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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2008

Volume 7 Issue 92



NAOMI'S ON THE MEND
SEE PAGE 15

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE HEALTH OF THE ECONOMY ISSUE



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

MOVING ON: **Jasmine English has helped lead the Santa Monica College women's basketball team to it's first appearance in the postseason in 27 years. The team hosts Antelope Valley tonight.**

SMC women clinch league title and tournament berth

BY JON HABER
Special to the Daily Press

SMC For 27 years, the Santa Monica College women's basketball team has been on the outside of the California State Championship Tournament picture looking in. That streak is over.

For the first time since 1981, the Corsairs women will advance to the postseason after wrapping up the Western State Conference title last Saturday in a 79-70 victory over West Los Angeles College.

The Corsairs won their final eight games of the regular season to clinch the conference title and a trip to the tournament.

"The first day of practice, we had the girls turn around and look at the empty [championship] banners in the gym," SMC head basketball coach Lydia Strong said. "They want-

SEE HOOPS PAGE 11

Business scam hits Westside

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE An alleged scam that for years has duped unsuspecting business owners across the country into paying exorbitant fees under the guise of coming into compliance with state regulations has made its way to the Westside.

Just last week, the Westside Economic Collaborative (WEC) received a suspicious-looking piece of correspondence from the Annual Minutes Compliance Board (AMCB), asking the Culver City-based non-profit to cut a check for $95 to pay for the preparation of minutes from its annual Board of Directors meeting. The two-page form cited various state codes that mandate corporations keep records of their shareholder and board of directors meetings, leaving the impression that if the WEC failed to respond, the organization would be out of compliance with state regulations.

When Joseph Palazzolo, the principal owner of Santa Monica-based Real Property Group and WEC treasurer, received the form, he was skeptical, aware that the organization had never had to pay a fee for such a service.

"I looked at it and it didn't seem right to me," Palazzolo said.

He became even more suspicious when he saw a few typos throughout the form, including grammatical and spelling errors. Curious, Palazzolo ran a quick Google search and found a number of sites that confirmed his suspicion — the Annual Minutes Disclosure Statement was part of a scam that had been circulating the country the past few years under various names.

"Overall it looks pretty darn good and I bet you they're doing quite well on it," Palazzolo said.

The alleged scam has been making rounds across different states in different iterations, some under the title of Corporate Compliance Recorder, others as the Compliance Annual Minutes Board, all insinuating that the addressee should pay a fee, which ranges from $95 to $150, to avoid falling out of compliance. One resident in Oregon noted in his blog, Hinessight.blogs.com that he received a letter in an "official-looking envelope" from the Corporate Compliance Recorder, asking that a non-profit organization with which he's a secretary pay a $95 fee.


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keep minutes of the proceeding of its shareholders, board a
, a record of its shareholders, giving the names and addres
orm. Such other books and records shall be kept in written
Corporations Code, this shall not limit the requirement for ho
ccount. (2) Minutes of the proceedings of its members, boar
of membership held by each. (b) Minutes shall be held in wr

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r and director meetings. Failure to comply with certain requ
s, or other creditors, could possible put on the directors and
ons. Whereas attorneys and accountants may charge an am
Order compliance minutes by completing the statement for

Photo courtesy

BAD DEAL: **This fraudulent letter has been sent to a number of local businesses recently.**

"I believe this is the first time our annual corporation fee is due, so at first I thought the mailing was for real," the blogger stated in his 2005 entry. "But the $95 fee was steep, and I'd never heard of a requirement to disclose annual minutes.

"Of course, there isn't such a requirement."

Locally, more than 17 complaints have been filed with the Better Business Bureau's Southland division since 2004, many of which are from business owners who ended up paying the fee and were demanding a refund as well as an apology.

Many of the complainants mention that the notice appears as though it were sent from a state-affiliated agency and that the return address was listed as being in Sacramento. The form that the Westside Economic Collaborative received lists a P.O. Box address in Los Angeles, the same address that received the majority of the Better Business Bureau complaints.

SEE SCAM PAGE 11


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



VITA: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

2601 Main St., 5 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Volunteers from the UCLA Anderson School of Management will provide free tax assistance to low and middle-income taxpayers; covering answers and filing for both federal and state income tax forms. For more information, call the Ocean Park Branch Library at (310) 392-3804.

Build a Better Brain

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Educational therapist Bibinaz Pirayesh will present a discussion on educational therapy. "Building a Better Brain: How to Help Your Struggling Child Work Less and Do Better in School" will cover how parents of struggling students can uncover what may be blocking the brain and how to remove those barriers. For further information, contact the Main Library's Youth Services at (310) 458-8621, or visit www.SuccessBeginsAtTheRoots.com.

Activist Support Circle Third Anniversary Event

1440 Harvard St., 6:30 p.m.
The nation's first emotional support group for progressive activists has been holding public support gatherings at the Friends Meeting Hall the last Wednesday of each month for the past three years. All progressive activists are welcome | to help start the fourth year in a hopeful manner.

Brian Wright and The Waco Tragedies

1623 1/2 N. Cahuenga Blvd., LA, 10 p.m. — 11:30 p.m.
Texas-born Brian Wright and the Waco Tragedies — an Americana Folk/Rock-inspired band — will play the Hotel Cafe tonight. Tickets are available at the door. For more information on the band, visit www.myspace.com/thewacotragedies.

Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008

Designing stars

2903 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
TAG Gallery's opening their doors tonight to a different group of artists. Bobi Leonard will host a night with famous celebrity designers — Barbara Lockhart, Thomas Schoos, Barclay Butera, and Mark Cutler. For entrance fees and further details, call (310) 829-9556.

Santa Monica Farmers gather round

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Local chefs and farmers discuss seasonal produce, food trends, and recipes.

Qi? Que?

1807 Wilshire Blvd., 6:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Santa Monica's Emperor's College will discuss the Yin-Yang Theory and how life-force energy contributes to health and illness. The lecture will be hosted by Amir Zagross, LAc, instructor at Emperor's College and researcher at Cedars Sinai Hospital.

Treesavers share the love

1332 Sixth St., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
A meeting to build community support for saving the Second and Fourth Street ficuses is being held at the YMCA.

Center for Entrepreneurial Studies Grand Opening

12655 W. Jefferson Blvd., Redondo Beach, 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
The Center for Entrepreneurial Studies officially opens its doors to students, business partners, and residents to explore. The event highlights the Center's mission and offers guests the opportunity to speak with community leaders and industry professionals. Food and beverages will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

Kahn curates contemporary art

3026 Airport Ave., Noon — 6 p.m.
Arena 1 Gallery is exhibiting over 150 works by 25 artists; curated by Fatima Kahn. Some of the artists represented are Amina Ahmed, Salma Arastu, Siona Benjamin, and Bismillah. To view some of the pieces, which are for sale, visit www.santamonicaartstudios.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.

Elderly face financial challenges

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Making ends meet is no easy feat and it doesn't get easier with age.

Tough times lie ahead for California's elder residents, according to a new statewide initiative that on Tuesday released data revealing that the Federal Poverty Line (FPL) covers less than half of the basic cost of living expenses for senior citizens living in Los Angeles County.

The California Elder Economic Security Initiative (CAL EESI) program released data that compared local costs to the national FPL, called the Elder Economic Security Standard, which shows the basic annual cost of living for retired individuals living in the county ranges from roughly $22,800 to $38,000, depending on whether it's a single or married couple living in rental housing or with a mortgage. Conversely, the national poverty line in 2007 was about $10,200 for a single senior citizen and $13,700 for an elderly couple.

The purpose of the findings, which were presented to the state senate Subcommittee on Aging and Long-term Care, was to persuade federal officials to adopt the Elder Economic Security Standard as opposed to the FPL, which is used to determine eligibility for many public programs, including food stamps and medical care, according to Susie Smith, the director of Cal EESI.

"The Federal Poverty Line is an outdated [method to determine] who gets access to public benefits," Smith said on Tuesday.

The methodology for the poverty line was developed in the 1960s and applies to residents across the board, whether they reside in Kansas or Santa Monica, Smith said. The poverty line is also less for senior citizens than middle-aged adults, assuming that the elderly need less to survive than their younger counterparts, she added.

> **"THE FEDERAL POVERTY LINE IS AN OUTDATED MEASURE TO LOOKING AT WHO GETS ACCESS TO PUBLIC BENEFIT."**
>
> **Susie Smith,** Director of the California Elder Economic Security Initiative

The Elder Standard Index was developed by Wider Opportunities for Women and the Institute of Gerontology at the University of Massachusetts-Boston and later adapted locally by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, which came up with county-specific results for the state of California.

Part of the reason for releasing the findings on Tuesday was to encourage state officials to look at where public dollars were being spent at a time when programs are being cut across the board.

"See which investment is making the biggest impact in the daily lives of seniors," Smith said. "It's more important to evaluate

SEE ELDERLY PAGE 10

Prolific television writer Baer dies in Santa Monica

By the Associated Press

SANTA MONICA Richard Baer, a prolific television writer who contributed to the hit sitcoms "Bewitched," "That Girl" and "The Munsters," has died. He was 79.

Baer died Friday at St. John's Health Center in Santa Monica from complications that followed a heart attack he suffered last month, according to his son, Matthew.

Baer's career began in the 1950s and spanned three decades.

