because they're not "hungry enough for me." He works four-six hours a day, in addition to his practicing of three or four hours, plus studio time.

I've worked with many entrepreneurs — people who want to be their own boss, but really have no idea how to do that, how much discipline it takes, self motivation, all consuming passion, and inner ability to dig deep and still believe when it all looks like it was a waste of time and effort. The darkest days of every entrepreneur are those moments when you have doubts; when a regular paycheck looks like an oasis in the desert. How you manage those days is the deciding factor on whether or not you will be successful.

Josh Vietti told me how he handles the dark nights. He didn't use words, and he didn't do it in our interview.

It was on that Saturday night that I fell in love with his music. It's the all consuming passion that comes through, the drive to be heard over the roar of the crowd on the promenade.

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

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The Libertarian Perspective

Ron Getty

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Why is competition unfair?

CALIFORNIA'S DEPARTMENT OF Consumer Affairs (DCA) has as part of its mission statement "protecting licensees from unfair competition."

The DCA comprises 40 bureaus, programs, boards, committees, and commissions totaling 2,700 employees and a budget of $468 million, covering 255 professions and 2.4 million licensees.

The DCA's bureaus and boards budgets pay for themselves by charging fees from licensees. This income frees taxpayers from ponying up money to protect licensees from "unfair competition." Only consumers who use the licensees indirectly pay the licensing fee; not all taxpayers do. DCA licensing requirements are designed with industry and political input. These laws, along with a plethora of local business licenses and permits, put speed bumps in the way of skilled people offering their services to consumers, thereby reducing competition and increasing prices.

Unlicensed skilled craftspeople offering affordable services who prove they can do a job, and then perform the job satisfactorily, don't need DCA or local business licensing. This situation covers neighborhood entrepreneurs who have a nail or hair salon in their homes, sell homemade sandwiches at construction sites, or provide local neighborhood taxi services.

Let's see how the DCA does "protect licensees from unfair competition" by examining one of the boards: the Contractors State License Board (CSLB).

The CSLB has 316,000 licensed contractors in 43 classifications. To protect contractors and consumers from "unfair competition," CSLB uses undercover sting operations by the Statewide Investigative Fraud Team, or SWIFT.

SWIFT targets handymen who charge more than $500 for a job. The CSLB claims that this targeting helps eliminate unlicensed contractors. According to CSLB, unlicensed contracting generates an estimated annual $60 to $140 billion underground economy, which includes a whole passel of underground contractors ignoring licensing requirements.

The $500 limit is out of kilter with today's inflationary cost of materials and labor. The $500 maximum job cost for materials and labor stops poor-but-skilled people from making a decent living. Consumers pay the price for having state-mandated protectionism for licensees who don't want "unfair" competition.

Consumers hiring a CSLB-licensed contractor should expect decent results, right? And we should assume that the CSLB weeds out incompetent contractors so consumers are protected by the CSLB, right? Not from the experience of a friend of mine.

This acquaintance had an electrical fire break out in the deck at the back of his house even though a licensed electrical contractor had wired the lighting installation. One-third of his home was destroyed and the remainder suffered smoke and water damage.

The insurance company provided a list of approved licensed general contractors. My acquaintance talked with several before hiring one who had references, insurance company approval, and a state-approved general contractor license. What happened next was general contractor hell. What should have been a six-month renovation project took a year-and-a-half. Subcontractors were paid late or never showed up on time. Installations had to be torn out and redone. Wrong materials were ordered, or parts were installed improperly. The insurance company finally had its construction inspector force the general contractor to complete the renovation. The CSLB didn't put the general contractor on probation or suspend or revoke its license for incompetence. So much for protecting consumers.

However, the CSLB does post pictures online of "Most Wanted" contractors who haven't been caught for construction scams. This is how CSLB protects consumers from the bad guys. Previously, the marketplace — without interference of laws, rules, regulations, licenses or protectionist bureaucracies — did what it does best. Incompetent flim-flam tradesmen were tarred, feathered, and ridden out of town on a rail. Today we aren't allowed to tar and feather miscreants but still have to pay anti-competitive prices for state-licensed contractors.

State licensing protects licensees with latter-day versions of trade cartels and guilds.

Skilled unlicensed tradespeople are forced out of the marketplace. Consumers then pay higher prices due to lack of competition. With this system, the marketplace is prevented from weeding out the incompetent. Tradespeople are also prevented from forming voluntary associations that have ethical standards of conduct and performance for membership in place of licensing. The DCA needs to repeal its anti-competitive licensing requirements to allow greater competition and lower prices for consumers. The DCA's supposed "protecting licensees from unfair competition" simply doesn't cut, whether it comes to protecting consumers or generating competitive prices.

RON GETTY is the senior staff member of a tax attorney with his practice located in San Francisco. His background includes an electrical engineering degree and 30 years of sales, marketing and advertising with small to large corporations.

The Q Line

Making tracks

The Expo Light Rail Line is coming to Santa Monica, but which route it takes is still a subject of debate. The pair of routes being kicked around would either have the line make its way down Colorado Avenue to the terminus or travel along Olympic Boulevard.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Which route do you think the rail line should take and why?

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A message in a miscarriage

AT THE EIGHT-WEEK ULTRASOUND, IT was apparent even before the doctor said anything definitive.

I looked at the monitor and there was just a space in a little black hole. I kept hoping as she moved the wand that she would stumble upon our child hiding, but no. No heartbeat, I heard her say. I must have turned pale because she told me to lean back. I held my husband's hand and then buried my head in his shoulder.

"It's called a missed miscarriage," she said. "Your body still thinks it is pregnant."

"Are you sure?" I asked her too many times.

And she was.

I could not actually believe it when the line turned blue on the stick. We'd been trying for months. Now it was real.

