



WELLS BUSTED
SEE PAGE 11

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE INVESTING IN THE FUTURE ISSUE



NICE DAY TO CRUISE

Guro Lombnaes (left) and Moa Schyllberg-Persson cruise the boardwalk enjoying the unseasonably warm weather on Tuesday. Temperatures were in the mid 70s in Santa Monica. The National Weather Service predicts more of the same for today.

Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com

Keeping kids off the streets

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE It's three o'clock in the afternoon, do most Santa Monica parents know where their kids are?

From the time the final class bell rings to the moment working parents clock out for the day is considered the most vulnerable for adolescents and teenagers, an unsupervised period in the afternoon when kids can go from becoming no-risk to at-risk youth.

That's where after-school programs — such as the Pico Youth & Family Center (PYFC) and City Hall-operated CREST — fall into the equation, providing supervision and enrichment for kids and keeping them off the street, putting working parents' at ease.

One of the issues that programs like the PYFC, which relies on a series of grants from the city and St. John's Health Center, faces is a steady stream of funding.

A recently published report by Santa Monica-based RAND Corporation found that of the programs geared toward at-risk youth, the ones with the proper amount of funding showed the strongest performance.

The study, by RAND sociologist Megan Beckett, who is involved in after-school care in the Los Angeles area, performed a cost and benefits analysis of various types of programs targeting the at-risk population, including after-school activities, intervention and summer learning programs. The study makes several suggestions for policymak-



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

STAYING SAFE: Chris Segura plays a game of pool at Virginia Avenue Park on Monday. The city operates a drop-in type center that offers homework assistance and recreational activities for youth at the popular park. The program is free.

ers such as where additional investments could be made for youth programs, looking at whether money would be better utilized if funneled toward expanding existing services or creating new ones.

"Clearly there is a need [for after-school programs]

SEE PROGRAMS PAGE 10

Positive impact

Homeless Court's supporters and participants laud program

BY KEVIN HERRERA | Editor in Chief

PICO BLVD Anthanette Gibson has no problem calling herself a drunk. That's what she was just seven months ago before finding sobriety with the help of her case manager at the CLARE Foundation and Judge Bobbi Tillmon of Santa Monica's Homeless Community Court.

Gibson, 43, a life-long Santa Monica resident, was living on the streets after the person she was caring for died. Her days and nights were soon filled with drinking as a way to forget about her plight, leading her to do embarrassing, degrading things when she was intoxicated, such as stripping on the Third Street Promenade.

"At least I was a happy drunk," Gibson said as she sat in a patio outside the Women's Recovery Home, where clients of CLARE learn how to build self esteem and address the underlying issues that led them to abuse alcohol or drugs.

"I didn't think about anything back then except how I was going to get my next drink," said Gibson, who was dressed in blue jeans and white T-shirt that read Lucky Chica. "I had become comfortable about being homeless. Now, I wouldn't dare go back."

Gibson, who had 21 citations before entering the court, credits her success to her support network at CLARE and the tough love she received from Judge Tillmon and all those affiliated with the court, which recently celebrated its first year in existence.

"They kept me on track," said Gibson, who hopes to graduate from the court Friday. "They connected me with CLARE. (The court) gives me an incentive to stay in the program, and for those who may not want to get sober into a program that may change their lives."

ORIGINS OF THE COURT

The Homeless Community Court is a pilot program funded by the county of Los Angeles with resources from City Hall and the Public Defender's Office. The court was established to serve 120 chronically homeless people with open cases for so-called "quality of life crimes — public intoxication and urination, camping — committed in Santa Monica, or those who are already engaged with local service providers but for whom citations and warrants are making it difficult for them to move forward.

"It feels great to no longer have to worry about all those tickets," said a client at St. Joseph Center who did not want

SEE COURT PAGE 8

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Calendar

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Lights! Camera! Glamour!

2612 Main St., 11 a.m. — 4 p.m.

As studio photographer for MGM, Warner Brothers and Columbia, George Hurrell shot some of the world's most beautiful and intriguing personalities, creating the template for Hollywood glamour portrait. His flawless photography was instrumental in shaping the images of stars such as Joan Crawford, James Cagney and Rita Hayworth. The exhibition shows more than 80 iconic photographs ranging from Jean Harlow, and Clark Gable to Joan Collins and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The exhibition also features a replica of Hurrell's studio, with his camera, boom light and handpainted screen and a room of nude portraits, many of which are being shown for the first time.

Green Living Workshop

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Be part of the solution, educate and empower yourself with simple steps that save our environment and save money. This six-week workshop covers water, energy, waste, chemicals, transportation and travel, shopping and food. To register, contact Barent Roth at Sustainable Works and for more information call (310) 458-8716 or e-mail rothbarent@smc.edu.

Reading into the mystery

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Discussion of Stephen White's "Cold Case." Psychologist Alan Gregory is summoned to assist in the solving of the murder of two teenagers, a case that has been reopened a decade after it occurred. For more information, please call (310) 829-7081.

Thursday, March 13, 2008

Calling all docents

5905 Wilshire Blvd., L.A., open times

Finally, a use for that art history degree! The LACMA's Art Docent Council is seeking volunteers to lead tours of the museum's diverse collections. Information and applications can be obtained by e-mailing a request to Admissions@lacmadocent.org. Applications are due no later than February 22, 2008.

Improve eclectically

1323-A Third St. Promenade, 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.

Westside Eclectic's Level 1 Improv class is an introduction to the art of improv comedy. The intro covers core improv ideals, concepts and vocabulary such as hyper-listening, give and take, yes-anding, efficient communication and emotional response. The WE teaching staff creates a warm and open learning environment that facilitates establishing the foundation of a seasoned improviser.

What's new this week

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad.

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.



Gov. Spitzer tripped up by laws he enforced

BY SAMANTHA GROSS AND
DEVLIN BARRETT
Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK Gov. Eliot Spitzer knew how to catch bad guys by following the money.

As attorney general, he once broke up a call-girl ring and locked up 18 people on corruption, money-laundering and prostitution charges. He ruthlessly investigated the pay packages of Wall Street executives and was so familiar with shady financial maneuvers that he rose to become the top racketeering prosecutor in Manhattan.

But in the end, it appears that Spitzer may have been done in by the same behavior he built a career out of prosecuting.

In fact, it seems he was tripped up by some of the very financial accounting methods he used so successfully against multibillion-dollar Wall Street firms.

For one thing, the governor initially drew the attention of federal investigators because of cash payments to an account operated by a call-girl ring, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of because of the sensitivity of the case.

Banks are required to file Suspicious Activity Reports to the government whenever they observe something they fear may be a crime.

In court papers, Client 9 — identified by another law enforcement official as Spitzer — hurried to get more than \$4,000 in cash to pay a call girl at a Washington hotel.

That kind of activity, repeated over time, is just the kind of thing that would set off alarm bells with a bank's compliance officer, who is trained to be on the lookout for what is called structuring or "smurfing" — a pattern of transactions aimed at hiding the nature or purpose of certain money.