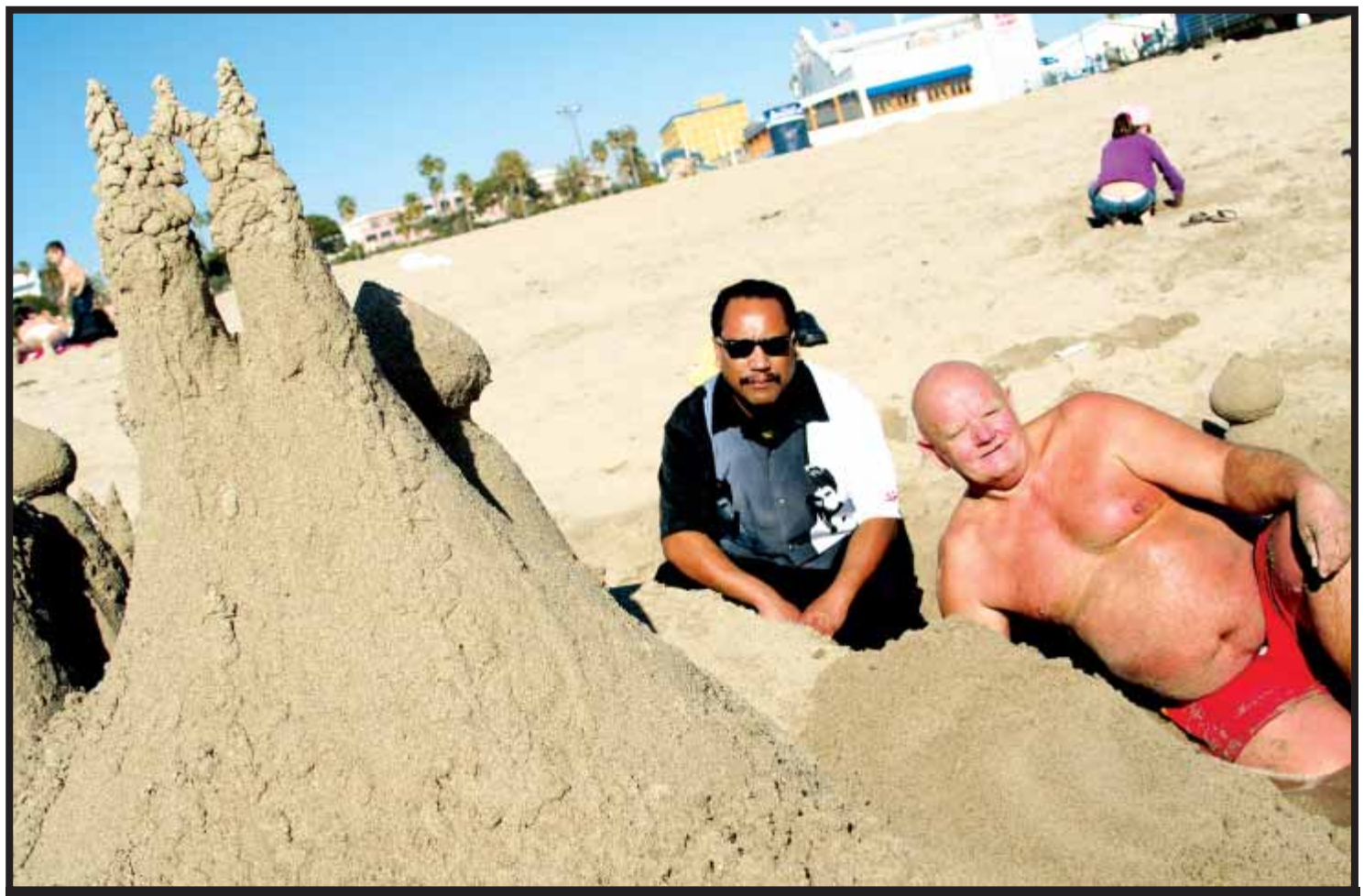
His first credit was for NBC's "The Life of Riley" in 1953.

He wrote for some two dozen shows, ranging from a single episode of "Have Gun—Will Travel" to 34 for "Hennesey." He received an Emmy nomination for one episode of the show, which starred Jackie Cooper as a Navy medical officer.

His final TV script was an episode of the 1980s sitcom, "Who's the Boss?"

Baer also wrote a play, "Mixed Emotions," a comedy about the courtship of a widow and widower in New York, ran for more than six weeks on Broadway in 1993.

In addition to Matthew, Baer is survived by his wife, Diane; another son, Josh; a daughter, Judy; stepdaughter Michele, and three grandchildren.



DAY IN THE SUN

Alexis Hawkins *news@smdp.com*

Eddie Gonzalez (left) and William Kriner (right) pose next to a giant sand castle they constructed on Tuesday at Santa Monica Beach. The weather was unseasonably warm on Tuesday with highs reaching the 80s in Santa Monica. The National Weather Service predicts more sun for today.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

This isn't the wild, wild west

Editor:

Reading the daily headlines it seems like gun violence and its attendant mass killings are becoming a more common occurrence. The rest of the free world has pretty well solved this dilemma through a stringent control of guns in their countries. There are only a few hundred murders each year attributed to guns in countries that have taken on an enlightened gun strategy. America remains locked into a gun fantasy reminiscent of the wild west.

Gun advocates keep talking about more laws, or laws already on the books, as the solution to this evolving problem. Gun laws already existing will not stop the carnage in a nation awash in a flood of guns.

Exasperating the murderous rampage are cowboys in the Republican Party and NRA who want to arm more Americans (crimes wouldn't occur if everyone has a gun in their pocket) and allow more people to carry concealed guns into churches, schools and malls.

Ron Lowe
Santa Monica

Have you no pride?

Editor:

I'll get to the point and try to keep it "pithy" ... as a certain TV personality is fond of saying. I'm mad, mad as hell at something I heard in the campaign wars. During the internecine struggles of political opponents, some strong, caustic language inevitably occurs ... but one declaration in particular was deplorable.

The offending statement ran like this, "for the first time I'm proud to be an American." Like what, nothing in this country's history made this party proud? The lives given, the sacrifices, the aid, WW II, contributions and help all over the world ... nothing meant anything?

Well, I've been around longer than I care to remember, going all the way back to the Korean War as a soldier, and I want to categorically say that I've always been proud to be an American. When I think of all the things the U.S. has done for this world and continues to do, I breathe a silent prayer of thanks to be here ... a humble member of the team. There must be a reason why so many people are trying to come here.

How sad to find that there are those who, after being the recipient of this country's largesse, and who having prospered under it's sheltering aegis just discover for the "first time that they're proud to be an American." All I can say is, give me a break!

David Spataro
Santa Monica





Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Cleansing the old soap box

THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO INVOKE a falsehood:

1. Contrivance of the truth ("I did NOT have sex with those, er, that woman").

2. Concealment of some/most of the salient facts ("Mr. Starr, we found those Whitewater Files, sorry about the statute of limitations, though").

3. Tell all of the truth, but tell it so unconvincingly that everybody assumes you're lying ("... end welfare as we know it ...").

While imbibing a heady cup of caffeinated napalm from Uurth Café, I read, with amusement and disgust, the triangulated and flatulently pharisaic prose on "John McCain's better nation" by the former DNC co-chair and slush fund bag man, Bennet Kelley, in the Feb. 22 edition of the Santa Monica Daily Press.

Let me get this straight ... you have your "terrorists are people, too" panties in a bunch over waterboarding Islamic-fascist scum?

All I have to say is this ... fer crissakes, Bennie, you might want to load some bleach into your "soap box." The "colors" to your story might run a bit but at least it will be disinfected from the sulfurous taint of your poorly executed character impugnation of Sen. John McCain's position on waterboarding and your flaccid leftist indignation. Perhaps you missed a certain article in the Feb. 14, D.C. "Swamp" edition of the Chicago Tribune.

The end of the article is most informative. Hill/Billy and Bam Bam Obama did not vote on the measure as they were too busy "poll dancing" for delegates on the campaign trail in their politically correct Chippendale's attire. The article also fills in the gaps in your "research" as to why McCain voted his conscience.

Bennie, McCain was serving the public trust by his no vote, despite your self righteous discomfiture, while the "Democratopian" challengers were serving themselves at the Hometown Buffet table of "politic$ a$ u$ual." I just think you're mad that McCain put your DNC job in "outreach-fundraising" a little out of reach. Think "downsizing," dude. Got anymore lottery tickets for the Lincoln Bedroom? Oh wait, that's right, the Dems have to win the White House first before they turn it into a "chambre particulier."

Let's talk about what constitutes "torture." Hillarycare? How are things going with Aetna, Prudential, Met Life and Cigna? How big of the healthcare pie chart will they be served for oleaginous bullion rendered to Hill/Billy and how much "good government" will be affordable to the rest of us? Obama on change? He says "change" so many times that I think I'm listening to a David Bowie song. That he waxes so evangelically to the "Democratopian" choir in such lofty and vacuous Jacksonian (as in Jesse) rhetoric one would think one was listening to the band Air Supply. I think that presidential contender Frank Moore of the Just Make Sense Party would be a better choice for you jokers at the DNC.

At least he's not poisoned from the Stygian pools of Hill/Billy's lobby cabal nor does he cultivate the Kennedy-ish sanctimony of Bam Bam.

Bennie, I have been waterboarded. It was part of my U.S. Navy Aircrew training as an airborne cryptologist during the early days of the Reagan Revolution. It definitely takes the "F" out of "fun," yet I am no worse the wear and have led an interesting life and raised two spectacular kids (my eldest son is redeploying for a second tour to Iraq this March with an Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal team).

McCain's experiences in the Hanoi Hilton led to the creation of a program to prepare those of us on the front line to survive, evade, resist and escape capture and interrogation. And those lessons learned through the courage of McCain and his fellow patriots remains unblemished to the tawdry, salacious and puerile attacks of the New York Times and from the keening high chair depots and malcontents of the DNC.

I, for one, do not agree with McCain's position on waterboarding. I'm a "90/10" kinda guy. However, waterboarding is probably the only time that these cowardly terrorists have ever employed water for hygienic purposes while slathering in the gelatinous musings from the "Soap box."

I feel so much cleaner now.

STEVE BREEN is the "Peter Finch of the Reagan Revolution" and the "best looking mailman in the US Postal Service." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It's time to get on with show business

WITH THE END OF THE WRITERS GUILD of America strike, I can say to my fellow Angelenos that our long civic nightmare is over. Show business works; our great film and television industry is one of creators and not of financiers. Here, the artists rule. Basically, the studios caved and gave the writers what they were asking for and unlike this year's Golden Globes, Sunday night's Academy Awards — the best ever broadcast — went ahead as scheduled. I have to agree with host Jon Stewart that the show was basically the "make-up sex" after the strike. The person who deserves the credit for ending the strike, the man who slipped both parties the proverbial roofie, was editor Graydon Carter when he decided to cancel Vanity Fair's Oscar party.

In every industry, there is one day that is far-and-away the biggest of the year, like Mother's Day is for florists. It's usually referred to as that business' Super Bowl because annually, it's the most-watched television event. The second-most watched television event of the year after the Super Bowl is the Academy Awards; and for a lot of businesses in L.A., the Academy Awards are (you guessed it) their Super Bowl.

Every year in Los Angeles, the Golden Globes are a warm-up for the Oscars. The statue is a little smaller, the venue is a little smaller, the relative prestige from winning is a little smaller, and the after-parties are a little smaller. But for the designers, stylists, tailors, hair salons, make-up artists, jewelers, chauffeurs, bodyguards and cleaning crews who work to prepare the venue and the guests for the event, it's a pretty big night. This year, the Globes were canceled and all of those people got shafted.

The resulting "event" to announce the winners was pure poetry. Usually, it's the crème-de-la-crème of Hollywood actors walking the red carpet, taking their seats, and applauding each other's accomplishments. This year, it was a collection of pretty meat puppets from "Extra," "Showbiz Tonight," "Entertainment Tonight," "Inside Edition," E! News Daily," and "The Insider" — people whose usual role on awards night is to ask, "who are you wearing?" — announcing the winners in a glorified press conference with commercials. Not exactly the night of Hollywood glamour that I'm sure the Foreign Press Association wanted.