I was trying out names, pricing double strollers, measuring my son's room to fit another crib. At night when I put him into his pajamas, I'd lean in and ask him if he wanted a baby brother or sister, as if he had a say.

"Baby sister," he'd shout every time. Then he'd squeal the name he had decided for her. I'd squeal it back and we'd both laugh. And I believed in that moment he had brought "her" to us.

In short, I was dancing with happiness.

Though one day while taking him for a walk, I was overwhelmed by a really strong sense of sadness. I did not know why. It came from nowhere. I kept walking, hoping it would pass.

Later that night I told my husband I think we needed to move back East. Being away from our family with a new baby coming is the only thing I can think of that would make me so sad. We'll think about it, he said.

But now, I think perhaps I knew. Perhaps, even though my body still thought I was pregnant, at that moment, my soul knew I was not.

When I officially found out in the doctor's office that I was not, it was a Friday. She scheduled me in for a D&C on Tuesday, the earliest she could see me. Those four days seemed like an eternity. I wanted it done with and out of me, but I didn't want anyone to take "her" away from me yet. "She" was still mine.

Of course, that weekend I was doing a reading in a show about motherhood. I had announced at rehearsals the night before that I, too, like a couple other cast members, was pregnant.

I wasn't sure if I could go through with it. But I kept my commitment. The audience's applause felt nice.

I made my way through the next few days bumping up against other women's pregnant bellies, turning my head down when I could not find a smile, basically tripping my way through.

There is something about miscarriage that makes people awkward and uncomfortable. It is secretive and hidden. It is not discussed as easily as other life disappointments. As one friend told me that weekend, it is the only death where you don't get flowers.

I COULD NOT ACTUALLY BELIEVE IT WHEN THE LINE TURNED BLUE ON THE STICK. WE'D BEEN TRYING FOR MONTHS. NOW IT WAS REAL.

When it is discussed, often people stumble and search for something helpful to say. I am here to say, the only thing worth saying is a simple "I am so sorry."

When I reached out to my friends and family, I was saddened by how many of them had been through it themselves. And for them, I was sorry all over again.

Sunday, we headed to Malibu. Our son played in the sand.

We rested on a blanket underneath the California winter sun. I leaned back, listening to the ocean and the sounds of my family playing around me. Instinctively, I placed my hands on my belly. Right then, we were a family, all four of us.

Benjamin chased a dog, which happened to be named the same name he would squeal for the baby sister he desired. My husband and I looked at each other. I smiled, thinking, this was a nice way for us to say goodbye.

When Tuesday arrived, I woke extra early and took the pills the doctor gave me to induce labor. I hoped to have some sort of new experience I could grasp onto, since I'd had a C-section with my son — something special.

But quickly, I was just very sick and asked my husband with all seriousness, if he could get pregnant next time. We went to the doctor's office later and I had the procedure.

And so it was done.

By the end of the day, I was just another woman giving advice, as one of the other pregnant women in my show had also miscarried. And though I did not know her well, that day, I knew her all too well.

For we are both mothers of 2-year-old boys, but for eight short weeks or so, we had glimpsed becoming someone else's mother as well.

I did get flowers, thanks to my neighbor and my mother. They stayed on my dining room table until they wilted.

RACHEL ZIENTS SCHINDERMAN lives in Santa Monica with her family. She can be reached at Rachel@mommiebrain.com.



Tornante
Steve Parker
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

High performance taking a big hit

LAST WEEK WE WROTE ABOUT SANTA Monica and its long-time connection to motor racing. This week, a look at the Detroit Three's attempts to stay involved in high-performance.

First, in yet another sign of these perilous automotive times, General Motors has closed its High Performance Vehicle Operations unit (HPVO), which created such products as the V-Series Cadillacs, the Chevrolet Cobalt SS and the HHR SS small panel truck.

I don't mind these kinds of high-po street cars; relatively few are sold and their environmental impact is negligible. Ferrari, for instance, sells about 4,000 cars a year, about the same as Rolls-Royce (and both are gas-guzzlers) and about 40,000 Corvettes are sold annually. All the hot cars in the world just don't add up to a hill of beans when it comes to global warming and pollution, but their mpg figures are uniformly bad. Not very politically-correct, or smart, these days.

But maybe not all these cool GM cars are going away.

"The Cadillac CTS-V is a regular part of the CTS lineup, and that will stay for the foreseeable future," says GM spokes-squid Vince Muniga, according to Inside Line.

"The CTS-V will continue through the life cycle of the product. If they are regular production cars, they will continue through the model run, whether it's an SS Cobalt or an SS HHR."

He would not give a timetable for when such vehicles would be eliminated or when the regular production run is scheduled to end.

HPVO was made up of approximately 60 engineers working out of GM's Warren Tech Center, a place with security rivaling CIA headquarters. Muniga said none of them have been laid off. Instead, they have been placed "in other areas of the organization."

That's not great news. In the mid-1970s, Detroit was hit by a double-whammy. First was the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, when for the first time in history car makers were being told what mileage and emissions figures their cars and trucks must achieve. Second was the first of the oil embargoes, which killed new car sales. In answer to all this, many of the best tech people in Detroit were pulled-off all sorts of future projects and put to work developing the computers we now find in every car.

Those computers didn't come easy; that's one major reason Detroit cars of the 1970s and '80s were almost uniformly lousy, and it opened the door to the Euro and Japanese imports.

A cross-town rival to GM's HPVO, Ford's Special Vehicle Operations, was created in 1981 and developed the 1984 to 1986 2.3 liter turbo-charged 4 cylinder Mustang SVO, of which fewer than 10,000 were sold (car collectors not having unlimited cash, take note), as well as marketed performance parts through dealer networks, which is called Ford Racing Performance Parts, or FRPP.

In 1991, Ford morphed the group into something new, the Special Vehicle Team (SVT).