Spitzer of all people should have known that, said Miami-based lawyer Gregory Baldwin, credited with coining the term "smurfing" in the 1980s as a fed-

SEE SPITZER PAGE 9



Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com

WELCOME BACK: McDonald's employee, Alex Alvarez, serves breakfast to Robin Berez at the new McDonald's location on the corner of Colorado Avenue and Second Street. Owners of the fast-food restaurant on Monday celebrated the opening of the restaurant, which took roughly 10 years to build.

Fast food comes McHome

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN A giant inflatable Ronald McDonald stands proudly at the corner of Second Street and Colorado Avenue, greeting passing motorists and pedestrians with his trademark lipstick-full grin and yellow-gloved wave.

The balloon mascot, though seen in most McDonald's locations nationwide, holds a particular significance at this location, marking the reopening of the golden arches down the street from the Santa Monica Pier after a more than two-year absence.

On Monday morning, the Lardas family, owners of five McDonald's in Southern California, celebrated the grand re-opening of the 31-year-old franchise in a ribbon-cutting ceremony that not only marked the beginning of a new generation for fast-food dining in the downtown area, but also the end of a cumbersome design and construction process that took more than a decade to navigate.

What was once an aging McDonald's restaurant sitting on an open parking lot is now a bright-white multi-story beach-style commercial complex in which the sleeker restaurant occupies the ground floor. The building was developed by property owner Realty Bancorp Equities of Woodland Hills and designed by The Landau Partnership Inc., an architectural firm located around the corner from the fast-food joint.

"It's a fresher and newer look," Tony Lardas, who runs the restaurant with his father, Nick, said on Tuesday.

Painted in soft and neutral tones, a departure from the red and yellow of many other franchises, the restaurant has the look of a modern establishment, with stainless steel signs, Italian tiles and plasma screen televisions. The interior, designed by Interior Systems Inc., includes an illustration of a wakeboarder on one wall, and a BMX performer on the other, perhaps a tribute to the type of clientele that resides on the Westside.

The design has certainly caught the eyes

of its customers, both the new and returning.

"This is really nice," David Courson, who is visiting Santa Monica with his family from Alabama, said Tuesday morning as he grabbed some breakfast. "It's a lot more up to date than the ones in Alabama."

Perhaps the biggest departures with the new from the old are the additions of an underground parking garage and an enclosed outdoor dining area, something the owner had been lobbying for for years to discourage unwanted and questionable activities that plagued the open patio of the old restaurant. During the mid 1990s, before the Lardas had decided to proceed with new construction, the owners had applied for a permit to add a drive-thru window and enclose the outdoor patio, efforts which were ultimately turned down by city officials.

While most of the building is still vacant, with the possibility of some retail space opening in other parts of the ground floor,

SEE EATERY PAGE 9



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Still in support of Prop. 98
Editor:

Dear Ms. Booth, this reply is in response to your letter to the editor dated March 7, 2008 (“A challenge to Prop. 98 thinking,” page 4).

It must be nice to know what’s best for others. That you, Heidi Marshall Booth, have the great wisdom to know that my family has enough. I take it by your letter that you also must know what’s best for others. Perhaps you know who should marry who or even more offensive , who should not marry who. Or for that matter which of us is fit to have children, or perhaps you can set up a court that dictates which American’s are unfit to give birth. Well Ms. Booth when I hear your rant and your “know what’s best for others” I thank my good luck that I live in America where we are a country of laws, not a country ruled by the whims of men and women. The difference between us, Ms. Booth, is that you think Santa Monica owes you, I on the other hand owe her.

Robert Kronovet
Santa Monica

Time to play nice with neighbors
Editor:

For almost half a century the economic embargo against the sovereign nation of Cuba has failed to overthrow Fidel Castro, and has cruelly impacted generations of Cuban children. The embargo has probably strengthened Castro’s rule, at the expense of the Cuban people, and he only resigned because he is too ill to rule.

This criminal embargo is another failed American policy that further discredits America in the eyes of the world. Its economic impact has run into the tens of billions of dollars. The real reason behind it is because Cuba continues to remain Communist. The dictator, Batista, was supported by America and deposed in a popular revolution led by Castro, who immediately began to provide all Cubans with universal education and free medical care.

All this talk about freedom, liberty and democratic reforms is really a pretext for American interference with the internal affairs of a sovereign country, while ignoring all the other dictatorships around the world.

We have favored nation treaties with the totalitarian government in China, which is now a form of autocratic state capitalism. We continue to occupy Iraq under the pretext of bringing democracy to a country that is worse off now than under Saddam, and in danger of becoming a theocracy, like neighboring Iran. Our biggest Islamic ally in the region is a monarchy run by royal despots.

Raul Castro’s offers to normalize relations with the Bush administration continue to be rejected despite allowing limited government criticism and economic freedom. He has extradited three U.S. fugitives, reduced the number of political prisoners and refrained from using firing squads in two military mutinies.

Lifting the five decade trade embargo against Cuba is long overdue.

Jon Mann
Santa Monica

Anit-immigration talk is hollow
Editor:

There goes another bogus claim of the anti-immigration crowd. A report just released says that immigrants are far less likely to commit crimes than are native born citizens. People born in the United States are 10 times more likely than immigrants to be incarcerated.

Go to any cosmopolitan city, New York, Miami, San Francisco, and you will hear a wide diversity of languages from around the world being spoken. So much for the “speak English” only spiel of talk radio hosts.

As far as the assimilation argument goes, I see multitudes of Mexicans and Latinos and their children and they’re working, speaking English and assimilating quite well, thank you. Every day the bigotry, intolerance and prejudice that drives the anti-immigration movement becomes more apparent.

Ron Lowe



Your column here

By L.K. Samuels

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Where have all the liberals gone?

MOST LOCAL GOVERNMENTS COVET THE sound of coins chinking into tax coffers. And when the possibility of more revenue comes their way, they will do just about anything to grab citizens’ wallets or their private property.

Therein lies the problem. When developers want cheap land on which to build, they no longer are satisfied to do it the old-fashioned way — i.e., with their own money and resources. Instead, they genuflect in front of City Hall and expect to be showered with tax-funded goodies. They rarely are disappointed.

The power of eminent domain has created a marriage of commercial convenience. Most confiscations of private property nowadays have nothing to do with community projects such as schools, roads, or hospitals. Instead, city governments routinely seize homes and businesses and turn them over for private profit. According to the Institute for Justice, more than 5,000 property owners across the United States had their land seized in the last 10 years for private development.

This wedding of government and business has become the perfect match. Developers get subsidies, special favors, and cheap land to redevelop older areas into massive malls, sky-piercing hotels, and deluxe homes. In return, politicians, who are adept at camouflaging human rights violations, get enhanced salaries, buckets of tax revenues, and greater authority. To city fathers, the violation of rights has become a gravy train for the politically connected elite.