One result of the evening was to put the studios on notice that SAG actors were not going to cross a WGA picket line, even to blow sunshine up each other's butts. It's possible the studios thought the actors were bluffing. After all, the Globes are important, but an Oscar validates an actor's career. So the studios turned to Academy President Sid Ganis who reassured them that the show would go on and that the Screen Actor's Guild would have to choose between their loyalty to the Writer's Guild and the annual orgy of ego gratification that is the Academy Awards.

The studios' little gambit may have worked, too. But we will never know because three weeks after the Globes and three weeks before the Oscars, Carter of Vanity Fair dropped the bomb. It turns out that on Oscar night (Hollywood's biggest event) there is one man that can literally tell the A-List (Hollywood's biggest stars) where to go. That man is Carter, and usually he tells them to go to Morton's. This year, he told them to go fly a kite. Actually, his exact words were, "Inasmuch as Vanity Fair is a collection of writers, photographers, and artists, we do feel ourselves in aligned solidarity with the writers, directors, and actors in the film business."

With the prospect of an expiring contract with actors and directors, no Golden Globes, no Oscars, no post-Oscar bump in box office revenue, no end in sight to the strike by the writers (without whom no production is possible), and knowing that the whole thing could be settled for pennies on the dollar, the studios did what Hillary Clinton can't seem to bring herself to do: They recognized that it wasn't going to go their way and they conceded.

As a bonus, those of us who truly love movies were treated to an Academy Awards show about movies and the people who make them, nothing more. The fact that there were no writers working on the show meant it wasn't a lame attempt at a Hollywood-themed "Daily Show." Instead, it relied on the one thing that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences knows more about than anyone or anything else: The best moments from the best movies ever made. Thanks, Graydon.

KENNY MACK is a writer, comedian and huge fan of gangster movies living in Santa Monica. He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

The Q Line

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Growing in a new direction

The City Council last week denied an appeal made by local activists to landmark a number of ficus trees in the downtown area. The Treesavers are now taking the city to court to continue their fight.

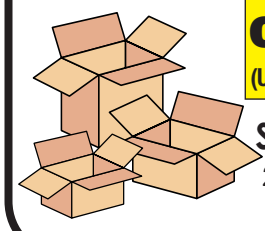
So this week's Q-Line question asks:

How far — within the law — do you think the Treesavers should go to save the trees?

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


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Senator apologizes for remark

BY MARK NIESSE
Associated Press Writer

HONOLULU U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye has apologized for remarks criticizing Barack Obama's private Hawaii high school and implying the presidential candidate was out of touch with everyday people.

Inouye wrote an apology letter to the president of Honolulu's Punahou School, where Obama graduated in 1979, said Jennifer Sabas, his chief of staff.

Inouye, a strong supporter of Hillary Rodham Clinton, said before Hawaii's Feb. 19 Democratic caucus that residents know Obama was born and graduated in Hawaii, "but he went to Punahou, and that was not a school for the impoverished."

"To suggest that Punahou maybe set his life plan in place, I find it very interesting," Inouye said in his interview with The Honolulu Advertiser.

Punahou is one of the island's most prestigious and expensive private schools, and its graduates often are viewed by public school students as elitist. Inouye, 83, a superdelegate to the Democratic National Convention, is a product of McKinley High School, a big public school down the hill from Punahou's lush campus.

He has not swayed from his support for Clinton despite Obama's overwhelming victory in the Hawaii caucus vote.

Obama, born and raised in Hawaii, had 76 percent of the vote as a record numbers of island residents waited in long lines to express their support for the hometown candidate.

Inouye's apology letter, which the senator's office declined to provide, was sent to Punahou President James Scott late last week, Sabas said. A copy of the letter and a short note were delivered to Obama as well, she said.

"It was just a misstatement," Sabas said. "It was never the intent to disparage Punahou in any way. It is without a doubt one of the finest schools in our nation."

Obama responded to Inouye's comments in an interview with KITV the Saturday before the Feb. 19 caucuses.

"Shame on Danny for trying to pull that stunt," Obama said. "I went to Punahou on a scholarship. I was raised by a single mom and my grandmother."

The Obama campaign and Punahou School didn't immediately return phone calls Tuesday seeking comment.

The letter was written because of the uproar from upset Punahou graduates, students and faculty, Sabas said.

"With the onslaught of former students or alumni that were upset, we thought it was best to put it to bed and get past it," she said.

Scott has accepted Inouye's apology, and the two will meet in person in Washington next week, she said.

Senate passes bill to improve health care on reservations

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON American Indians would have better access to health care services, including screening and mental health programs, under legislation the Senate passed Tuesday.

The bill, approved 83-10, would boost programs at the federally funded Indian Health Service, prompt new construction and modernization of health clinics on reservations, and attempt to recruit more Indians into health professions. It also would increase tribal access to Medicare and Medicaid.

The legislation would authorize spending about $35 billion for Indian health care programs over the next 10 years. Senate Indian Affairs Committee Chairman Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., called it a first step in addressing a crisis in American Indian health care. The system is underfunded and inefficient, he said.

American Indians suffer much higher death rates of most leading causes than the rest of the country. Alcoholism, drug use, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and suicide rates are especially high.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said American Indians have access "to some of the least adequate health care in America."

"Far too many native children are diagnosed with diabetes, suffer from abuse and neglect, or die prematurely because of accidents or illness that could be prevented or cured," Reid said.

Similar legislation cleared the House Natural Resources Committee and a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee last year. It still must be approved by the full Energy panel and the House Ways and Means Committee before it heads to the House floor.

The Senate bill also contains a resolution sponsored by Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., that formally apologizes to American Indians for centuries of government mistreatment. The resolution acknowledges a long history of government misconduct against Indians, including forced relocation from tribal lands, theft of tribal assets and the breaking of treaties and covenants.

Earlier this month, the Senate adopted an amendment removing some sections of the bill that faced strong objections from the Bush administration. The White House issued a veto threat in January, objecting to expanded labor provisions in the legislation.

Some say the bill doesn't go far enough.

Oklahoma Sen. Tom Coburn, a Republican and a doctor, called for a much broader overhaul of the system and labeled the legislation "morally bankrupt." He argued that the money may not be there for new programs, saying the bill is like "taking out a new loan on a car when you can't afford food for your family."

Coburn offered an amendment that would have given American Indians more latitude in choosing clinics. That amendment was rejected, 67-28.

"Why are we putting off fixing the system?" he asked. "So we could tell everyone that we did something when in fact we did nothing."

The Senate amended the bill to exclude most abortions at Indian health clinics and prohibit spending on programs that discourage gun ownership.

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ECONOMY

Worries grow for twin evils of 'stagflation'

Stagnant economy, lost jobs, surging inflation all converge

BY JEANNINE AVERSA | AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON It's a toxic economic mix the nation hasn't seen in three decades: Prices are speeding upward at the fastest pace in a quarter century, even as the economy loses steam.

Economists call the disease "stagflation," and they're worried it might be coming back.

Already, paychecks aren't stretching as far, and jobs are harder to find, threatening to set off a vicious cycle that could make things even worse.

The economy nearly stalled in the final three months of last year and probably is barely growing or even shrinking now. That's the "stagnation" part of the ailment. Typically, that slowdown should slow inflation as well — the second part of the diagnosis — but prices are still marching higher.

The latest worrisome news came Tuesday: a government report showing wholesale prices climbed 7.4 percent in the past year. That was the biggest annual leap since 1981.

"We're in a slowdown," Press Secretary Dana Perino said at the White House, where the economics talk was still upbeat until recently.

Once the twin evils of stagflation take hold, it can be hard to break the grip. People cut back on their spending as they are stung by rising prices and shriveling wages. Businesses, also socked by rising costs and declining demand from customers, clamp down on their hiring and capital investment.

That would be a nightmare scenario for Wall Street investors, businesses, politicians and most everyone else. They're already looking to the Federal Reserve for help, but the Fed's job is complicated by the situation.

The mission of Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues is to nurture economic growth and keep inflation under control. To brace the teetering economy, the Fed since September has been ratcheting down its key interest rate. Another cut is expected in March. However, to combat inflation, the Fed would be expected to boost rates instead.

"The Fed has its hands full. It is preoccupied with the economic slowdown at the front door, but inflation looks to be sneaking in the back door," said Greg McBride, senior financial analyst at Bankrate.com. "If that trend continues, the Fed would need to show the economy some tough love, meaning higher interest rates to keep inflation from getting out of hand."

On the other hand, Brian Bethune, economist at Global Insight, said Bernanke can fight only one war at a time, and the more pressing issue right now is to shore up the ailing economy. "That's the war that needs to be fought. The war on inflation will have to come another day," Bethune said.

Maybe things won't be so bad. Stock prices rose for the day, continuing a recent mini-rally. And Federal Reserve vice chairman Donald Kohn said in a speech that he doesn't expect the recent elevated inflation readings to persist.

"But the recent information on prices underlines the need to continue to monitor the inflation situation very carefully," he added.

Some numbers underscore the concerns:

• Prices paid by consumers are up 4.1 percent over the past year, the biggest increase in 17 years. Those higher prices — especially for heating homes and filling up gas tanks — are taking an ever-bigger bite out of paychecks. Workers' weekly earnings are down 1.4 percent from a year ago when adjusted for that inflation.

• Oil prices galloped past $100 a barrel to close at a record $100.88 on Tuesday. Those lofty energy prices are a double-edged sword: They can spread inflation through the economy by boosting the prices of lots of other goods and services, and they can leave people with less money to spend on other things, thus slowing overall economic activity. There are signs high energy prices are causing some damage on both of those fronts.

People are hunkering down. Earlier this month, nervous shoppers handed the nation's retailers their worst January in almost four decades. High gas and food prices, the toll of the housing bust, the credit crunch and a tougher job market all were to blame. Disappointing sales were widespread, hitting discounters like Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and upscale merchants like Nordstrom Inc.

Wary employers eliminated jobs in January, the first nationwide loss of jobs in more than four years.

With the economy on the edge of a recession — if it hasn't toppled over already — the Fed for the near term is much more likely to keep lowering rates. Yet, with its own forecast revised last week to show even slower growth this year as well as higher inflation and higher unemployment than previously anticipated, Bernanke and his colleagues have made clear they'll need to stay nimble.

ECONOMY

Job worries sink consumer confidence

BY EILEEN ALT POWELL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Consumer confidence plunged in February as Americans worried about less-favorable business conditions and job prospects, a business-backed research group said Tuesday.

The Conference Board said its Consumer Confidence Index fell to 75 this month from a revised 87.3 in January.