Some SVT-made vehicles include the $150,000 Ford GT built with Saleen Performance and sold from 2004 through 2007; 4,028 cars were produced, and just 3,596 sold, so there are some unsold GT's floating around out there, probably kept in storage by about 700 Ford dealers.

FIRST, IN YET ANOTHER SIGN OF THESE PERILOUS AUTOMOTIVE TIMES, GENERAL MOTORS HAS CLOSED ITS HIGH PERFORMANCE VEHICLE OPERATIONS UNIT ...

Also, the 1999 through 2004 380-horsepower supercharged SVT Lightning F-series street truck, 2010 SVT Raptor F-series off-road truck and the race track-oriented 500-horsepower Shelby Cobra GT500 and GT500KR "King of the Road" with 540-horsepower, both seriously-upgraded versions of the Mustang.

Beginning in the 1950s, GM marketed performance parts, like their Super Duty Pontiac parts operations for NASCAR teams, through the factory and dealers. After Detroit car makers made a gentleman's agreement, in response to government pressure, to ban factory participation in racing, they sold consumers and race teams products through some of their dealers (like the famous Royal Pontiac dealership in Royal Oak, Mich., and the CPO cars from Yenko Chevrolet in Pennsylvania).

Across town in Highland Park, Chrysler's MOPAR performance division remains alive and, we hope, well. MOPAR (which stands for MOtor PARts — and didn't you always wonder about that?) currently supports professional race teams in NHRA drag racing, World of Outlaws sprint cars, SCORE off-road racing, USAC sprint cars and midgets and SCCA's sports car road racing and Formula Drift. Their consumer parts operation is also still open and more eager than ever for your business.

MOPAR might be one of Chrysler's most valuable brand names. Don't be surprised if it comes up for sale in the coming months.

STEVE PARKER has covered the world's auto industry for over 35 years. He's a two-time Emmy Award-winner who reported on cars for almost a decade at both KTLA/TV5 and KCBS/TV2. He is a consultant to the NBC-TV show Whipnotic and the show's companion website, www.Whipnotic.com. He created, writes and moderates the only all-automotive blog on The Huffington Post at www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-parker. Contact Steve through his own automotive issues Web site at www.SteveParker.com.

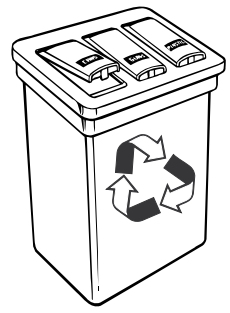
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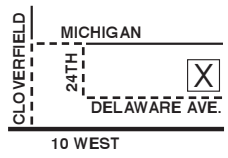


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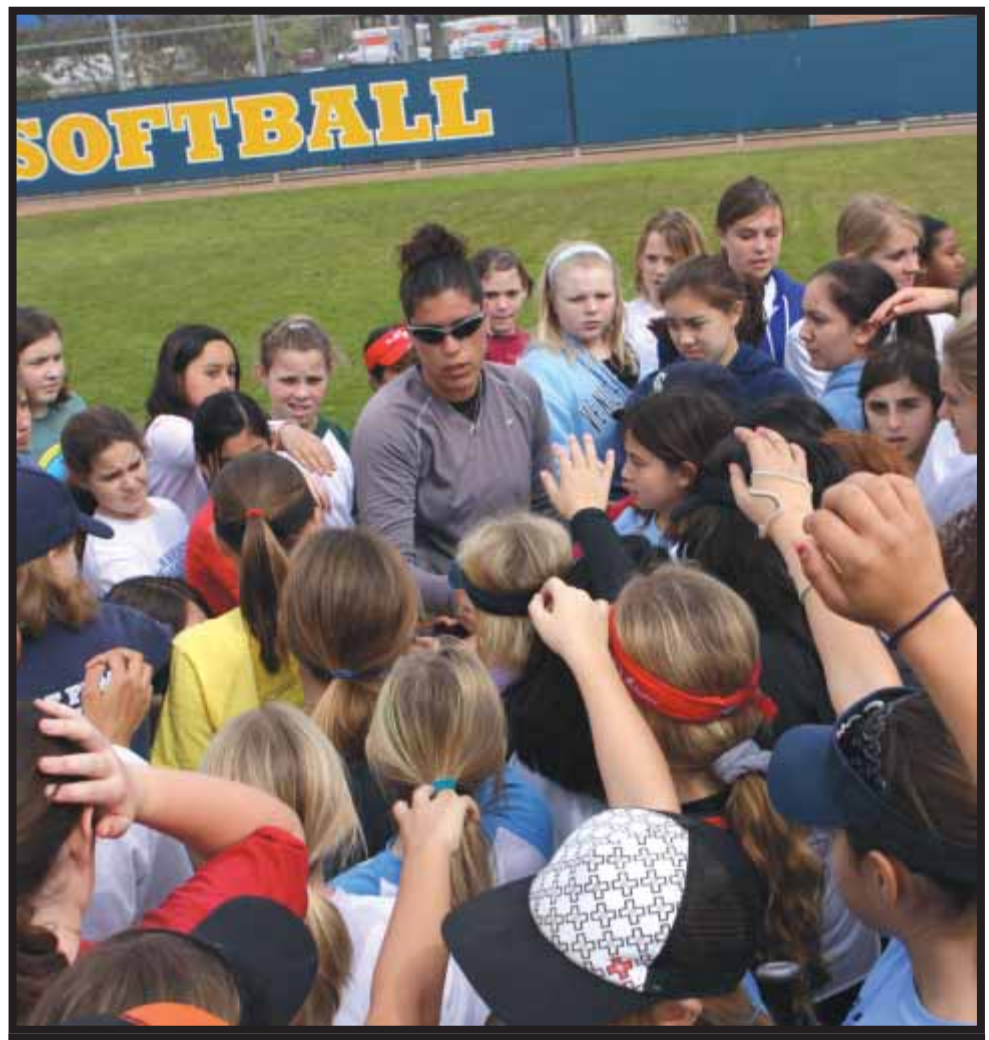
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COMING TOGETHER

Ray Solano *news@smdp.com*

Santa Monica High School girls softball coach Debbie Skaggs huddles with the members of Santa Monica Girls Fastpitch for a 'Go Samo!' cheer following a clinic on the sport that was given by the Samohi softball team on Sunday morning at the high school. Santa Monica Girls Fastpitch is expected to play their first game of the season next week.