But there is a problem. When property is forcibly transferred from one owner to another, the whole process of representative government breaks down. Originally, local self-governing entities were set up as impartial referees to stop people from abusing the rights of fellow citizens. Officeholders were never meant to be aggressive players in society, mimicking mafia dons in criminal activity.

This mission drift has made municipalities feel entitled to victimize their own citizens as long as they can rationalize the abuse under the auspices of doing something good for the community. But the “public good” can mean anything. It is no accident that almost all dictators in the 20th century framed their community-spirit mantra with the utilitarian ethics of “the greater good for the greatest number of people.” Obviously, they believed that minority rights can easily be sacrificed for the greater good.

Of course, any doctrine promoting aggressive behavior is wrong. When a bully beats up a child at the playground, we instinctively know who is at fault. This is the exact deficiency of eminent domain powers. Many governments have embraced bullying in the name of common-good goals. And yet, when bullies are on the loose, nobody is safe. Even land-stealing politicians inebriated with grandiose projects are not safe after leaving public office. Their property is also at risk.

In one city, citizens are fighting back. In

Seaside, Calif., the legendary baseball player Reggie Jackson plunked down \$50,000 to start the process of building a 250-room hotel and convention center near the ocean. He had just one little obstacle: He owned only a small portion of the proposed six-acre site amidst churches, homes, and business. Buying the needed real estate would be an expensive proposition.

Immediately, Seaside politicians salivated over the prospect of this massive project. They revved up their redevelopment machine and hired slick out-of-town consultants to explain the procedure to nervous property owners. But when the consultants side-stepped questions about possible land seizures, astute observers understood that

OF COURSE, ANY DOCTRINE PROMOTING AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR IS WRONG. WHEN A BULLY BEATS UP A CHILD AT THE PLAYGROUND, WE INSTINCTIVELY KNOW WHO IS AT FAULT.

future preemptive confiscations were their hidden agenda.

Local residents and business owners began considering a recall petition against any council member who voted to renew eminent domain powers. Within the week, the Seaside Taxpayers Association, chaired by libertarian activist and high school teacher Eugene Lee, notified the media that they would spearhead the recall drive.

More of a lap dog than a watch dog, the local newspaper pooh-poohed the idea. It editorialized that the taxpayers’ group was “lining itself up in crackpot territory.” Interestingly, the editorial did not mention the abuse arising from long-term government threats to seize property. Nor did the paper explain the problem of plummeting property values in active redevelopment zones (sellers must disclose all relevant facts about their property or face possible litigation by unhappy buyers).

Luckily, more help is on the way. The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and other property rights groups have qualified a ballot initiative to curb eminent domain abuses. Scheduled for the June primary election, Prop. 98 will prohibit the taking of any private property in California for private use under any circumstances.

Hopefully, this time the abuses will stop.

L.K. SAMUELS, a Libertarian, is a realtor from Carmel Valley. He is editor and contributing author of Facets of Liberty, an anthology of political, economic, and sociological essays.

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Seth Barnes, Taylor van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Ryan Hyatt, Steve Breen, Mark Marchillo, Ken Tarr, Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp, Mariel Howsepian and Cynthia Citron

NEWS INTERNS
Natalie Edwards
news@smdp.com

Chiara Canzi
news@smdp.com

Jon Haber
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Geoffrey Dunn
news@smdp.com

Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

Alexis Hawkins
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Julie Martinez
juliem@smdp.com

Liam Blume
Liamb@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Cynthia Vazquez
advertising@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Tessa Vergara
tessav@smdp.com

CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER
Annie Kotok
anniek@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
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410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Tina to the rescue for Hillary Clinton

I HAVE TO CALL OUT SOMEONE I REALLY like. I take no joy in it because this person does really good work. She created the only smart, funny sitcom on TV and the best show on NBC since "Seinfeld." Her name is Tina Fey and I am really mad at her because she went on "Saturday Night Live" and endorsed Hillary Clinton saying, "it's not too late, Texas and Ohio, get on board! Bitch is the new black!" With those last five words, she single-handedly revived Hillary's campaign. Now, despite the fact that it's all but impossible for her to win, the rest of us can't get rid of her.

I have to give Tina credit because unlike her old boss, Lorne Michaels, her show actually found a way to have two black men in the cast, it doesn't do clichés, and is way ahead of its time in dealing with issues network TV never used to touch, all while still being laugh-out-loud funny. And I find the irony of her comedy about a woman producing a sketch comedy show winning an Emmy while Aaron Sorkin's drama about two men producing a sketch comedy show got canceled nothing short of delicious.

But for some insane reason she has thrown her lot in with these crazy Baby Boomer women (who lived through the fight for equal rights, but have forgotten what it means to be a part of a movement for change) and their blind support of Hillary Clinton. Let's face it, ladies, voting for a woman simply because you think it's about time a woman was elected president is nothing more than identity politics and the brand of feminism my sainted grandmother would reject, the same way your daughters and granddaughters have. One thing equal rights for women was supposed to do was eliminate gender as a consideration in the workplace so that a woman wouldn't be judged by her appearance, or her willingness to "stay late," or anything other than her job performance.

Tina justified her endorsement by saying, "bitches get stuff done." Meanwhile, Hillary's staff is at each other's throats to the point where her senior adviser and her chief strategist are trading f-bombs on a conference call, Bill is alienating black voters, there was no plan for after Super Tuesday, and she had to lend her campaign \$5 million because it ran out of money. That's not what I call getting it done. Let's imagine a woman who couldn't get her staff to work together, whose hus-

band embarrassed her at company functions, who didn't plan for the next fiscal quarter, and whose department was in the red. In the real world, she would be out of a job.

And please spare me that crap about her experience and her being tough enough to be commander in chief. The First Lady, who has no security clearance, doesn't sit in on cabinet meetings, and has no authority to make decisions is no more qualified to be president than the wife of a brain surgeon who hasn't been to medical school is qualified to open my skull with a saw.

If she was really tough, she would have left Bill's sorry behind when she found out he cheated on her (again) in the Oval Office with an intern. She said Monica-gate was the biggest crisis of her life. And what was her reaction when she found out? "I could hardly breathe. Gulping for air, I started crying and yelling at him," she wrote. Is that what she's going to do when that phone in the White House rings at three in the morning?

It's math, not magic, and the last thing we need in Denver is a repeat of Florida 2000. We're talking about the Democratic Party, founded by Thomas "A Majority Of A Single Vote Is As Sacred As If Unanimous" Jefferson. It is mathematically impossible for her to win the nomination, and that has nothing to do with her gender. For the good of the movement she's trying so hard to ignore, she should stick with her "I'm honored to be here with Barack Obama" personality. He needs to pick a running mate before the convention, so it's time for her to take her ringing phone and go. McCain's picked up six points because of her negativity, and after winning Texas and Ohio (thanks, Tina), she still can't win the nomination. She's just weakening Barack and hurting the party's chances to build on 2006.