The reading was the lowest since the index registered 64.8 in February 2003, just before the U.S. invaded Iraq, researchers said, and was far below the 83 expected by analysts surveyed by Thomson/IFR.

The index measures how consumers feel about the economy. It has been weakening since July, suggesting that wary consumers may retrench financially, which could fatigue the economy further.

The expectations index, which measures consumers' outlook over the next six months, fared even worse. The expectations index dropped to 57.9 from 69.3 in January. The February figure was a 17-year low, the Conference Board said, standing just a bit above the 55.3 of January 1991.

In midmorning trading, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 17.99, or 0.14 percent, to 12,588.21. Broader indexes, including the Nasdaq composite and Standard & Poor's 500, were down.

Lynn Franco, director of The Conference Board's Consumer Research Center, said in a statement that the consumer confidence survey — which is based on a sample of 5,000 U.S. households — indicated that consumers felt economic conditions were deteriorating.

"The weakening in consumers' assessment of current conditions, fueled by a combination of less-favorable business conditions and a sharp rise in the number of consumers saying jobs are hard to get, suggest that the pace of growth in early 2008 has slowed even further," Franco said in a statement accompanying the report.

She pointed to the low "expectations" reading and added: "With so few consumers expecting conditions to turn around in the months ahead, the outlook for the economy continues to worsen and the risk of a recession continues to increase."

A third reading, the index looking at current conditions, also dropped in February to 100.6 from 114.3 the month before.

Those saying jobs were "hard to get" rose to 23.8 percent in February from 20.6 percent in January, while those claiming jobs were "plentiful" decreased to 20.6 percent from 23.8 percent.

Anthony Chan, managing director and chief economist with JPMorgan Private Client Services in New York, said he believed "jobs and energy prices are weighing down on consumer confidence."

The weakening job situation also has been reflected in growing numbers of claims for unemployment benefits, he noted. The four-week average for claims, released by the Labor Department, rose to 360,500 last week — the highest level since claims spiked in October 2005.

Chan said he expects the first two quarters of this year to be "challenging," with a 50 percent to 55 percent chance of a recession. He expects economic growth to resume in the second half because of Federal Reserve interest rate action and the Bush administration's tax rebates this summer.

"The Fed began easing last August and began lowering rates in September ... and monetary policy impacts the economy with lags," he said. "And the stimulus package in the second half of the year will be a nice shot in the arm for consumer spending."

In Washington, meanwhile, the Labor Department reported that inflation at the wholesale level soared in January, pushed higher by rising costs for food, energy and medicine. The monthly increase carried the annual inflation rate to its fastest jump in a quarter century.

The department said wholesale prices rose 1 percent last month, more than double the 0.4 percent increase that economists had been expecting.

> **"THE FED BEGAN EASING LAST AUGUST AND BEGAN LOWERING RATES IN SEPTEMBER ... AND MONETARY POLICY IMPACTS THE ECONOMY WITH LAGS."**
>
> **Anthony Chan,** Managing director and chief economist with JPMorgan Private Client Services in New York

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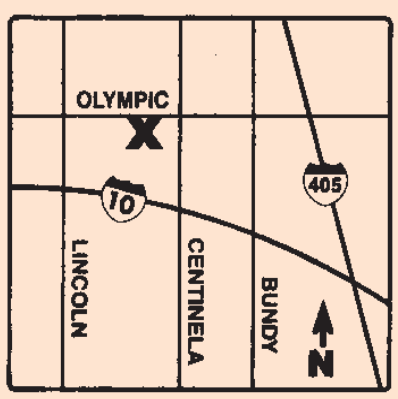
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Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What constitutes a green building?

GREEN MATERIALS, BUILDING, AND living are becoming commonplace in Los Angeles with each passing year. Locals are at the forefront of the green movement. New buildings that use materials, which have low environmental impact and have high energy efficiently are known as green buildings. Recycled materials used in construction can be a type of green product.

Being green can mean anything from installing solar panels to recycling plastic bottles — just doing your part to help the environment. However, what if an entire building could be recycled — would that be green? In Downtown Los Angeles, the recycling of buildings from one use to another is known as adaptive reuse.

One of the best ways to conserve land and building materials is to reuse them. Imagine a new city made of old structures. Downtown Los Angeles has done just that. It defines adaptive reuse as: An Adaptive Reuse Project is any change of use to dwelling units, guest rooms, or joint living and work quarters in all or any portion of any eligible building.

What that translates into is changing an existing building — say a toy factory — into an apartment building. The theory is that by converting older, economically distressed buildings into apartments, this will help transform Downtown L.A. into a "24-hour city" like Manhattan.

The city allows buildings with specific zoning codes — commercial or industrial, built before July 1, 1974 — to apply for an adaptive reuse permit. Of course, there are a plethora of hurdles to cross, but if a building is designated as an adaptive reuse project the builder can begin converting the building into apartments. However, the city of Los Angeles does not allow all buildings to be converted — only specific structures that fall into the Downtown Los Angeles map.

By allowing certain buildings to be converted to apartments, downtown has seen a renaissance with young and older people alike moving to the area. L.A. Live, a multi-facility complex across the street from the Staples Center, will bring three hotels, restaurants and shops to the revitalized neighborhood.

The number of apartment lofts has exploded in the last five years, with more units coming online each month. Of course, record growth can have problems as well. With a large number of loft units coming onto the market and a liquidity crunch from lenders along with a soft real estate market, many lofts are not being sold, but rented instead.

With time, loft units will be selling again and Downtown L.A. will continue to grow, attracting new businesses along with the regentrification of an already diverse city. Through adaptive reuse, many other cities can learn to manage land and materials, and help the environment.

MIKE HEAYN is a Washington Mutual multi-family loan consultant. He can be reached at (310) 428-1342, or e-mailed at michael.heayn@wamu.net.

WALL STREET

Market lifts on IBM news

BY MADLEN READ
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Wall Street reversed earlier losses and rallied Tuesday after IBM approved a $15 billion stock buyback, suggesting to investors that there are still some companies out there with financial muscle. The Dow Jones industrial average rose more than 110 points.

IBM Corp., one of the 30 companies that make up the Dow, said the buyback will boost its earnings for 2008 past Wall Street's prior forecasts. Shares of Big Blue vaulted $4.30, or 3.9 percent, to $114.38.

The buyback news followed two dismal economic reports showing core wholesale prices shot up more than expected last month and that consumer confidence is waning. The data reinforced worries that the United States is suffering from stagflation, a state when the economy weakens amid rising costs.

"The market is kind of overcoming negative news, which is potentially a next step toward higher prices," said Ryan Detrick, senior technical strategist at Schaeffer's Investment Research. "At least in the short-term, it's a nice change here."

Tuesday's advance extended a rally that began Monday when Standard & Poor's affirmed the "AAA" ratings for troubled bond insurers Ambac Financial Group Inc. and MBIA Inc. MBIA, which on Tuesday said it would eliminate its quarterly dividend, was also affirmed by Moody's Investors Service.

The Dow rose 114.70, or 0.91 percent, to 12,684.92, after declining in earlier trading.

Broader stock indicators also advanced. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.49, or 0.69 percent, to 1,381.29, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 17.51, or 0.75 percent, to 2,344.99.

Government bonds rose. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, slipped to 3.86 percent from 3.91 percent late Monday.

The dollar was mixed against most other major currencies, while gold prices edged higher.

Tuesday's pair of economic reports was decidedly downbeat.

The Conference Board's index of consumer confidence plunged in February to 75.0 from a revised 87.3 in January. The reading was the lowest since the index registered 64.8 in February 2003, and came in far below analysts' average estimate.

Meanwhile, the latest wholesale inflation report showed the headline producer price index rising by a full 1 percent in January, driven up by higher energy prices and soaring food costs.

The result was a bit below the 1.1 percent advance projected by Thomson/IFR, but core PPI — which excludes food and energy prices — rose 0.4 percent, steeper than the predicted 0.3 percent gain.

REAL ESTATE

Housing market still has long way to fall

BY J.W. ELPHINSTONE
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Across much of the nation, home values are dropping — even those backed by solid mortgages — and banks are repossessing more every day. Most experts say the dive won't hit bottom for another year and only after excess inventory is sharply reduced and credit markets improve.

More government intervention may be needed, too, if the free market system doesn't work quick enough.

"The housing value crisis is spreading and deepening," said David Abromowitz, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. "It has gone way beyond subprime borrowers stretched too far with bad loans and now has clearly extended into the housing markets more broadly."

U.S. home prices dropped 8.9 percent in the final quarter of 2007 compared with a year ago, according to the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index released Tuesday. That marked the steepest decline in the index's 20-year history.

Meanwhile, the narrower Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight said Tuesday that nationwide prices dipped 0.3 percent in the fourth quarter, the first annual decline in 16 years. Eleven states posted declines in values for the year, while prices in nine states appreciated more than 5 percent.

The OFHEO index is calculated using mortgages of $417,000 or less that are bought or backed by government-sponsored mortgage companies Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. That excludes properties bought with some of the riskier types of home loans or homes in more expensive markets like California and the Northeast.

"We reached a somber year-end for the housing market in 2007," said Robert Shiller, one of the architects of the S&P/Case-Shiller index. "Home prices across the nation and in most metro areas are significantly lower than where they were a year ago. Wherever you look, things look bleak."

That's bad news for Sheila Prior and her husband, Matthew. Despite the weakness in the housing market, the couple is putting their three-bedroom home in Durham, N.C., up for sale this week. After being laid off in December from GlaxoSmithKline PLC, Matthew accepted a job offer in Plymouth, Minn.

The couple, who has a 1-year-old daughter, initially wanted to list their home for $250,000. But after checking what other homes sold for in the area recently, their real estate agent recommended $233,000 — the same price they paid for it in June 2006.

"It was less than what we were hoping for, but renting it out wasn't financially viable either so we decided to sell it anyway," Sheila Prior said. She's optimistic that they can sell the house within six months, but worries about the competition from KB Home, which is selling new houses in the area at discount prices.

Builders across the nation are slashing prices, giving upgrades, even offering trade-ins to sell homes from an inventory that's near record levels. Residential construction, meanwhile, has fallen 60 percent from the peak.

"That's the only way of clearing out a mountain of unsold inventory to allow markets to find a bottom," said Mark Zandi, chief economist with Moody's Economy.com. "But also housing won't pick up again until mortgage credit becomes available."

Right now, only the most creditworthy qualify for mortgages. Lenders started to keep a tight leash on credit after homeowners started losing their houses to foreclosures at an increasingly rapid rate as interest rates on home loans reset higher and declining values ate into equity.

Irvine, Calif.-based RealtyTrac Inc. said Tuesday that the number of homes facing foreclosure climbed 57 percent in January from the previous year. A wave of adjustable rate mortgage resets expected in May and June threatens to push many other homeowners into default.