Council to extend contract of firm managing cemetery funds

FROM **CONSENT** PAGE 1

Bowman Systems, LLC to transfer data from the existing network to the new and integrate information from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. The modification was anticipated early on when the consultant indicated that it would not have a final cost until after reviewing the current system and completing the development of the data migration and integration plan, a city staff report stated.

The complexity of the contract negotiations with Bowman has resulted in $26,500 increase in the agreement with Canavan Associates, which was hired to provide consulting services for the new HMIS.

The final contract changes involve Chris Fonner, who has provided computer technical support with the existing system. His contract is expected to be extended through June 30, costing an extra $13,300.

"To ensure continued support of ClientTrack, and assistance with the migration and validation of legacy data into the new HMIS, it is necessary to add additional funds … to his existing contract," city staff said.

EVERLASTING CARE FOR THE DECEASED

A long-time investment manager for City Hall will continue to oversee the perpetual care funds for Woodlawn Cemetery and Mausoleum.

RNC Genter Capital Management, which has been the investment manager for the funds since 1992, is slated to receive a new three-year contract, which includes two, one-year renewals. The contract is estimated to cost about $42,600, or 0.6 percent of the $7.1 million portfolio.

A portion of the sale of all burial plots, crypts or niche is reserved for perpetual care services.

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Ex-boyfriend wants DNA test

FROM **OCTOMOM** PAGE 3

that "you should have considered your six other children" before going through the in vitro fertilization procedure that led to her to give birth to another eight children last month.

"They were frozen and you did not have to do anything," Angela Suleman said.

"They were lives," her daughter responded. "... You either use them or destroy them."

Nadya Suleman said donating the embryos to someone else was not an option. "I couldn't even fathom the idea of having my own children out in the world" without knowing them, she said.

Suleman has said six embryos were implanted for each of her six pregnancies, including four single births and one set of twins. In her last pregnancy, two of the six embryos split to create eight babies. The fertility treatments appear to violate national guidelines that specify no more than two embryos for a healthy woman under 35.

Suleman has not responded to repeated interview requests from The Associated Press. Her phone has been disconnected and she no longer has a publicist.

Single and unemployed, Suleman gave birth to octuplets on Jan. 26. All 14 of her children were conceived through in vitro fertilization, with sperm from an unidentified, platonic friend, the 33-year-old mother has said.

On ABC's "Good Morning America" on Monday, a former boyfriend of Suleman's said he wants DNA testing to determine if he's the father of the octuplets and her older children.

Denis Beaudoin told ABC that he donated sperm to Suleman during their three-year relationship in the late 1990s because she claimed to have ovarian cancer. He claims Suleman's older children bear a resemblance to him.

ABC said Suleman denied Beaudoin was the donor she used to conceive her children. When pressed, she admitted he had donated sperm but insisted it wasn't used in any of her pregnancies, the network said. Her first child was born in 2001.

Regardless of whether DNA tests show he is the father, Beaudoin, a divorced father of two, pledged to help Suleman, because "it's hard nowadays to raise two kids, let alone 14 kids."

news@smdp.com

Local politicians side with Section 8 tenant's battle

FROM **APARTMENTS** PAGE 1

Monday during an interview at the Church in Ocean Park.

The 246-unit complex, comprised of 15 buildings around the intersection of Fifth and Indiana avenues, was built and financed by HUD in clusters from 1971 to 1975 with a mortgage keeping the units affordable for 40 years, shifting the development from project to voucher-based upon expiration and allowing the units to be rented at market rate upon vacancy.

The recent request by property owner Gregory Perlman of GH Capital, which purchased Holiday Venice 11 years ago, to pay the loans off before the expiration of the mortgage has concerned tenants of the building who claim his bid would eradicate what they call the last project-based Section 8 housing development in the California coastal zone, encompassing roughly a one-mile area from the beach.

The only way to keep it affordable is to sell the building to the tenants and partner Mercy Housing, a nonprofit developer of affordable rentals, Moore said.

The property owner has made several requests in the past to pre-pay the mortgages, including in 2001 when tenants responded by staging a rally, which they held again last week at Oakwood Park. The tenants have for the past decade worked with People Organized for Westside Renewal (POWER), a community organizing group based in Santa Monica.

Perlman, who owns 11,000 Section 8 units across the country, refutes claims that he is out to make money on the project, adding that he intends to seek a new 20-year contract with HUD to continue subsidizing the units after paying off the mortgage.

"I am not a market rate owner," he said. "I don't come in and kick people out."

He argues that the tenants' efforts are misguided and could in fact end up hurting them if the building is moved into a voucher system starting in 2011, further leading to the gentrification of Venice.

"They're trying to block (the request) and they might think they're winning but they're losing," he said.

Perlman said that he has kept the building in pristine shape since purchasing it in 1998, spending roughly $1 million in upgrades and instituting a variety of programs for tenants.



Melody Hanatani *melodyh@smdp.com*

THE GOOD FIGHT: **Kendra Moore (left) and Ollie Jones at the Church in Ocean Park on Monday.**

"We've gone to their meetings and tried to inform them of how it's good in the long run," he said. "They're getting bad information."

