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FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2009
Volume 8 Issue 110

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered
THE ALMOST THERE ISSUE

THOMPSON IS LATEST ADDITION
SEE PAGE 14

New shelter for families breaks ground

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CULVER CITY The ongoing efforts by Santa Monica city officials to take a regional approach in addressing homelessness took a giant step forward on Thursday when a locally-based nonprofit broke ground on a new family shelter in a neighboring community.

A large crowd of homeless service advocates and officials from Los Angeles County and nearby municipalities gathered at the old Sunbay Motel in Culver City to celebrate the beginning of the roughly five-month-long construction of Upward Bound House's new Family Shelter.

"The opening can't happen soon enough for the thousands of families across Los Angeles who are losing their jobs, their homes, their hope," said David Snow, the executive director of Santa Monica-based

SEE HOME PAGE 12

LA County agency nixes stimulus-money swaps

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press Writer

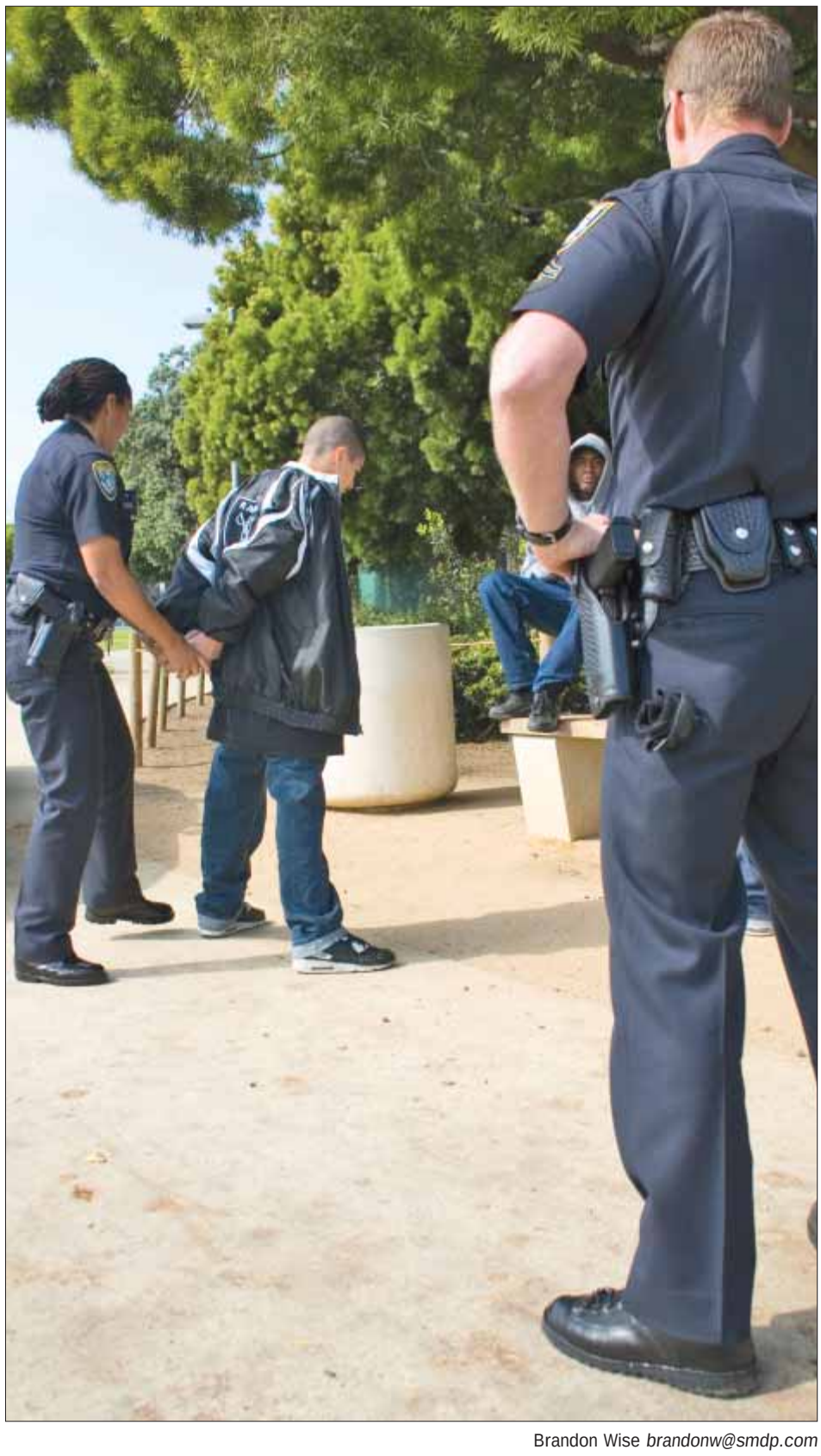
LOS ANGELES Can taxpayer dollars intended to pave roads be used instead to pay salaries in a cash-strapped California city?