> **"WE REACHED A SOMBER YEAR-END FOR THE HOUSING MARKET IN 2007. HOME PRICES ACROSS THE NATION AND IN MOST METRO AREAS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER THAN WHERE THEY WERE A YEAR AGO. WHEREVER YOU LOOK, THINGS LOOK ."**
>
> Robert Shiller,
> One of the architects of the S&P/Case-Shiller index

Consequently, more lenders are being forced to take possession of homes they couldn't dump at foreclosure auctions and investors are taking huge losses to rewrite the declining value of securities backed by these mortgages. Bond insurers also are taking a hit and could have trouble paying back bond holders if default levels soar.

While the vast majority of homes in the U.S. are not in danger of foreclosure, economists worry that the housing slump will plunge the broader economy into a recession. The economy grew an anemic 0.6 percent in the fourth quarter.

Earlier this month, Congress passed a $168 billion rescue package with provisions aimed at helping beleaguered homeowners refinance into more affordable loans. The Federal Reserve also has aggressively slashed interest rates to spur growth and free up the credit markets.

"If it doesn't look like the financial system is improving by May or June, we'll see other bigger steps from the government to stabilize it," Zandi said. "A bottom won't happen until the financial system works itself out."

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Alexis Hawkins *news@smdp.com*

GETTING BY: **(Above) A senior enters the Senior Recreation Center on Ocean Avenue during lunch on Tuesday afternoon. (Left) Lawrence LoVlsrde meets with fellow seniors for lunch.**

Financial struggles exists for elderly

FROM **ELDERLY** PAGE 3

the true investment during the time of fiscal crisis."

According to the data, one in three senior citizens in the county live off of Social Security payments, which average about $12,000 a year. For women residing in the county, the median retirement income is about $17,000, while for men, it's about $22,700.

Santa Monica's retired community is not immune to financial struggles, facing the same issues of living on a fixed income and choosing between paying for medical expenses and the basic necessity of food.

Rosemary Regalbuto, who helps run the Meals on Wheels program in Santa Monica, said that many of it's clients face the decision of whether they should pay for the prescription medicine or buying food, often choosing the former.

"Over the years we've had clients that would eat cat food because it's cheaper," Regalbuto said on Tuesday. "They're not getting proper nutrition.

"It's only going to get worse because the cost of medication is getting so expensive."

Yuliya Sullivan, the client coordinator for Meals on Wheels, said many of her clients live off of a small Social Security payment of about $1,000 a month, which after paying for rent and medication, leaves little for meals.

Some have difficult paying for the $6 fee to cover the cost of receiving two meals of days from the non-profit organization, Sullivan said, adding that the fee is waived for some clients.

"It's amazing how little they have," she said. "I know there is a person we serve who basically relies on us for food and I'm not sure if they have any food outside of what we deliver."

melodyh@smdp.com

Water agencies form group to tackle climate change

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Eight of the nation's largest water providers from California to New York announced the formation of a coalition to develop strategies on dealing with climate change.

The newly formed Water Utility Climate Alliance includes the giant Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the San Diego County Water Authority and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

Members, which together provide water to more than 36 million people, also include Denver Water, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, the Portland (Ore.) Water Bureau, Seattle Public Utilities and the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

"Our systems are facing risk due to diminishing snowpack, bigger storms, more frequent drought and rising sea levels," said Susan Leal, general manager of the San Francisco commission and chair of the newly formed authority. "We need to be organized to respond to these risks — that's why we've formed this alliance."

The group has been in the works since 2007, after San Francisco hosted a water utility climate change summit that drew more than 200 executives and government officials. In September, the eight agencies gathered to further discuss the impacts of climate change and began studying existing research.

"The whole goal was to wrap our arms around the potential impacts of climate change on water infrastructure and water supplies," said Bronson Mack, a spokesman for the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Over a series of conference calls, Mack said the newly formed group has developed a list of goals that include expanding climate change research, collaborating on adaptation tools and identifying greenhouse gas emissions from individual operations.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**

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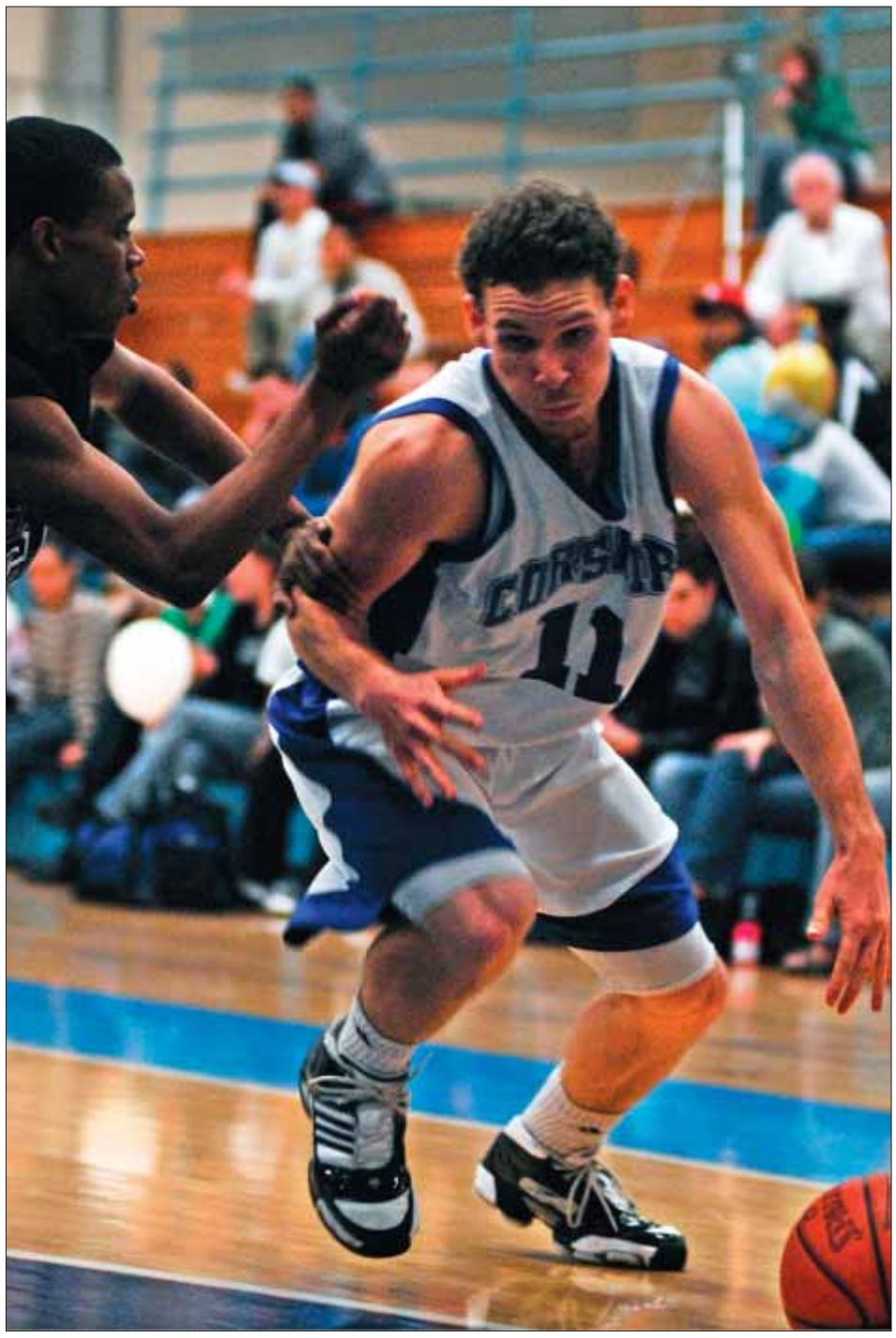
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Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

CONTRIBUTOR: **Noah Gottlieb has been a key player in the Corsairs' run to the playoffs.**

SMC men reach playoffs

FROM **HOOPS** PAGE 1

ed to be the first team to win it."

No. 16-seeded SMC will take their first step toward that season-long goal tonight against No. 18-seeded Antelope Valley in Santa Monica at 7 p.m.

"We have a lot of excitement, I really can't explain it," said SMC forward and league MVP Zedra Slaton.

SMC will rely heavily on four stars that have led the Corsairs through their late-season playoff push. Slaton (16.1 ppg, 6.5 rpg), center Jasmine English (14.4 ppg, 8.0 rpg) and point guard Dakiya Cunnington (12.5 ppg, 6 apg) all received Western State Conference first team honors. And forward Jewell Morris (11.1 ppg, 8 rpg) received honorable mention.

"There will be no change when we play in the tournament," Strong said. "We need everyone to play hard as possible and play together."

STRONG HONORED

Strong, after 23-years of coaching experience, including seven at SMC, received Coach of the Year honors Saturday at the end of the regular season.

Strong coached her team out of a tough pre-season record and into the state tournament. She couldn't be more proud of her players.

"I'm very happy about (the honors) but more happy about the team of course," she said. "It's nice to get it, no question. It's great for the program."

"I'm happy for her," Slaton said. "She deserved it."

MEN'S TEAM GETS IN TOO

After six hours of waiting Monday, the SMC men's basketball team received word they also made it into the California State Championship Tournament.

The team compiled a 17-14 record under first-year head coach Jesse Teplitzky, who is proud of what his team accomplished in just one year.

"It was the first winning season for the program in five years," he said. "So for me, it was a success to get the program back into being a winner."

The SMC men's team will play Cerritos College at Cerritos Wednesday. Tip-off time is set for 7 p.m.

news@smdp.com

Letter scams business owners into paying fee

FROM **SCAM** PAGE 1

The forms also state that the payments are "due now," which according to Gary Almond of the Better Business Bureau, should be a sign of a scam.

"Government agencies aren't out there soliciting people to file this in a timely fashion," Almond said of meeting minutes. "It's incumbent on the person running the corporation to keep on (top of the meeting of records)."

While there is nothing inherently wrong with the service that the AMCB is allegedly offering, the deception of business owners lies in the marketing tactic, according to Jonas Grant, a Burbank attorney who has represented a client who filed a lawsuit against one of the suspect companies.

Corporations are required by law to keep a record of minutes from the annual meeting of shareholders when officers are elected. The problem with the form is it implies that the corporation is required to file the minutes, when it actually just needs to make sure it has one on record, Grant said.

Grant noted that one of his clients who paid the fee to the compliance board did receive back the meeting minutes, though it was written in an unprofessional manner, he said.

When receiving similar types of letters, one of the warning signs that businesses can watch out for is the price of the fee, which should never be more than $25, Grant said.

Business owners should also always keep an eye out for the fine print.