Tenants said they don't believe that Perlman will move forward with his promise of instituting a new 20-year affordability contract, saying that he has refused to put it in writing, a claim that the property owner has refuted.

"If he indeed wants to extend the contract, why not just extend the contract," said Chris Gabriele, the executive director of POWER. "Why lift the restriction first to put more restrictions later?"

Several elected officials have sided with the tenants, including L.A. Councilman Bill Rosendahl, whose district includes Venice, Congresswoman Jane Harman and U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer.

Rosendahl said that he plans to wait and see what steps HUD, which is now under the direction of Shaun Donovan, will take regarding the issue.

"Since the transition is going on it's too early to tell where they are going to take this with the Obama administration," Rosendahl said. "We hope that as a candidate of change he will be in support of us."

He added that an optimal solution would be to have the residents purchase the building.

Many of the tenants have called Holiday Venice home for decades, including Ollie Jones, a 32-year-resident who raised six children in her apartment. She moved in shortly after getting married.

Approximately 82 percent of the tenants in the complex are involved with the Holiday Venice Tenant Action Committee.

"We've been able to gain our rights as tenants and fight for our rights," Jones said.

Moore, who works the front desk at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Santa Monica, remembers watching her father's home being torn down to build the apartments. She calls the building the anchor of affordability in a community that has experienced gentrification and condo developments.

"If you want to come in and change the community, fine, but don't change our history and push us out and do the change," she said. "Make your changes around us so that we can come and be part of that change as well."

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Girls clinch shutout victory

FROM **RUGBY** PAGE 3

the match, but it was too little too late.

Next up were the U19 Girls. Coming off last week's victory over Cantwell, the Dolphin girls came out strong and smothered the Eagle Rock attack, keeping them scoreless. The Dolphins' back-line was lightning fast, chalking up four tries.

The 20-0 victory was well-received by coach Nikila Flagg.

"Our girls are really coming together as a team," Flagg said. "The backs and forwards are linking up and we look forward to continued improvement next week."

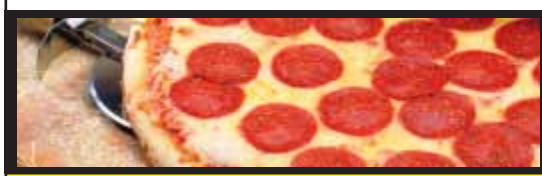
The girls travel to Antelope Valley on Saturday to face the SCRFU 2008 champions.

The U19 Boys came out firing on all cylinders against ERAC. Select-side Lonnie Shankling had a hat-trick, seemingly running at will through the Eagle Rock defense. Flanker Chris Ralphs took a line-out ball at the five-meter line and battled his way into the end zone for the score.

Dolphin captain Carlos Martinez led from the front, dotting down a try himself mid-way through the first half.

In the final minutes, Santa Monica's back-line passed the ball through the hands until it reached reserve winger Wendell Lazaro who easily ran around the ERAC opposition to seal the 34-10 victory for the Dolphins.

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MLB

Schmidt sharp in brief stint against teammates

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX Admittedly nervous, Jason Schmidt had modest expectations for his twice-repaired right shoulder in his return to the mound Monday.

"My biggest goal was to get out there and walk off in one piece," the Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher said. "I wanted to be able to come out knowing I don't have to ice. I think I accomplished that, as long as I don't trip on the way to the clubhouse."

Things couldn't have gone much better for the 36-year-old veteran, who threw nine of his 11 pitches for strikes and retired three of the four batters he faced to begin a five-inning intrasquad game.

Schmidt has pitched in only six games, all in 2007, during the first two seasons of his three-year, $47 million deal with the Dodgers.

He looked sharp in his brief stint against teammates. Schmidt used only two of his four pitches, fastballs and changeups, to retire Juan Pierre, Mark Loretta and Matt Kemp while allowing only an infield single to Casey Blake.

"I wanted to get in a game, get my feet wet and see how it feels to play catch tomorrow," Schmidt said. "I wouldn't have minded a few more pitches. When you get out there and get loose, you feel like you can throw all day.

"It's going to take me a while. I'll be honest about that. I have to get all my check-points back, the things that got me over the plate and got me aligned."

There were no speed guns used Monday, but pitching coach Rick Honeycutt was very happy with what he saw from Schmidt, a candidate for the back end of the rotation if the positive trend continues.

"The whole key is he just feels good. He's been one of the regular guys, he hasn't missed any throwing or drills," Honeycutt said. "He wants everything to be perfect, but this was a very positive step."

Honeycutt also liked what he saw from several other pitchers, including closer Jonathan Broxton, right-hander Greg Miller and lefty Victor Garate. But all eyes were on Schmidt, who could provide an otherwise inexperienced Dodgers rotation a big lift.

"I'm not going to be a 96-98 (mph) guy like I was before. I just have to get it around the plate and get them to hit it on the ground," Schmidt said. "Down the road, maybe a little bit will come back. It probably won't fully be there, but you never know."

Dodgers manager Joe Torre, who watched Schmidt struggle from the first day last spring, was impressed with how smooth he looked Monday.

"He had an easy time throwing the ball. He certainly looked comfortable," Torre said. "He's been in a great frame of mind. Last year, there would always be that one day when he wasn't sure. But today looked like he was just letting it go and it looked great coming out."

MLB

Adenhart has shot at Angels' rotation

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEMPE, Ariz. Just as a year ago when injuries created two openings in the Angels' starting rotation, young Nick Adenhart is being mentioned as a candidate for the fifth spot.

Angels manager Mike Scioscia named Adenhart along with Dustin Moseley, Shane Loux and Anthony Ortega — all right-handers — as candidates to come out of camp as the fifth starter and replace the rehabbing Kelvim Escobar in what figures to be one of the majors' best rotations.