It reminds me of something another really good screenwriter (Mark Andrus) wrote in "As Good As It Gets." Jack Nicholson's character, a best-selling author, explains how he writes women so well. "I think of a man," he says, "and I take away reason and accountability."

KENNY MACK is a writer and comedian living in Santa Monica who has nothing but respect and admiration for all women. He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com

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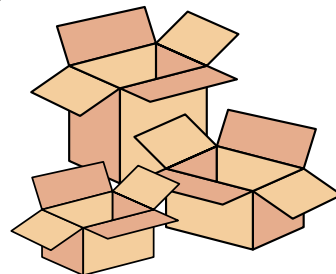
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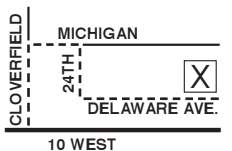
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WALL STREET

Stocks boom on Fed's bank booster

BY JOE BEL BRUNO AND MADLEN READ

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK The Fed promised a \$200 billion booster shot for ailing markets — and Wall Street answered with its biggest bounce in more than five years.

The Dow Jones industrials shot up more than 416 points, the biggest single-day point gain since July 2002, after the Federal Reserve announced the move as part of a worldwide effort to help struggling banks and mortgage providers.

Hoping to ease the credit crisis, the Fed — acting with the European Central Bank, the Bank of Canada and the Swiss National Bank — agreed to loan investment banks money in exchange for debt, including slumping mortgage-backed securities.

The idea is to create a market for assets that investors have recently been too scared to buy. That freeze in demand had sent asset values plunging and caused huge losses for some of the world's biggest banks.

After a series of hefty losses in stocks, the market hopes the central banks' decision Tuesday might be more effective than previous moves — like rate cuts, which had led to ini-

tial stock pops that later fizzled.

"It's not just a rate cut. I think it's a very creative way to do financing," said Anthony Conroy, managing director and head trader for BNY ConvergeX Group. "It shows the Fed is willing to do things that are a little out-of-the-box to shore up credit issues. I really think they went to the heart of the issue."

Investors certainly seemed to like it: The Dow rose 416.66, or 3.6 percent, to 12,156.81. It was the biggest point jump in the Dow since a 447-point rise on July 29, 2002, and its widest one-day percentage gain since March 2003.

The Dow had lost more than 500 points in the past three sessions and is still down about 2,000 points from its October 2007 record high.

Broader stock indicators also soared. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 47.28, or 3.7 percent, to 1,320.65, while the Nasdaq composite index surged 86.42, or about 4 percent, to 2,255.76.

It was the S&P's biggest point gain since April 5, 2001, and the Nasdaq's biggest since May 8, 2002.

The latest step by the central banks was seen as a direct lifeline to investment banks, which previously couldn't borrow beyond already established Fed liquidity plans.

The plan basically allows Wall Street's biggest institutions to put up troubled assets as collateral for loans, use the new capital to make money in the market, and then pay back the loan up to 28 days later.

Though eventually banks would be forced to take the troubled mortgage-backed debt back on their books, the plan still takes short-term pressure off them. Many of these banks will release first-quarter earnings reports next week.

"The big problem has been the financials, and this helps supply money directly to the banks and may take some of the need for aggressive rate cutting off the table," said Peter Dunay, chief investment strategist at Meridian Equity Partners. "The Fed is basically going to take the bad loans off the banks' books, and the market seems to be loving that idea."

The Fed may have avoided dramatically slashing interest rates again when it meets next week. Economists remain concerned about the unrelenting rise in oil prices and the dollar's weakness, which contribute to inflation — and cutting rates only adds to those pressures.

Government bond prices fell as stocks rallied. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, spiked to 3.60 percent from 3.46 percent late Monday.

Financial sector stocks, many of which have dipped to multiyear lows in recent days on liquidity concerns, led the market higher Tuesday.

Citigroup Inc. rose \$1.42, or 7.2 percent, to \$21.11, Washington Mutual Inc. rose \$1.72, or 17 percent, to \$11.76, and Bank of America Corp. rose \$1.33, or 3.8 percent, to \$36.64.

Morgan Stanley rose \$4.19, or 10.9 percent, to \$42.49, Lehman Brothers rose \$3.33, or 7.8 percent, to \$46.31, and Merrill Lynch rose \$2.76, or 6.4 percent, to \$45.60.

Bear Stearns Cos. rebounded from losses to rise 67 cents to \$62.97, even after an analyst said the No. 5 U.S. investment bank might need to sell itself, or layoff more staff, to stay afloat. The cost to insure Bear Stearns bonds has been spiking to all-time highs. A spokesman for Bear Stearns didn't immediately return telephone calls.

The Fed's announcement overshadowed a report from the Commerce Department that showed the United States' trade deficit grew larger in January. The latest snapshot of the economy showed that the trade gap increased to \$58.2 billion — the highest since November.

The primary reason behind the widening trade deficit is high oil prices. Crude rose as high as \$109.72 in premarket trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange before ending at a new settlement record of \$108.75. The weak dollar has contributed to oil's rally from \$87 a barrel in January.

Gold prices rose, while the dollar edged up against most other major currencies.

The only sector posting major losses Tuesday was health care, which has been strong in recent months.

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Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Back to basics

WHEN TURBULENCE HITS THE REAL estate market, as it has in Southern California, it is a good idea to get back to the basics. For the last several years many exotic loan products existed — such as interest only, negative amortization and minimum payment loans, amongst many others. However, since the subprime crash many lenders — particularly banks — have been getting back to basics.

Now, more than ever, having a good credit score with a strong credit history is important when purchasing a home. It used to be easy to simply apply for a loan and get approved, regardless of your credit score and any problems on your credit report. Over the last four months banks have tightened credit limits, not allowing a person with a bankruptcy or many derogatory items to attain a loan. Before starting the loan process, it is a good idea to check your own credit score so you know where you stand. The fastest way to increase your credit score is to pay off debt such as credit card debt. However, do not close the accounts, as they show a timeline of history.

You want to make sure you have a down payment. Gone are the days of 100 percent financing. If the property meets specific purchase price limits you may qualify for an FHA loan with a 3 percent down payment. However, be prepared to put down at least 10 percent plus closing costs. Lenders want to see homeowners with some skin in the game. Also, be prepared to put down more money as California has been designated by many banks as a declining market. Many

appraisers are noting the declining box on appraisals, which makes many lenders require more of a down payment.

Know how much you can really afford. There is nothing wrong with stretching a little for a home, but do not put yourself at risk. If you cannot legitimately afford a home, do not buy it. Many banks will not let you to begin with, but do not count on appreciation to come to the rescue if you are in trouble. Be prepared to weather a storm and live in a property if the value drops. A home is more than a mortgage, property taxes and property insurance. Maintenance is required and you are responsible. Make sure you have cash reserves for unforeseen problems.

A good deal is still a good deal regardless of the marketplace. The tables have turned and it is now more of a buyers market than ever, but do not pass on a good deal or think that a seller needs to take your offer. Many people are still looking for homes and a good deal is just that, so do not grind sellers, because there is often more than one potential buyer.