The tip off in the letter sent to the Westside Economic Collaborative was the fine print at the very bottom, which states that the product or service being offered is not endorsed by any government agency. The fine print also adds that the service is not a "statement of account due," but rather a solicitation.

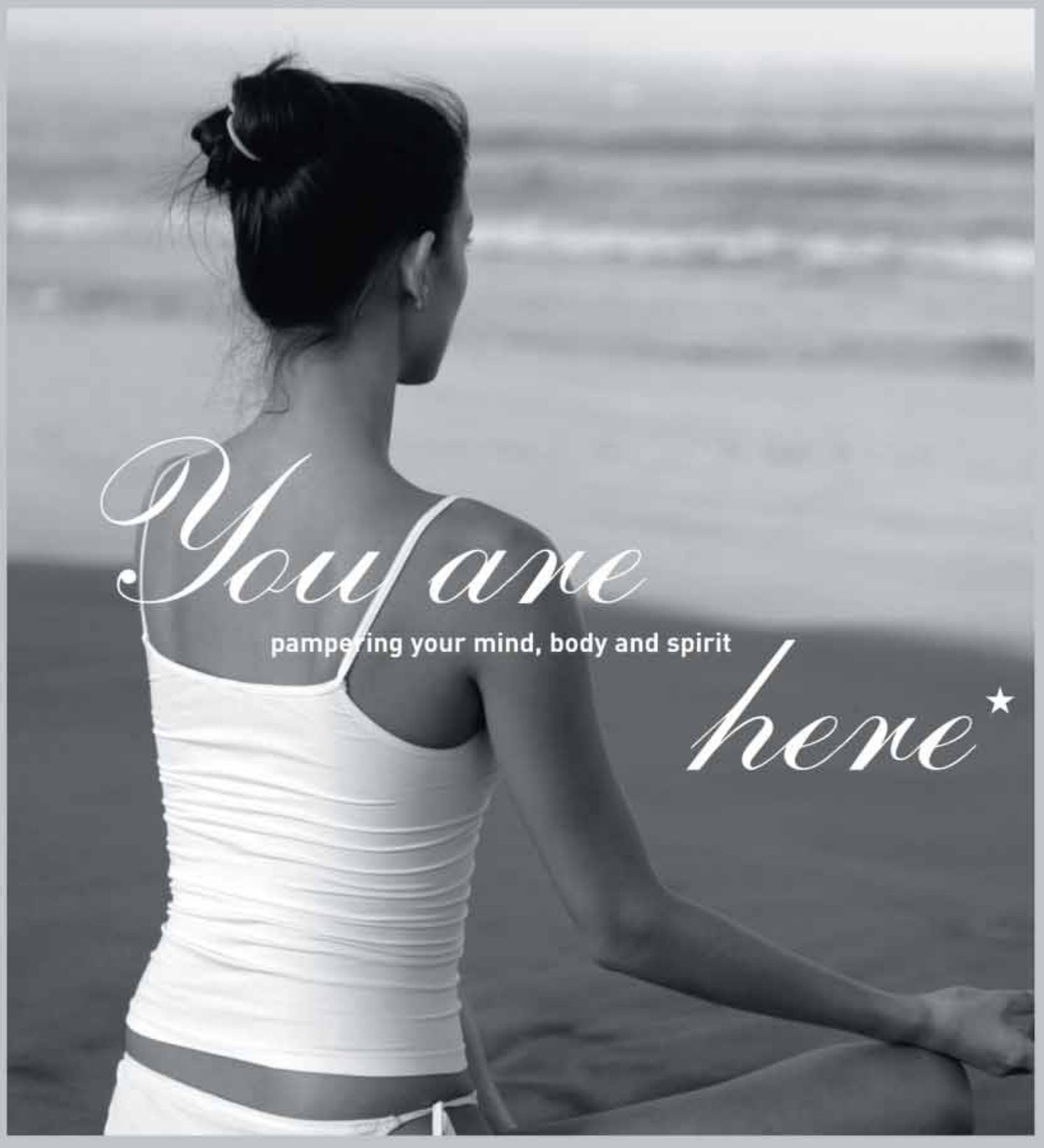
"If you look at the fine print, you'll know for sure if it's garbage," Grant said. "If it's over $25, it's probably not the right thing."

melodyh@smdp.com





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North Korea invites Clapton to play

BY JILL LAWLESS I Associated Press Writer

LONDON — North Korean officials have invited rock guitarist Eric Clapton to play a concert in the communist state, a diplomat at the country's embassy in London said Tuesday.

The diplomat confirmed reports in the British media that Clapton had been officially invited to Pyongyang — the first such invitation to a Western rock star to the isolated nation.

"Eric Clapton is a well-known musician and guitarist, famous throughout the world," said the official, who declined to give his name. "It will be a good opportunity for Western music to be understood better by Koreans."

Clapton's North Korean debut may not be imminent, however.

Spokeswoman Kristen Foster said the 62-year-old musician had not agreed to play any dates in the country.

"Eric Clapton receives numerous offers to play in countries around the world," she said. "There is no agreement whatsoever for him to play in North Korea, nor any planned shows there."

North Korean authorities have long shunned rock and pop music, although Kim Jong Chol, the Swiss-educated son of national leader Kim Jong Il, is reportedly a Clapton fan.

Recently North Korea has begun to build tentative cultural ties with the West. The New York Philharmonic played in Pyongyang on Tuesday, and North Korean State Symphony Orchestra is due to perform in London and the English city of Middlesbrough in September.

The Financial Times reported the invitation to Clapton was in return for the Korean orchestra's British tour.

Clapton is regarded as one of rock's greatest guitarists, with a string of hits since the 1960s including include "Layla," "Cocaine" and "Tears in Heaven."

UN agency says drug-resistant TB is spreading

BY MARIA CHENG
AP Medical Writer

LONDON Drug-resistant tuberculosis is spreading even faster than medical experts had feared, the World Health Organization warned in report issued Tuesday.

The rate of TB patients infected with the drug-resistant strain topped 20 percent in some countries, the highest ever recorded, the U.N. agency said.

"Ten years ago, it would have been unthinkable to see rates like this," said Dr. Mario Raviglione, director of WHO's "Stop TB" department. "This demonstrates what happens when you keep making mistakes in TB treatment."

Though the report is the largest survey of drug-resistant TB, based on information collected between 2002 and 2006, there are still major gaps: Data were only available from about half of the world's countries.

In Africa, where experts are particularly worried about a lethal collision between TB and AIDS, only six countries provided information.

"We really don't know what the situation is in Africa," Raviglione said. "If multi-drug resistant TB has penetrated Africa and coincides with AIDS, there's bound to be a disaster."

Raviglione said it was likely that patients — and even entire outbreaks of drug-resistant TB — were being missed.

Experts also worry about the spread of XDR-TB, or extensively drug-resistant TB, a strain virtually untreatable in poor countries. When an XDR-TB outbreak was identified in AIDS patients in South Africa in 2006, it killed nearly every patient within weeks. WHO's report said XDR-TB has now been found in 45 countries.

Globally, there are about 500,000 new cases of drug-resistant TB every year, about 5 percent of the 9 million new TB cases. In the United States, 1.2 percent of TB cases were multi-drug resistant. Of those, 1.9 percent were extensively drug-resistant.

The highest rates of drug-resistant TB were in eastern Europe. Nearly a quarter of all TB cases in Baku, Azerbaijan, were drug-resistant, followed by about 20 percent in Moldova and 16 percent in Donetsk, Ukraine, WHO said.

High rates of drug-resistant TB were also found in China and India, the world's two most populous nations that together are home to half the world's cases.

Drug-resistant TB arises when primary TB treatment is poor. Countries with strong treatment programs, like the U.S. and other Western nations, should theoretically have very little drug-resistant TB.

That is not the case in China, however, where the government says 94 percent of TB patients complete their first TB treatment.

"There's a huge, gross discrepancy there if they are then reporting 25 percent of the world's multi-drug resistant TB cases," said Mark Harrington, executive director of Treatment Action Group, a public health think tank. "They are clearly nurturing a multi-drug resistant TB epidemic and failing to report XDR-TB at all."

With growing numbers of drug-resistant TB patients, there is concern some national health systems will soon be overwhelmed.

"We are totally off track right now," said Dr. Tido von Schoen-Angerer, executive director of Medecins Sans Frontiere's Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines. He said only 30,000 multi-drug TB resistant patients were treated last year.







SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 56°**

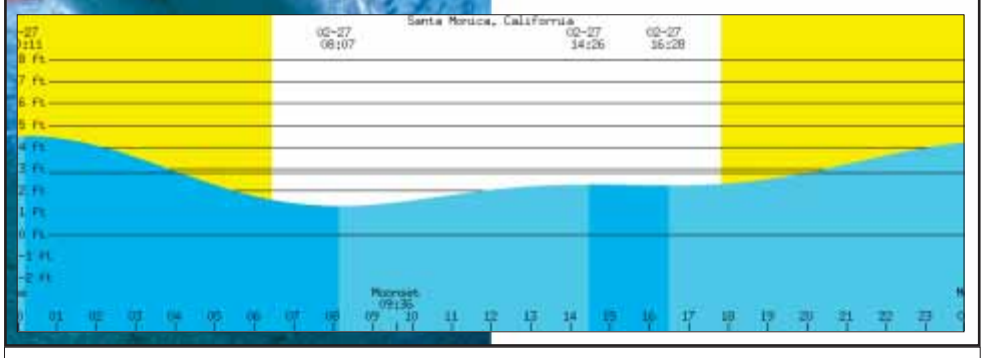
SWELL FORECAST (4-6 FT)

Today's westerly swell should decline further as some 210-degree, 16- 18-second period southern hemi comes into the mix. West facing breaks are looking at chest high waves. South facing breaks should be chest high as well, but with some rare, spotty, head high set waves at times. The southern hemi will no doubt though have very long lulls today, filling in better on Thursday. Winds don't look too bad today.

LONG RANGE SYANOPSIS

SOUTH SWELL DUE SUNDAY...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



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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 12, 2008**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 2
- Number of wet days -- 13
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 36 / 14
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 28

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 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
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth (lescarrillo)	A+	C
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	D
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+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	C
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	C
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	B
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	B	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	B
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	D
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	D
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	C
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	B	B
Pena Creek at Los Tunnes County Beach	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	C
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	D
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	ns	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	D
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	B	D
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	A
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	D
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	B
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	B	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	A
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	B
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	B	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+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	D
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	F

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.

NBA

Houston's Ming out for the year

BY KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON All-Star center Yao Ming is out for the season with a stress fracture in his left foot, a stunning blow to the surging Houston Rockets.