Almost.

Los Angeles County officials this week blocked several small cities from swapping federal stimulus dollars destined for transportation projects with other communities in exchange for cash for their treasuries.

One city planned to trade an expected $500,000 stimulus check for money it could use to avert layoffs. But in a turnaround, county transit officials blocked the stimulus-for-cash dealmaking that it blamed on imprecise wording in a letter it sent to cities

SEE NO DEAL PAGE 10



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

PROTECT AND SERVE: **Santa Monica Police officers search three suspicious individuals at Virginia Avenue Park on Wednesday afternoon. Violent crime dropped by 7 percent in 2008, according to figures released by the SMPD. Police Chief Tim Jackman credited the decrease to increased community involvement and connecting homeless to services.**

Taking a bite out of crime

Violent crime drops 7 percent in Santa Monica in 2008

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY Violent crimes in Santa Monica continued to hit historic lows in 2008, a trend which SMPD Chief Tim Jackman credited to increased community involvement and an intense focus on connecting the homeless population with social service agencies.

Part 1 crimes, which include rapes, murders and assaults, were down 7 percent compared to 2007, according to figures released by the SMPD.

Leading the overall decline in serious crime was a 56 percent drop in arsons, with seven reported in 2008 compared to 16 the year prior. That was followed by a 30 percent drop in rapes, with 21 being reported in 2008 compared to 30 in 2007.

While on the rise in 2009, auto thefts were down in '08 by 26 percent, with 243 reports compared to 327 in '07.

"We are doing very well," Jackman said during an interview Tuesday in his office at the Public Safety Facility. "As a matter of fact, we are so far below reported crime 50 years ago it is almost incredible."

Santa Monica is not alone. Throughout the nation and in the region, crime has steadily decreased over the last few years, with Los Angeles experiencing a 2.5 percent drop in violent crimes in 2008. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department reported a 6 percent drop in such crimes through the end of November 2008.

"This is really a community effort," Jackman said of the reduction locally. "Police

SEE CRIME PAGE 11





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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Jumping the median
The Other Space at Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Don't miss this mix of theater and live music in this hilarious and unique exploration of love, loss and life as we know it. Admission is $20. Call (562) 547-6207 or visit www.plays411.com/jumpingthemedian for more information.

Salsa the night away
Isabelle's Salsa/Tango/Pole Dance Academy
1334 Lincoln Blvd., 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Friday socials offer you a friendly, relaxed atmosphere to learn how to dance hot salsa. Two classes are offered for beginners and intermediates. Enjoy a social hour after class to practice and mingle. $20 buys a 90 minute class and social party practice. Free drinks are included. Call (310) 392-3493 for more information.

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

Saturday, March 14, 2009

Yoga in the park
Palisades Park
Ocean Ave. and Palisades Ave., 10 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
Start your weekend off right with an energizing and rejuvenating yoga class in Palisades Park, overlooking the ocean. All levels are welcome. Bring a yoga mat and an open heart. All classes are donation only. For more information, call (310) 560-4317.

Bella Donna
C-1 Gallery at Bergamot Station
2525 Michigan Ave., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
The female nude is the recurring subject of John Asaro's most recent artistic production, Bella Donna. This exhibit of 60 oil paintings celebrates the painter's emergence from three decades of depression. A portion of the proceeds garnered from the paintings and catalog sales throughout the show will support scholarships for fine art students enrolled at the Art Center College of Design. The exhibit is free. Visit www.johnasaro.com for more information.