For the 22-year-old Adenhart, the 2008 season was a topsy-turvy one, complete with his first trip to the majors and not a lot of positives elsewhere.

"It was a lot of learning, realizing a goal and getting that first call-up," said Adenhart, a top prospect who went 1-0 with an ERA of 9.00 in three starts with the Angels last season. Adenhart allowed 18 hits, 13 walks and 12 earned runs in 12 innings.

His lone decision came against the White Sox in a 10-7 victory in May. He was sent back to Triple-A Salt Lake, where the results weren't much better than his brief big league stint — he had a 7.24 ERA the remainder of the season.

"In some ways, I think it was a step forward for Nick to get to the major leagues and to get a feel for it," Scioscia said. "Overall, in a lot of parts of his game, he took a half step backward, but it shouldn't be that tough for him to regain where he can be."

Scioscia pointed to Adenhart's confidence, something he didn't seem short on after a terrific Cactus League campaign in 2008.

"I think his confidence is higher than it was last year," Scioscia said. "Mentally, you need confidence to absorb maybe a couple of bad (location pitches) when you're trying to make a pitch and come back and get back into a zone.

"There was a mechanical issue in there that was a part of it, and part of it was just getting to a comfort level in a major league park and making good pitches."

Adenhart is happy to have had a taste of the majors.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Hundley joins Rick Neuheisel's staff at UCLA

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Tim Hundley has rejoined longtime associate Rick Neuheisel at UCLA, where Hundley will coach the secondary along with Carnell Lake.

The 57-year-old Hundley was the SMU assistant head coach for defense last season. Before that, he was defensive coordinator at UTEP for four years.

He and Neuheisel were assistants together at UCLA early in their careers, then Hundley spent seven seasons on Neuheisel's staffs at Colorado and Washington.

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 56°

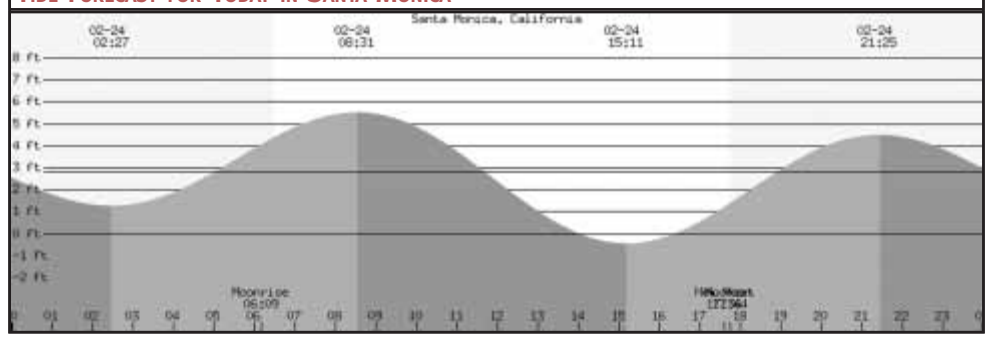
Swell Forecast (1-1 FT)

Tuesday the 24th is looking rather weak, although some Gulf NW should start to build. Still, most all breaks are looking at just waist high surf with possibly a few pluses at west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

Wednesday the 25th Gulf-originating wind swell should increase west facing breaks into waist to chest high surf.

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 18, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 18
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / 4
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 40

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	B
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	B
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	F
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A+	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	C	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	D
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	B	B
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	C
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	F

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

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

Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 1hr 27min
12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

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

Milk (R) 2hrs 08min
1:20, 4:20, 7:15, 10:05

Defiance (R) 2hrs 17min
9:55

Curious Case of Benjamin Button, The (PG-13) 2hrs 48min
3:00, 6:30

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

Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) 1hr 52min
1:35, 4:05, 7:05, 9:35

Fired Up (PG-13) 1hr 30min
2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:00

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

Frost/Nixon (R) 2hrs 02min
1:25, 4:15, 7:10, 9:55

Push (PG-13) 1hr 51min
1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50

Friday the 13th (2009) (R) 1hr 35min
2:20, 4:45, 7:30, 10:05

The Pink Panther 2 (PG) 1hr 32min
2:10, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45

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

Doubt (PG-13) 1hr 44min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55

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

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

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

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

The International (R) 1hr 58min
1:10, 4:20, 7:10, 10:20

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

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

Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13) 1hr 43min
11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) 2hrs 09min
12:50, 4:05, 7:00, 10:10

The Reader (R) 2hrs 02min
1:00, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40

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

Do what you want tonight, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You have a strong idea of where you want to head. It might be wise to say less, and share only with a trusted confidant. New beginnings are possible if you don't fight change. Know when to be quiet and say little. Tonight: Just for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Someone recently conferred his or her support upon you. Deal with others, meetings and a decision that comes from much thought — the result of breaking past mental filters. Tonight: Find your friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Early morning information allows you to assume the helm of your ship. Others respect your ability to accept what is going on and what might appear to be a new beginning. Work with others directly. Tonight: Could be late, as you burn the midnight oil.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Work as a team and grow with a partner. Brainstorming together opens Pandora's box. You might be surprised by all the different opportunities that could knock on your door. Remain open. Tonight: Answer e-mail before you relax.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Continue to accept that you are not in a power position — and you might not want to be, either. Through accepting the inevitable and being more upbeat, you break past a problem and understand an important partner. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Defer to others and let them take the lead. You feel as if you can kick back and relax once you see someone's competence. A new beginning becomes a possibility. Let creativity flow and open up doors. Others appreciate your ideas. Tonight: Say yes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ A dream or waking thought might have much to offer. Emphasize work and getting the job done. You could be overwhelmed by all your options. Funnel your energy into one project at a time. Remain centered. Tonight: Time for exercise, and then head home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might want to question a decision more carefully that involves a child or loved one. Your libido energies soar, and if you're creative, you could be a bubbling brook of endless ideas. Let it flow, for goodness' sake! Tonight: Fun and games.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You have a lot to do. Your instincts tell you to nestle in, close the door and complete the job in question. You have an opportunity to infuse a situation, and possibly your life, with originality. Tonight: Head home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Learn to say more of what you think. A new approach to daily life and communication becomes a possibility. As you open the door, you greet the ability to reveal more of the real you. Tonight: Explore your options.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You deal with others in an astute manner. Now deal with your finances in the same way. You create an opening where previously there was a closed door. Be clear, if possible. No one can or will deny your abilities. Use your ability to create a sound budget. Tonight: Your treat.