A home is still a great investment in the long term and if you need a home there is no better time than the present. A home provides shelter and warmth and as I have said before, a place to call your own. However, in this market be prepared to hop through hoops with lenders.

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.

ENERGY

Gas prices rise to new national high

BY JOHN WILEN
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK The cost of filling up the family car climbed to a record high Tuesday, adding to the challenges consumers already face with falling home values and rising food prices.

Gas prices at the pump rose overnight to a record national average of \$3.2272 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. That's a tad higher than the previous record of \$3.2265, set last May.

Soaring gas prices worsen the financial plight of consumers already suffering through a downturn in the housing market that has sharply reduced home prices in many markets and limited Americans' ability to tap home equity for spending. Food prices are also on the rise, partly due to rising fuel costs.

"I used to think three bucks a gallon was all I'd pay, but I keep filling up," said Joe Gowans while gassing his Acura SUV in San Francisco one recent afternoon. "You have to use it."

A year ago, rising demand and a string of refinery outages had raised concerns about supplies. Now, the record price of crude oil is the culprit, propelling gas higher although supplies are at 15-year highs.

On Tuesday, light sweet crude for April delivery surged to a new trading record of \$109.72 on the New York Mercantile Exchange before retreating after the Energy Department and International Energy Agency cut crude consumption forecasts for this year. Futures settled 85 cents higher at \$108.75 a barrel, a new record.

Where gas and oil go from here is anybody's guess. Many analysts expect prices to moderate, while others predict oil could keep rising to \$120 a barrel, or higher. And with demand for gas expected to rise as warm weather arrives, analysts say pump prices could spike as high as \$3.75 a gallon, regardless of what happens with oil prices. The Energy Department on Tuesday raised its forecast of how high prices will rise this spring by a dime to \$3.50 a gallon.

"I've got to say, if they ever go up to \$3.50, that would be the point where I'd feel angry," said Alex Magby, a Morrisville, Pa., resident who was filling up his tank near his New Jersey restaurant job one recent afternoon.

High prices are painful to New York cab drivers like Brandis Younge, who spends \$35 to \$40 on gas each day.

"Before it skyrocketed, I used to pay \$25," Younge said.

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SM's Homeless Court making a difference

FROM COURT PAGE 1

to give his name. The client, a white man in his early 60s, recently graduated and had his record expunged, allowing him to put money aside and save up for an apartment.

"I would recommend the court for everyone in a similar situation as me," he said.

The client was living in Venice a few years ago when he said he fell victim to gentrification and was forced to live in his car. That's when he started to accumulate parking tickets and citations for other minor offenses. His car was eventually towed away, leaving him with nothing but the clothes he had on.

"It was very tough and the tickets made it harder," the client said. "I heard about the court, thought it was a good idea. It was. I'm very happy with it."

As are city and county officials, who gathered on a recent Friday afternoon at the Santa Monica Courthouse to celebrate the court's success. In attendance were Councilmembers Bob Holbrook and Kevin McKeown, City Attorney Marsha Moutrie, SMPD Deputy Chief Phil Sanchez and County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, who spoke about the court's track record.

To date, 82 people have participated in the program, nine of which are now in supportive housing, Yaroslavsky said. Two participants were reunited with their families, 16 are now seeking alcohol or substance abuse treatment and another 16 are receiving care for a mental illness. In all, 36 have graduated and had their cases adjudicated.

"Some people didn't want to try it," County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said of the court. "The upside seemed so great that it was almost criminal not to ... and I'm excited about a continued collaboration."

Yaroslavsky, who helped fight for funding to start the court, said he will work to find more money to keep the it going after witnesses the impact it has had on Santa Monica. The county gave City Hall a \$458,000 grant to help pay for 12 months of supportive services and housing for court participants.

Going into it, no one knew if the court would be successful. Critics claimed that it offered no real punishment for failing to comply given overcrowding at the county jail, forcing the sheriff to release nonviolent offenders early, some within hours of being sentenced.

Some participants have relapsed while a very small number have failed to participate, city officials said, however, those who have stuck with the program say it has helped them tremendously.

"The best thing about it is that when I failed, they didn't kick me out," said Gibson, who relapsed twice. "They kept working with me, encouraging me and that has helped me get where I am today."

What sets the court apart from others is that it's predicated on the notion of "therapeutic justice," combining consequences

with the assistance necessary to make a change and address the underlying problems causing a person to commit crimes.

By interacting with a single judge and prosecutor, the participant is monitored and linked to supportive services and housing. Staff from local nonprofits consult with the court and are often present during hearings to lend support and ensure the participant is completing goals assigned by the court.

For it to work, it takes a certain type of judge, prosecutor and public defender — those willing to dedicate extra time to each participant. Tillmon spoke of her staff's commitment to the court and how some worked extra hours or came in on their off days to help out.

"I had realistic expectations going into it," Tillmon said. "With a good team and the support of people like the supervisor, the city of Santa Monica and the court — all committing to the concept — I knew we could make a difference."

Tillmon said she knew there was a need after spending some time in Santa Monica and witnessing first hand the extent of the homeless problem. After coming in contact with those who are living on the streets, Tillmon felt something needed to be done to help them, especially those with a mental illness, access services so that they could apply for Section 8 housing or Social Security benefits.

If the program is extended for another year, Tillmon said she would like to continue her work.

"I think the program should be continued," she said.

Another supporter is Betty Haviland, the chief deputy city attorney in charge of the Criminal Division, which acts as City Hall's prosecutor. Haviland said she has seen chronic law breakers go straight and get help through the court. Those who were resistant to access services are now doing just that, whereas before they would be arrested and be back out on the street committing the same offense over and over again.

"There is definitely the revolving door effect," Haviland said. "Many times the type of crimes committed don't carry a lot of jail time, and they don't do jail time anyway, so it feels as if their problems are not being addressed. At least here we can hook them up with services and hopefully they can get back on their feet."

Haviland said the court is not just helping the homeless, but the community as well. Recently, members of the fire department came to court to show their support for chronic alcoholic who checked into a sober living facility. No longer was this individual on the streets causing problems that forced firefighters to respond. This has saved City Hall money while freeing up the officers to respond to other calls.

"I think the court is doing something for the community, not just these people," Haviland said.

kevinh@smdp.com



Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com

DIGGING INTO BREAKFAST: Matt Bolton (left) and Eric Johnson (right) enjoy breakfast at the new McDonald's location on the corner of Colorado Avenue and Second Street.

After a two-year absence, McDonald's comes back

FROM EATERY PAGE 3

the McDonald's opened last week. Business inside the restaurant has yet to reach pre-construction levels.

Tony Lardas said part of the reason might be the street construction taking place on Second and Colorado, limiting vehicular accessibility. The owners are about to kick off an aggressive marketing campaign, letting the public know that the McDonald's is back home.

"We want to get the sales back to where we were prior to closing," Lardas said.