General manager Daryl Morey made the announcement Tuesday, hours before the Rockets put their 12-game winning streak on the line against the Washington Wizards.

Yao was having a terrific season, averaging 22 points and 10.8 rebounds per game.

"It is not an injury we feel he can play with," Rockets team doctor Tom Clanton said. "I've made the recommendation that it be treated surgically and we are working with him to get other opinions just to be certain that that is indeed what should be done."

If Yao chooses surgery, Clanton said, it would involve placing screws across the bone to hold it together. The second option would be to treat it with a cast and crutches. Both options involve a healing time of about four months.

Clanton would not say when Yao could play again, but said he doesn't expect the center to miss the Beijing Olympics in August.

Morey told the team before Tuesday's shootaround, and added he doesn't believe the injury compromises Houston's playoff hopes. The Rockets were 36-20 entering Tuesday's game.

"We've been playing exceptional ball and Yao's been a huge part of that," Morey said. "We feel very confident about our playoff push. We've managed to step up and play well without Yao in the past and coaches and players feel confident that we're going to continue to play well and make the playoffs this year."

Morey acknowledged that it was difficult news to receive when the team has been playing so well.

"It's a pretty big swing from a high to a low, with how we were playing," Morey said. "We feel like our supporting cast is superior to when we played without Yao in the past. We remain ready for the challenge ahead."

Clanton said there was no specific event that led to the injury, but rather an "accumulation of stresses on the bone. Yao first experienced soreness and pain in his ankle before the All-Star game and tests were done Monday when the situation didn't seem to be improving.

This is Yao's fourth major injury in the last two years. He missed 32 games last season with a fracture in his right leg and 21 games in late 2006 with a toe infection that required surgery. He missed four games in April 2006 after breaking his foot.

Houston went 20-12 when Yao was injured last season.

The Rockets, who remain in seventh place in the tough Western Conference despite their winning streak, will now have to rely heavily on 41-year-old Dikembe Mutombo. The 17-year veteran has been averaging just eight minutes per game.

While it took more than two weeks to discover Yao's injury, Clanton said it sometimes takes months to diagnose. "This is something that can be treated," he said. "We are catching this at a very early stage."

Clanton informed Yao of the extent of his injury, and said the player was worried whether he'd be healthy in time for the Olympics.

"I told him this was not anything he could have personally prevented," Clanton said. "I think that reflects on the character of the young man. He was very interested in the team and how it would affect the team."

MLB

Giant's Vizquel to miss a month

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. San Francisco probably will be without Omar Vizquel's sparkling defense at shortstop on opening day.

Vizquel will have arthroscopic surgery on his left knee Wednesday and is expected to miss four to six weeks. The 11-time Gold Glove shortstop, who turns 41 in April, tested his knee Tuesday but said the pain was too much to handle.

"My knee was feeling good," Vizquel said. "I wanted to give it a hard shot in order to make a decision. It didn't work. I felt a little pop when I was running. That's what I wanted to see—to see if I could sustain the pain, and I couldn't."

As for Vizquel's return, athletic trainer Dave Groeschner said: "The goal is the first week of the season but the knee will tell us."

Team orthopedist Ken Akizuki is scheduled to perform the operation back in the Bay Area to remove a torn medial meniscus. Vizquel was expected back in camp Thursday.

Minus Vizquel, manager Bruce Bochy plans to use Kevin Frandsen at shortstop. Once Vizquel is back, Frandsen still could compete for the starting job at second base with Ray Durham.

Vizquel had been nursing what was described as an inflamed knee since late last week and was held out of conditioning drills. He underwent an MRI exam that revealed the tear.

The Giants didn't want Vizquel to be hampered by the problem all season and believe his rehabilitation will be speedy considering he is in such good shape.

"It's like a thorn in your knee," Bochy said. "Omar agrees that the best thing to do is get this thing cleared out. We think at most he'll miss maybe a week (of the regular season)."

In November, Vizquel agreed to a $5.3 million, one-year contract to stay with San Francisco for a fourth season. The deal includes a club option that could make it worth $10.2 million over two seasons.

Vizquel said upon arriving at spring training he would evaluate his baseball future after the 2008 season. He has aspirations to be a manager.

"I love playing in San Francisco," Vizquel said. "I like to be comfortable in a place. I'd like to retire with a team I feel comfortable with and where I have a lot of friends."

Yet Vizquel, who constantly compares himself to a 20-something considering his good health and fitness, has said he still has plenty in him as a player.

On the mend

Campbell hospitalized in Brazil due to small cyst

NAOMI CAMPBELL was hospitalized in Sao Paulo for the removal of a small cyst, her publicist said.

The 37-year-old British supermodel, a frequent visitor to Brazil who earlier this month celebrated Carnival in the northeastern city of Salvador, was treated at Sirio Libanes Hospital.

"Naomi Campbell was admitted to the hospital ... to have a small cyst removed," her publicist, Jeff Raymond, said in a statement Tuesday. "Following the successful procedure, she is now resting and is looking forward to getting back to work. She would like to thank the doctors who have kindly looked after her."

Dr. Jose Aristodemo Pinotti, a gynecologist, told The Associated Press by telephone that Campbell underwent abdominal surgery.

"I cannot reveal what Naomi had, nor how serious her condition was, but I can say I operated on her yesterday, that everything went smoothly and that she is completely cured and walking in her room," Pinotti said.

He described the procedure as a laparoscopy, in which doctors use a thin, lighted scope to view internal organs.

"She came to Brazil to be treated for a condition I am not been authorized to reveal," he said. He declined further comment.

The hospital also declined to comment on Campbell's condition, but said she was admitted Sunday night.

Dr. David Uip, one of Brazil's leading experts in the treatment of infectious diseases, was also caring for Campbell, the hospital said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CYRUS AND CO. TO HOST



BILLY RAY CYRUS and daughter MILEY will host and perform at the 2008 CMT Music Awards.

The seventh annual awards show will air live April 14 on CMT from Belmont University's Curb Event Center. Alan Jackson, Brad Paisley, Taylor Swift and Toby Keith will also be among the performers.

"Miley and I are so excited to be hosting the CMT Music Awards," Cyrus said Tuesday in a statement. "We know it will be a fun-filled night with a lot of great music performances."

Cyrus, 46, made it big on the country and pop charts in 1992.

AP

Ever so playful, Cancer

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Work with others. Listen. The unexpected will take a toll if you don't flex and open up. Tonight: How about a game of Scrabble?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You handle others with a great deal of decorum and knowledge. Tonight: Express your gregarious nature.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Emphasize what you can accomplish rather than what doesn't seem to be working. Tonight: Go for something relaxing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your creativity could save the day with a financial hitch or a problematic partner. Tonight: Ever so playful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Though others might act in confusion, you still can get clarity if you approach people one on one and try. Tonight: Push the broom.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Reach out for others, making sure you are doing what is needed. Partners act in a surprising manner. Tonight: Swap news with a friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Expenses are a bit out of whack. You might want to approach someone in a more positive manner. Tonight: Your treat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Let others know where you stand. Sometimes you say little, but you are better off being open right now. Tonight: All smiles.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Take your time making a decision. How you deal with a situation could change given time. Tonight: Rest up while you can.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Aim for what you want. You could be distracted by a financial matter. Tonight: Where you want to be, with whom you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Take a stand, and you will feel much better than you have in a while. Tonight: A must appearance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Reach out for someone you don't always speak to. Hop on the Internet to get different opinions. Tonight: Break old patterns

Happy Birthday

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

This year, try to flow. Don't attempt to control situations; people cannot be manipulated. Honor your power and who you are. Often this year you will go through a period of confusion or being unsure. Sometimes your feelings could plunge you into strange points of view and different ideas. Try to be a cynic or have a friend who will play devil's advocate. Be willing to be more independent and listen to your own drummer. If you are single, others find you alluring. However, don't move quickly in this realm. Get to know your chosen sweetie well. If you are attached, you could be overly sensitive or project your thoughts into situations with your partner. Be receptive to your significant other's explanations. SCORPIO helps you visualize what you thought was impossible.

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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

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

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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 YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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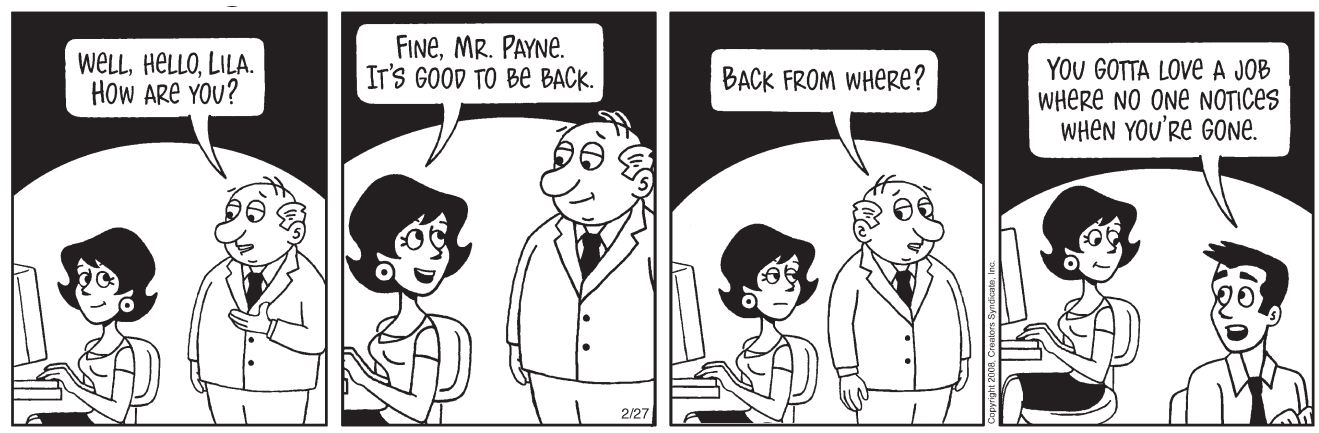
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The first one to identify where this shot was taken wins a prize from the Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Dance moves
5 Soft mineral
9 Harbor
11 Columbus' birthplace
12 Declare
13 Inert gas
14 Lynx or lion
15 "X-Men" villain
17 Squid's cousin
19 Golf's Trevino
20 Conviction
21 Possessed
22 "Gladiator" star
24 "Tamerlane" writer
26 Thomas of "That Girl"
29 Research setting
30 Yard event
32 "Thanks" in Tokyo
34 Twice cinq
35 Lawn need
36 Ingenuous
38 Garden item
39 Insolent look
40 Faxed
41 Aide: Abbr.