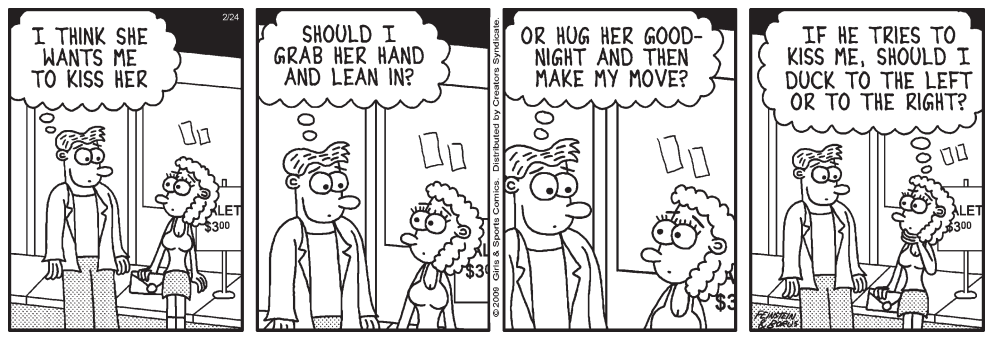
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Let doors open, and be open to a suggestion. Decide to act on a resolution on this New Moon. You'll get a new beginning if you so choose. Meetings revise your thoughts and actions. Now act on what you know. Tonight: Only what you want.

Happy birthday

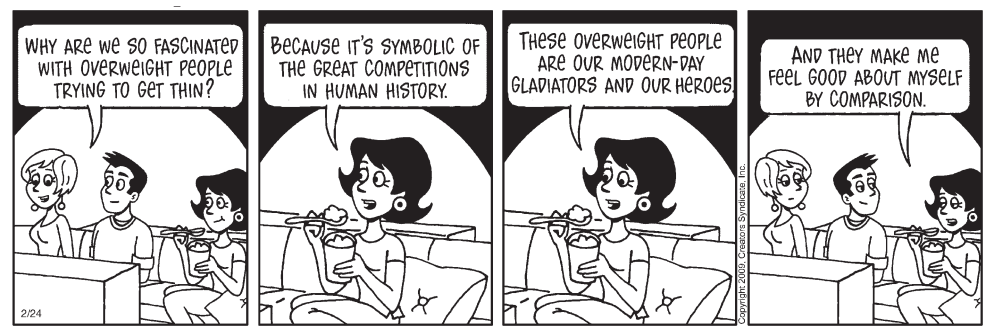
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★ Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

New beginnings become possible this year, but only after you decide on your priorities. A friendship transforms this year as you also greet a new social or professional circle. You'll view people differently by the end of the year. Your personality melts barriers. Do be careful not to become too self-centered. If you are single, you'll meet people with ease, especially through a professional or personal commitment. You might be delighted by your options. If you are attached, you could tend to be overly me-oriented. Remember, a partnership is made up of two people. A fellow PISCES is a soul mate.

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



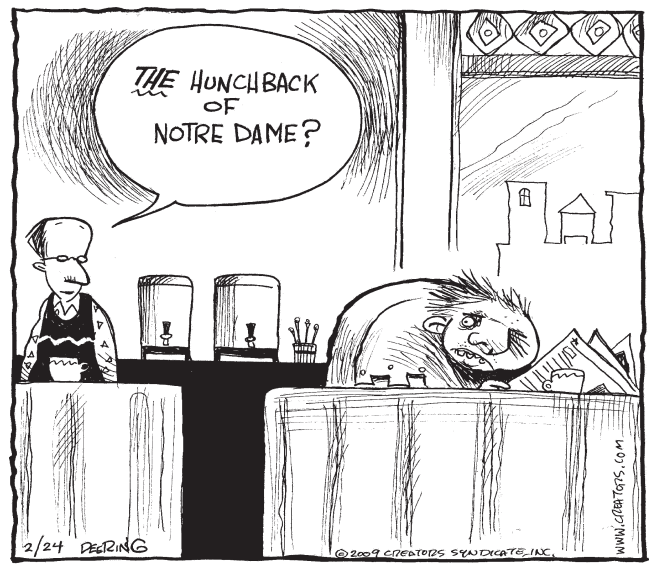
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



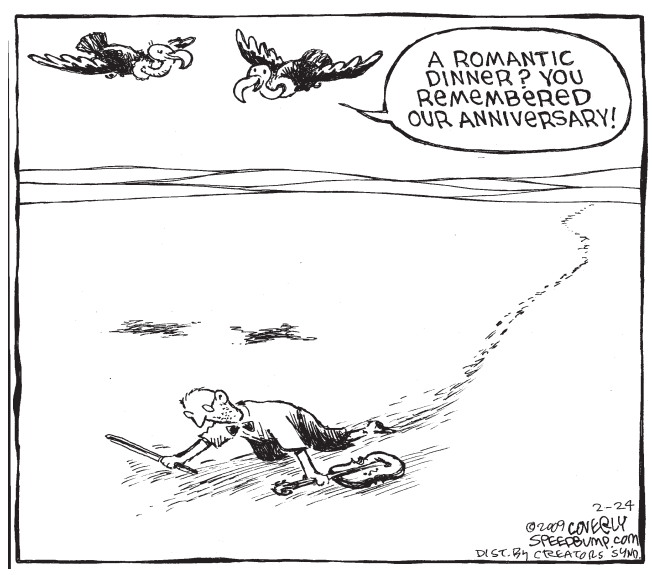
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Belt settings
7 Work the fields
11 Singer Cass
12 Track event
13 Some fliers
15 Cary of "The Princess Bride"
16 Bar staples
18 Fence part
21 Gasp for air
22 Small chicken
24 The whole amount
25 Buddy
26 Metal source
27 Carter's successor
29 Pooch
30 Russian denial
31 Drunks
32 Easy two-pointer
34 Some orchestra members
40 Way to go
41 Get back
42 Flying start?
43 Like Duane Eddy's guitar