The Lardas have a long history in the dining business, dating back more than 40 years when Nick Lardas owned and operated several coffee shops in Chicago. After selling his businesses, the elder Lardas uprooted the family to California and after learning about the McDonald's franchise from his cousin, who also owned one, the patriarch decided to buy his first in Ridgecrest Lake.

In July of 1980, Lardas moved the family down south and purchased the Colorado Avenue franchise, which had been built just three years before. The family has since sold the Ridgecrest Lake location and picked up four others, including the one on the Third Street Promenade, and restaurants in Redondo Beach, Malibu and West LA.

While the business operated fruitfully on

the busy corner of Colorado and Second, enjoying traffic from the pier and the once-open Santa Monica Place, the restaurant's old age began showing. With renovation or reconstruction in mind, the owners just stuck on quick-fix bandages.

"IT'S A LOT MORE UP TO DATE THAN THE ONES IN ALABAMA."

David Courson,
McDonald's customer

But it would take more than 10 years from conception to completion, something that Lardas attributes to the time-consuming and windy process of receiving project approvals and permits from City Hall.

In late 2005, work crews began dismantling the golden arches.

"The building is quite nice," Tom Landau, the founder of The Landau Partnership, said on Tuesday. "It is going to be a beacon for Downtown Santa Monica."

melodyh@smdp.com

Spitzer faces uncertain future

FROM SPITZER PAGE 3

eral prosecutor.

"I think he's done enough cases where he's charged money laundering that he would know exactly what kind of information you get from the banks. It's such a perfect example of what goes around, comes around," he said.

By the time the scandal broke this week, Spitzer's financial transactions had been monitored, his phone calls had been caught on tape, and his actions had been scrutinized by federal prosecutors. It could have been straight out of the Spitzer prosecution playbook.

Whether Spitzer thought he was smarter than the feds because of his own professional experience is, for now at least, a matter for psychologists to speculate on.

As New York attorney general, Spitzer was also familiar with how to bust up a

prostitution ring.

Spitzer proudly announced on April 8, 2004, that authorities had arrested 18 people on promoting prostitution and related charges — including money laundering and falsifying business records — in an investigation of escort services in New York.

"This was a sophisticated and lucrative operation with a multitiered management structure," Spitzer said at the time. "It was, however, nothing more than a prostitution ring, and now its owners and operators will be held accountable."

In the 2004 probe, investigators used wiretaps and other surveillance to build their case, said Vincent Romano, who defended the man accused of running the ring. Prosecutors also charged some of the defendants with enterprise corruption — a charge carrying heavier penalties than simple prostitution.

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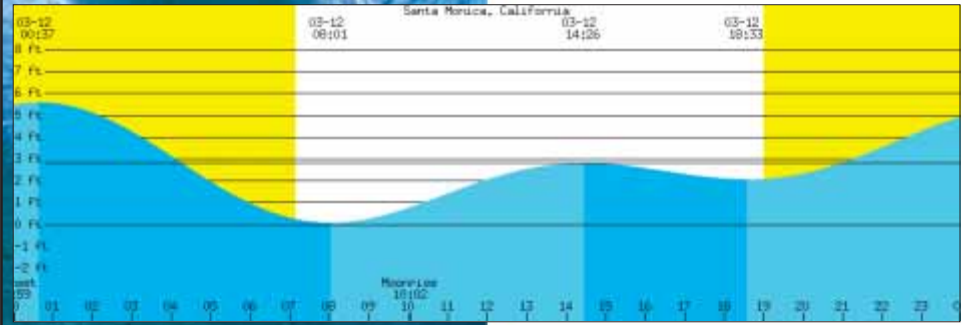
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TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA





Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com
STUDY SESSION: Local students work on homework at Virginia Avenue Park on Monday afternoon. A teen center located at the park offers after-school activities for area students.

After school programs require ample funding

FROM PROGRAMS PAGE 1

given there are so many mothers working and a lot of single-parent families,” Beckett said last week. “One thing (policymakers) might think about in terms of these programs is use it as a vehicle to provide more targeted and expensive services to a small group of students.”

For example, programs could have better results if more specialized, such as providing tutoring services to the students in most need, Beckett said. The study also suggests that policymakers should consider investing more money toward improving the quality of existing programs.

Programs like the PYFC serve approximately 180 teenagers from the Santa Monica and Venice area, many students coming from Santa Monica High School, which is located just one block away from the center’s headquarters on Pico Boulevard and Seventh Street.

The program operates on a \$400,000 budget, funded mainly through city grants, according to Director Oscar de la Torre. The center works with mainly at-risk youth, providing services such as case management and counseling. The center also has its recording studio, which has produced several hip hop albums.

According to de la Torre, one of the things that pains the center is limited resources.

“We’ve taken some cuts and the state budget is going to make it harder for various after-school programs,” he said. “The one thing you won’t find is state grants, which might have been available in previous years.”

While the center has been able to sustain itself the past few years, its staff has been living off a salary that hasn’t seen a cost of living adjustment for quite some time, de la Torre added.

One of the more successful after-school programs in the city is CREST — Childcare Recreation Enrichment Sports Together — which is operated by City Hall in conjunction with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, whose elementary school sites each host the program every weekday. The program serves about 1,000 students in kindergarten through eighth grade. One of the key differences separating the CREST program from the rest is funding revenue — the program is fee-based.

“Even if we did see down the line, pres-

sure on our general fund budget, we still have strong support from school communities and families for providing these programs,” Rebecca Sprigg, the director of CREST, said last week.

The CREST after-school program offers activities like youth sports, foreign language classes, yoga and math and science-related activities. Though the biggest funding stream for the program comes from City Hall, CREST receives bonds from Department of Education and the county.

City Hall also funds the after-school program at Virginia Avenue Park, a drop-in type center that offers homework assistance and recreational activities for youth. The program is free.

“CLEARLY THERE IS A NEED (FOR AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS) GIVEN THERE ARE SO MANY MOTHERS WORKING AND A LOT OF SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES.”

Megan Beckett,
Sociologist, RAND Corporation

Betty Macias, the program analyst for the Human Services Division at City Hall, said the program at Virginia Avenue Park is not childcare, and added that there are parenting classes available as well.

“Many studies show parent involvement has to do with academic success of children in schools so the park includes a parent education component,” Macias said.

Macias agreed the importance of having after-school programs is to have a continued source of funding.

“It’s difficult if a program doesn’t know year to year how much they have to work with,” she said.

melodyh@smdp.com

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NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 2

Number of wet days -- 14

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 35 / 18

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 28

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LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	A	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	F
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	F	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	F	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	A+	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	D	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	F	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	B	F
Escondido Canyon, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	C
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	D	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	A
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	A	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	B
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	F	F	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	D	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	F	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	F	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	D
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily	F	B	Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	D
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	F	F	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	B	C
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	D	D
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	B	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	F	A	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	F
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	F	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	D
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	D
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	F			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	F			

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken



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

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Mary Ann caught with marijuana

DAWN WELLS, who played Mary Ann on "Gilligan's Island," is serving six months' unsupervised probation after allegedly being caught with marijuana in her car.