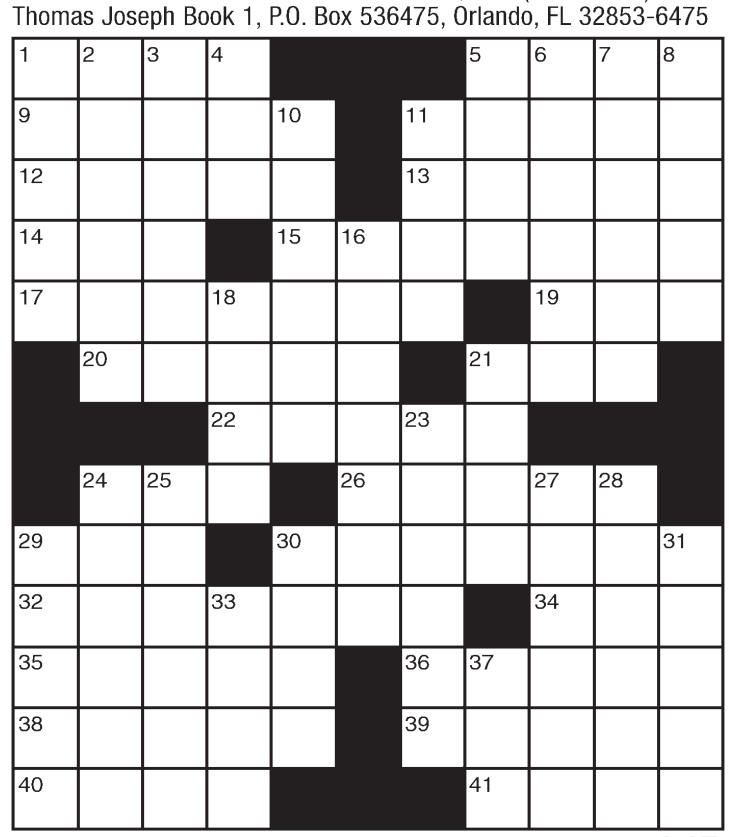
DOWN

1 Dance music
2 Unbroken
3 Nebraska river
4 Clique
5 Shore flier
6 Lansbury of Broadway
7 Pillaged
8 Dugout, e.g.
10 Bad thing to lose
11 Jokes
16 Coin-op eatery
18 In the past
21 Towel word
23 Pioneer carriers
24 Conditional release
25 Luke's mentor
27 Refined women
28 Relish-tray items
29 Reading aids
30 Pucker-inducing
31 Wield
33 Nice bloke
37 Santa —, California

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

Yesterday's answer

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



2-27

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 7 12 13 19 22
Meganumber: 0
Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 2 25 33 35 41
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: $9M

Fantasy 5: 5 14 17 21 25

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 9 4 5
EVENING: 7 0 5

DAILY DERBY
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 14 Big Ben
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1.48.25

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

■ In October, Korie Hoke filed a $1.6 million lawsuit against the Tempe, Ariz., police, claiming that it was actually an officer's fault that she, after a New Year's Eve bender, crashed into a cement wall and suffered serious injuries. Hoke had called police to a party, distraught that she had caught her boyfriend cheating on her, and the officer summoned her parents to pick her up. (Hoke was cited only for underage drinking, but she later tested above the blood-alcohol legal limit.) The officer, after obtaining Hoke's assurance that she would await her parents and after searching Hoke and her car and finding no car key (Hoke had hidden it), left the scene. Hoke then drove away and crashed, and now claims it was the officer's fault for not staying with her.

■ Scott Anthony Gomez Jr. filed a lawsuit in January against jail officials in Pueblo County, Colo., alleging among other things that they failed to take security precautions to prevent him from escaping. He seriously injured himself last year when he fell 40 feet while scaling a wall in his second escape attempt. He said that, after his first escape, he had told then-sheriff Dan Corsentino how lax security was, but that no "improvements" had been made.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1594 Henry IV is crowned King of France.

1801 Washington, D.C. is placed under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Congress.

1812 Poet Lord Byron gives his first address as a member of the House of Lords, in defense of Luddite violence against Industrialism in his home county of Nottinghamshire.

1844 The Dominican Republic gains independence from Haiti.

1961 The first congress of the Spanish Trade Union Organisation is inaugurated.

1963 The Dominican Republic receives its first democratically elected president, Juan Bosch, since the end of the dictatorship led by Rafael Trujillo.

1964 The government of Italy asks for help to keep the Leaning Tower of Pisa from toppling over.

1967 Dominica gains independence from the United Kingdom.

1971 Doctors in the first Dutch abortion clinic (the Mildredhuis in Arnhem) start to perform aborti provocati.

WORD UP!

aplomb \uh-PLOM\, *noun:* Assurance of manner or of action; self-possession; confidence; coolness.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Miscellaneous

"BLINDING IGNORANCE does mislead us. Oh wretched mortals open your eyes." - Leonardo da Vinci. Find out what you are not supposed to know. www.Godlikeproductions.com

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DIRECTV SATELLITE Television, FREE Equipment, FREE 4 room Installation, FREE HD or DVR Receiver Upgrade & $100 cash back. Programming Packages from $29.99/mo. Call 800-380-8939.

OLD GUITARS WANTED! Fender, Gibson, Gretsch, Martin. 1930s - 1960s. Top cash paid. 1-800-401-0440.

Announcements

GROUP FOR Women In Addictive Unhealthy Relationships. Time 7-8:45 p.m. Thursdays. Location on Westside. Call Lynelle Goodreau, LMFT. 818.995.3547
Fee $45 per peson

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www.12steppin2jesus.com
310-463-4945

TRAINED OPERA singer available to sing jolson songs, oldies. Available for all sorts of parties and occassions. There will be a sing-a-long! Gabe (310)392-6501

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CONSIDERING ADOPTION? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching birthmothers with families nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7. Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 866-910-5610.

PREGNANT? Consider adoption.YOU choose your baby's family! Receive pictures/ information. Financial assistance. 1-866-236-7638. 24/7. Lic#123021.

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A JOB no experience nec. Unique co-ed traveling sales job. 18+ Only. Transportation furnished, return guaranteed. Call today, start tomorrow. 1-877-Kay-Crew, 1-800-988-0650.

COUNTER HELP needed. Cafe near 3rd St. Promenade 215 Broadway. Must be experienced. Immediate openings. Apply afternoons in person. (310) 396-9898.

Employment

APPT. SETTERS experienced in cold calling needed. Work P/T or F/T from home. scheduling to pick up clothing and household items for a blind charity. Potential $400/week. Call Manny (310)753-4909

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POSITION available, fully equipped office with front office staff.
Fax resume to 323-525-1140, or email mindy.rosenman@yahoo.com

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Partners Wanted
Call on Schools, clubs, PTA, Organizations and friends
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Call (310)697-3177
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COOK
OCEAN HOUSE, an elegant senior living residence in Santa Monica, is looking for an ideal candidate for it's line cook position. Duties include participating in the daily menu production, preparing and coordinates daily breakfast, lunch and dinners from standardized recipes. Working line shifts daily to ensure speedy service. Ensuring kitchen equipment is clean, operable, and properly maintained on a daily basis. This is a full time position with benefits after 3 months, medical, dental, vision. 401(k) plan and meal plan as well. If you have a great attitude and enjoy working on a great team, please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave., SM,CA 90405 or fax a resume to (310) 314-7356.

DRIVERS: A great career! England Transport offers on the job CDL training. No credit check. No co-signers. No contract. No down-payment. 1-866-619-6081, AD#3110

FIT FEMALE MODEL WANTED FOR FIGURE DRAWING BY ARTIST. No experience necessary call. (818) 501-0266

GIVE OF YOURSELF volunteers wanted at the discovery shop. Help us contribute to the American cancer society by spending 4 hours per week assisting in our resale shop in Santa Monica. Contact Terry or Shaunna at (310)458-4490

IMMEDIATE POSITIONS available in the Environmental Services Department. Looking for part time housekeepers/ floor techs. Hospital Experience preferred. Call (310)829-8431 for interview.

Employment

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EL Segundo - immediate opening
for an experienced manager to oversee entire operations of very busy, state-of-the-art carwash.
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PART-TIME SALES position for legal secretaries. Our attorney service is looking for referrals to law firms. Referrals result in ongoing commissions. Submit resume to bsberkowitz@aol.com

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Up to $200/day or more.
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Leave message (310)412-4888
(Special petition right now for Santa Monica residents to circulate)

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New facility.
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Full time/Part Time
Call or email Valerie for interview:
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LA 1523 Holt ave, unit 3, 2bdrm/1bath upper unit, $1400. stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, parking, no pets, 9310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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WLA $2450, 2+2 unobstructed ocean view/ sunsets, top of hill, private sundeck, newly redeco, clean and quiet, (310)390-4610

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Wendy (310)749-0787

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Parking available.
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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LOST LONG haired black and tan female miniature dachsund puppy goes by the name Nini. Lost at 17th and Arizona. Greatly Missed. Please return. REWARD, missing on Valentine's Day 2/14 at 4:30pm. Please call with any information. (262)716-4270 or (262)716-4147

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080246969 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as A N E TRUCKING, 5469 5TH AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90043; LA COUNTY. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : ALEXANDER HERRERA, 5469 5TH AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90043 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: ALEXANDER HERRERA
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 2/11/2008. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 2/27/2008, 3/5/2008, 3/12/2008, 3/19/2008

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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$1,995,000
Two Story Traditional 5 + 3 Home

Easy to Show
Call for an Appointment



785 Linda Flora Drive
$1,599,000
3 + 1.75 Fabulous Lower Bel Air Home

Easy to Show
Call for an Appointment



231 - 18th Street
$2,349,000
Original 3 + 1.75 Spanish Home

Open Sunday, March 2nd
1:00 - 4:00 pm



1002 - 14th Street # 4
$538,000
1st Floor 2 + 1.75 Condo

Open Sunday, March 2nd
1:00 - 4:00 pm



947 - 15th Street # 6
$719,000
Top Floor 2 + 1.75 Condo

Open Sunday, March 2nd
1:00 - 4:00 pm



2041 Euclid Street # 11
$349,000
Sunset Park 1 + 1 Condo

Open Sunday, March 2nd
1:00 - 4:00 pm



737 Pier Avenue # 3
Reduced $689,000
Ocean Park 2 + 2.5 Townhome

Open Sunday, March 2nd
1:00 - 4:00 pm



1012 - 7th Street # 7
$639,000
Updated 2 + 1.75 Condo

Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale As of Late February 2008

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$ 2,338,364	$ 1,399,000
North of Montana	=	$ 3,798,500	$ 2,177,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 3,450,556	$ 1,006,837
South of Wilshire	=	$ 932,316	$ 785,849
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,418,294	$ 574,292
Ocean Park	=	$ 1,885,750	$ 1,026,945

Statistics updated every Friday

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.