DOWN

1 Spider's home
2 In the style of
3 Under the weather
4 Mum
5 Handy-man's collection
6 Put away
7 Lockup
8 — Vegas
9 Fall mo.
10 Director Craven
14 Hima-layan land
16 Ancient physician
17 Parquet feature
19 Heavyset
20 Small pies
21 Course goal
22 Prohibit
23 Got together
25 Cookout site
28 Influences
29 One of TV's "Friends"
31 Tendon
33 Shipping stop
34 Arthur of "Maude"
35 Reduce drastically
36 Knight's address
37 Heir, at times
38 Harbor boat
39 007, for one

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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

2-24

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 21 28 41 45 55
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: $145M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 25 27 30 32 38
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: $11M

FANTASY 5: 5 20 27 28 29

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 6 7 0
EVENING: 1 1 0

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1.48.05

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

■ Elderly drivers' recent lapses of concentration, confusing the brake pedal with the gas (or "drive" with "reverse"): Former Texas Supreme Court Justice Joe Greenhill, 94, crashed into a restraining wall in downtown Austin, nearly winding up in Lady Bird Lake (December). A 90-year-old woman, driving her brand-new Dodge Challenger, rammed a pole while turning left in Pompano Beach, Fla. (October). An 83-year-old man drove through his garage wall and continued on about 70 yards in Lycoming Township, Pa. (September). An 83-year-old man drove 50 feet into Big 5 Sporting Goods Store in Milwaukie, Ore. (December). An 82-year-old man crashed his SUV into a tree on a Pittsburgh golf course after zigzagging out of control across the fairway (September). An 82-year-old man crashed into a group of Cub Scouts lining up for a Christmas parade (injuring 12) in Dallas (December).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1868 the House of Representatives impeached President Andrew Johnson following his attempted dismissal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; Johnson was later acquitted by the Senate.

1920 the German Workers Party, which later became the Nazi Party, met in Munich to adopt its platform.

1942 the Voice of America went on the air for the first time.

1983 a congressional commission released a report condemning the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II as a "grave injustice."

1988 in a ruling that expanded legal protections for parody and satire, the Supreme Court unanimously overturned a $150,000 award that the Rev. Jerry Falwell had won against Hustler magazine and publisher Larry Flynt.

1989 a state funeral was held in Japan for Emperor Hirohito, who had died the month before at age 87.

WORD UP!

beseech \bi-SEECH\, verb; beseech, besought or beseeched, beseeching: to ask earnestly; implore

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Employment

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

FINE JEWELRY SALES PROFESSIONAL

World Famous Santa Monica Jeweler is looking for a full time Fine Jewelry Sales Professional, with 1-2 years experience. Must be enthusiastic and willing to provide EXCELLENT customer service.Please fax or email resume to 310.451.0095; info@readersjewelers.com

For Sale

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

For Rent

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

$1995 PRIME LOCATION SM spectacular ocean view from 15th floor pier/city view convert 1 bedroom hardwood floors all amenities included 201 Ocean Ave #1508B(310)395-1495. Cell (310)666-8360.

WLA, LARGE 3+2. OCEAN VIEW, top of hill, on prv drvwy, 3 patios/backyard, gated. Redeco, end unit. $2295/mo Cat ok 310-390-4610.

1 BRDM Close to beach-bus-shopping. Stove-fridge-dishwasher-disposal. Laundry on premises. Quiet bldg. Courtyard w/ 2 BBQ's. Move in special $300 off. #1,385/month 2620 11th Street, #4

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

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

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

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For Rent

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

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Culver City 4058 LaSalle Unit C lower duplex unit 1bdrm/1bath, hardwood floors, breakfast nook, washer/dryer stove, fridge, parking, no pets. $1350/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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

MAR VISTA 11924 Courtleigh dr. unit 2; lower unit, stove, fridge, blinds, vinyl, utilities included, on-site laundry, parking, no pets, $1100/mo $300 off move-in (310)737-7933 jkwproperties.com

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For Rent

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(310)869-7901

1037 5th St. #2 2+2 $2350

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

505 Barrington Ave. #6 1+1 $1375
We are offering aggressive move-in specials

PLEASE Visit our website for complete listings at:
www.howardmanagement.com
rentals@howardmanagement.com

PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #202/205 $1125 1+1 upper, stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets.$300 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WLA 1 bedroom dogs yard $1610
Studio $1200,
Gated 2+2 $1995.&
1+1 $1495 Hardwood
(310)288-6609

WLA 145 Westgate Unit 1 2+1 stove, fridge, blinds, tile & carpet, garage parking no pets $1275/mo (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WLA 1457 WESTGATE UNIT C 2+1 stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, carpet, blinds, hardwood floors, laundry, fireplace kitchen w/ceramic tile tandem parking intercom no pets, $1550 (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,995,000	$799,250
South of Wilshire	$904,500	$759,000
Sunset Park	$1,100,000	$737,000
Ocean Park	$1,597,500	$860,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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