She was sentenced Feb. 29 to five days in jail, fined \$410.50 and placed on probation after pleading guilty to one count of reckless driving.

Under a plea agreement, three misdemeanor counts — driving under the influence, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance — were dropped.

On Oct. 18, Teton County sheriff's Deputy Joseph Gutierrez arrested Wells as she was driving home from a surprise birthday party that was held for her. According to the sheriff's office report, Gutierrez pulled Wells over after noticing her swerve and repeatedly speed up and slow down. When Gutierrez asked about a marijuana smell, Wells said she'd just given a ride to

three hitchhikers and had dropped them off when they began smoking something. Gutierrez found half-smoked joints and two small cases used to store marijuana.

The 69-year-old Wells, founder of the Idaho Film and Television Institute and organizer of the region's annual family movie festival called the Spud Fest, then failed a sobriety test.

Wells' lawyer, Ron Swafford, said that a friend of Wells' testified that he'd left a small amount of marijuana in the vehicle after using it that day, and that Wells was unaware of it. Swafford also said several witnesses were prepared to testify that Wells had very little to drink at the party and was not intoxicated when she left. He said she was swerving on the road because she was trying to find the heater controls in her new car.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLOONEY PRESSURES SPONSOR

Hollywood star **GEORGE CLOONEY** has put pressure on an Olympic sponsor to speak out over China's foreign policy in Sudan.

Clooney promotes Omega Watches one of the worldwide Olympic partners for the Beijing games.

"I have talked with Omega (about China) for over a year and will continue to talk to Omega," Clooney was quoted as saying on the BBC Web site on Tuesday. "I have and will go to the places I and China do business and ask for help."

Clooney has publicly spoken several times about the crisis in Darfur, Sudan, where more than 200,000 people have been killed and about 2.5 million people displaced in three years of fighting between African rebels and government troops allied with Arab militia known as janjaweed.

China is a major trading partner with Sudan.

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Show up, Virgo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Your possessive side emerges when hitting difficulties. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You seem to hit obstacles around work and other people in general. Tonight: Your treat.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Be aware of the currents around you, and be sensitive to others. Tonight: As you like it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Like everyone, you have a tendency to emphasize what you want and forget some details. Tonight: Be happy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Though on some level a must appearance is a pleasure, it could prove very disruptive on a one-on-one level. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Reach out for new opinions, but if you don't like what you hear, be gracious. Tonight: A must show.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Relate on a one-on-one level with key people. Tonight: Relax to music.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Others continue to be assertive. Make that OK. Tonight: One-on-one togetherness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ An even approach might not be your natural one, but it works and buys you time to rethink a situation. Tonight: Seriously think about an invitation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Allow your creativity to come through in a pinch. Tonight: Buy a token of affection.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Though you might not be anxious to get a situation moving, you'll discover how many alternatives you really have. Tonight: Time for fun and games.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Speak your mind. If you are trying to suppress some feelings, you might not be able to. Tonight: Someone thinks you are the cat's meow.

Happy Birthday

You will draw many to you next year. Your attractiveness mixes well with your caring. Others sense who you are. Communication can flourish if you keep your ideas about different subjects together. Often you go on overload. Family, security and real estate are important. Be aware of what you have to offer, and don't accept anything less. If you are single, you might want to leap into a relationship. Slow down. You will be happier if you take your time. There is a special relationship heading in your direction. If you are attached, work together to manifest your goals. GEMINI can be an anchor.

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

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

- ★★★★★ Dynamic
- ★★★★ Positive
- ★★★ Average
- ★★ So-So
- ★ Difficult

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Moderator: Joseph Deering, Senior Arts Foundation

Panelists: Richard Baum, M.D. — African Art Collector

Virginia Field — Curator, LACMA

Yvonne Szafran — Conservator, J. Paul Getty Museum

Ho Nguen — Director of Operations,

Santa Monica Historical Society Museum



The Senior Arts Forums are free to the public and no reservation is required.

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Difficulty
SILVER

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

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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

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

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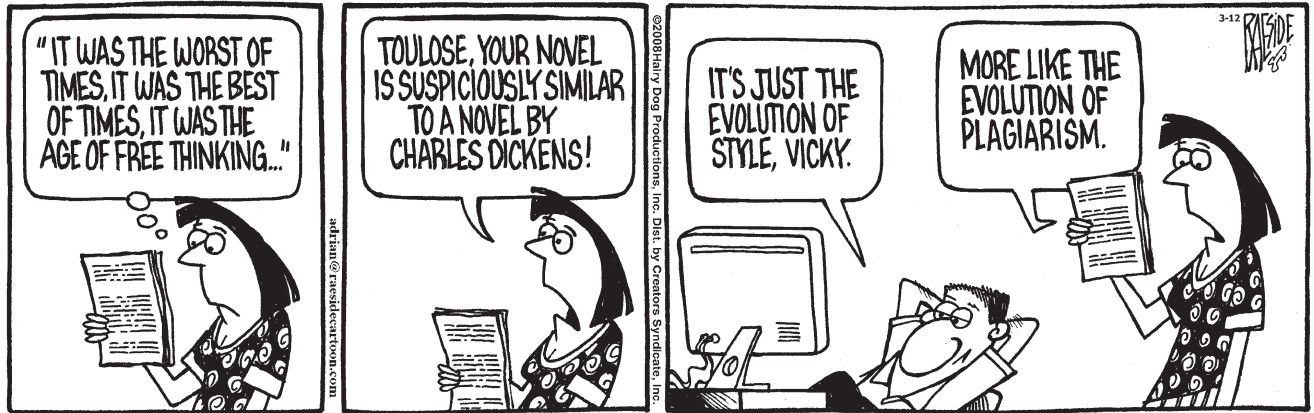
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



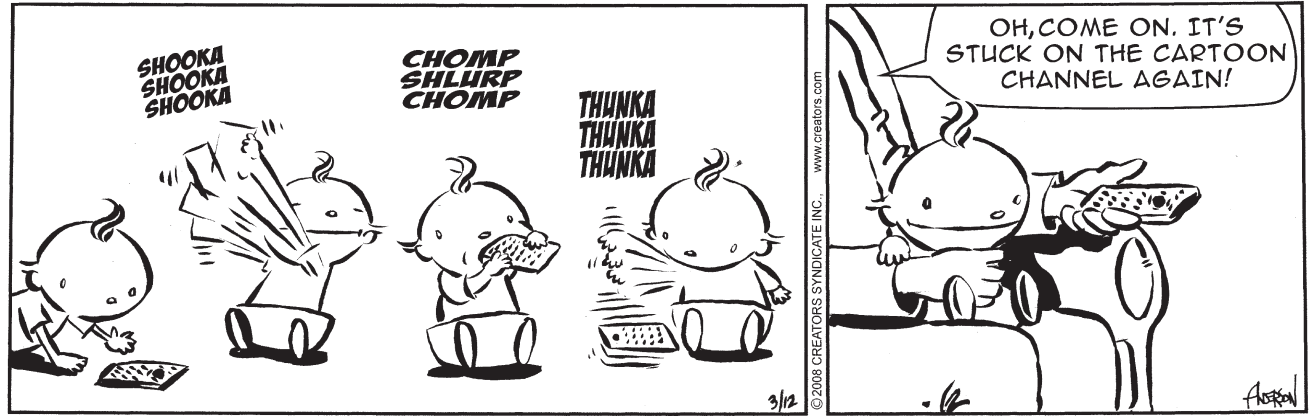
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

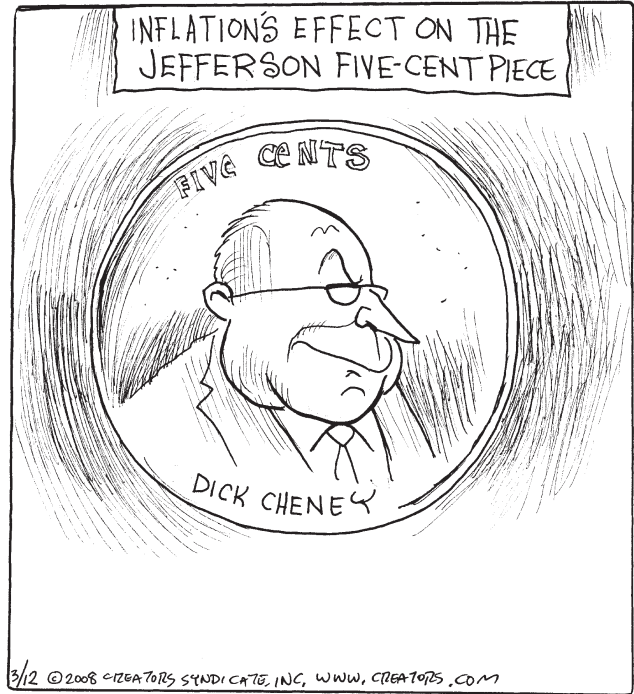


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



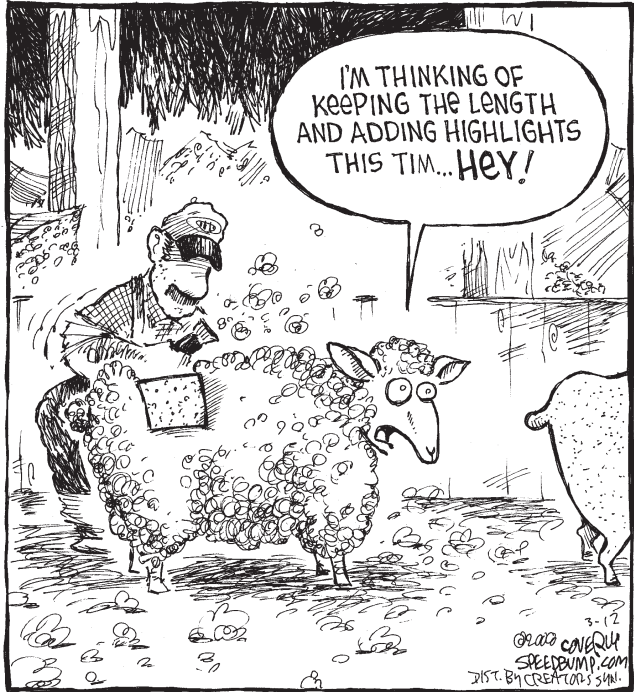
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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Rotund

1 Horn sounds

6 Burr-Hamilton event

10 Diary jotting

11 "My Name Is Earl" concept

12 Pal of Aramis

13 Make law

14 Victim

15 "Broke-back Mountain" director

16 Squeak stopper

17 Plop down

18 Applicationline

19 Praised

22 Meat cut

23 Perp pursuers

26 Got drunk

29 Coffee holder

32 Trifle

33 Mayo buy

34 Lined up

36 Kilauea flow

37 Trout's place

38 Telescope sight

39 Some college students

41 Tails

42 Comfy places

DOWN

1 Oolong brewer

2 Before the bench

3 Desdemona's husband

4 Paris' home

5 Method: Abbr.

6 "Phooey!"

7 Russian range

8 Game leader

9 Paint base

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

Yesterday's answer

- 11 Fort Knox setting
- 15 Lend a hand
- 17 Capitol group
- 20 Young fox
- 21 "The Gold Bug" author
- 24 "A Mind to Murder" author
- 25 Most charming
- 27 Without delay
- 28 Babbles
- 29 Greek sorceress
- 30 Merger
- 31 Like main roads
- 35 Cincinnati team
- 36 Ear part
- 38 Swindle

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

Comics & Stuff

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4 13 35 41 47
Meganumber: 44
Jackpot: \$47M

14 17 18 19 41
Meganumber: 26
Jackpot: \$13M

2 3 6 18 29

MIDDAY: 8 4 0
EVENING: 1 1 9

1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1.45.46

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In Chaparral, N.M., in December, a loaded .357 Magnum was being traced by two men onto a pattern to create a custom tattoo design, but somehow, the gun went off. Both men were hit by the same bullet, one in the hand and the other in the arm. (2) A 77-year-old man in Des Moines, Iowa, who was trying a unclog his septic tank in the afternoon of Christmas Eve, lost his balance and fell in, head first with his legs sticking up. He remained in that position for about an hour until his wife saw him and called for help.

■ Several Duke University campus organizations, including the Women's Center, the Student Health Center and the Women's Studies Department, sponsored a "Sex Workers Art Show" on Feb. 3, at which nearly nude "artists" danced for students and others while vulgarly criticizing America via acts such as a woman's pretending to eat excreted dollar bills and a man's kneeling with an American flag inserted in his rear end. Two years ago, Duke's men's lacrosse team was vilified by the Duke administration and faculty merely for hiring two female strippers for a party (from which emanated false charges of rape and the eventual disbarment of the local district attorney). A university spokesman explained to a National Journal reporter that the recent show was acceptable because it was "art" and "social commentary," rather than male-bonding entertainment.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1664 New Jersey becomes a colony of Britain.
- 1894 Coca-Cola is sold in bottles for the first time.
- 1912 The Girl Guides (later renamed the Girl Scouts of the USA) are founded in the U.S.
- 1928 In California, the St. Francis Dam fails, killing 400 people.
- 1930 Mahatma Gandhi leads a 200-mile march known as Dandi March to the sea in defiance of British opposition, to protest the British monopoly on salt.
- 1947 The Truman Doctrine is proclaimed to help stem the spread of Communism.
- 1968 Mauritius achieves independence.
- 1994 The Church of England ordains its first female priests.

WORD UP!

assuage \uh-SWAYJ\, verb:
1. To make milder or less severe; to reduce the intensity of; to ease; to relieve. 2. To appease; to satisfy. 3. To soothe or calm; to pacify.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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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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