Sunday, March 15, 2009

"And Awaaay We Go To Wonderland"
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Kids 2 to 102 take a musical journey to help save the fairy tale world, solving riddles, predicting the future, traveling through time and experiencing a mini language lesson along the way. Lots of audience participation makes this the perfect family outing. Birthday and tea parties, hosted by fairy tale characters, are available for every performance. Admission ranges from $10.50 to $12.50. Call (310) 394-9779 ext. 2 for more information.

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

Crews remove 5M square feet of LA graffiti in '08

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Officials say that nearly 5 million square feet of graffiti were removed from along Los Angeles freeways last year.

The California Department of Transportation recently gave city officials an update about freeway maintenance. In the agency's district that covers Los Angeles and Ventura counties, there was more than 7.6 million square feet of graffiti removed, costing about $2.7 million.

More than 60,000 cubic yards of garbage were removed from district freeways in 2008, costing about $8 million. Nearly 600 homeless camps also were broken up during the same time period.

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Photo courtesy Santa Monica College

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK: **Jeanine Hawk is vice president of business and administration for Santa Monica College. She started at the end of January. She formerly worked for De Anza College in Cupertino, Calif.**

SMC a natural fit for new VP

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC Acclimating to a new job nearly 350 miles south from the old is proving to be a less trying task than the trip itself for Jeanine Hawk.

There's a lot of parallels that Santa Monica College's new vice president of business and administration can draw between her current and former workplace at De Anza College in Cupertino where she spent five years as the school's vice president for educational resources and college operations, essentially taking on the same responsibilities today as she did in the past.

"I think they're one (SMC) and two (De Anza) in the state and both have a high number of international students, the institutions both have very involved students and a lot of student life," Hawk said about the similarities between the schools. "Both have dedicated faculty, staff and that is what it takes to be a great institution."

"I think both are top rate."

Hawk was hired recently to take over the college's business and fiscal matters, managing an approximately $180 million budget that is currently facing a set of challenges from state funding cuts. She is the first permanent person to take on the job since former vice president Tom Donner left in 2006, leaving the position filled in the interim by SMC's Executive Vice President Randal Lawson.

"This is a key role in the management team to deal with the economic crisis facing the state and institution," SMC President and Superintendent Dr. Chui Tsang said. "We're very happy to have someone like Jeanine come and join us and be part of this team and hit the

SEE VP PAGE 10

Contempt conviction of former 'Peanuts' voice thrown out

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SM COURT HOUSE A judge threw out a contempt-of-court conviction and ordered a new trial for an animal rights activist who was the voice of Lucy in several "Peanuts" television specials, her attorney said Thursday.

Pamelyn Ferdin had faced up to five days in jail and a $1,000 fine until Wednesday, when Santa Monica Superior Court Judge John Segal voided her 2008 conviction.

He scheduled a new trial for April 28, said attorney George Seide.

Ferdin, 50, was convicted of violating a court injunction that barred harassment of University of California, Los Angeles, faculty members who used animals in research.

Last June, Ferdin demonstrated outside the home of a UCLA primate researcher and handed out fliers that included home addresses, phone numbers and photographs of some researchers, Seide said.

A previous injunction against other animal rights activists barred such activity. A judge found that Ferdin was acting "in concert" with them, even though she wasn't named in the injunction, Seide said.

At trial, Ferdin testified she had downloaded the flier from a Web site and wasn't aware that the information fell under the injunction.

In fighting the conviction, Seide argued that Ferdin's constitutional rights were violated because she wasn't informed that she had the right to counsel and of her right against self-incrimination before she took the stand.

"The court vacated its prior order based on a technicality but … gave the university the option to renew its motion seeking to hold Ms. Ferdin in contempt and we are currently evaluating that option," said Chris Harrington, a UC spokesman.

He said the school remained concerned about activities by animal rights "extremists" against researchers.

Ferdin was a child actress who made appearances on many TV shows in the 1960s and 1970s, including "The Brady Bunch" and "The Odd Couple."

She was the voice of Lucy on two 1969 specials, "A Boy Named Charlie Brown" and "It Was a Short Summer, Charlie Brown," and 1971's "Play It Again, Charlie Brown."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What nonsense

Editor:

If Bill Bauer were to visit downtown Phoenix he would find their newly-opened light rail tracks are mostly in boulevard medians under signal control, like the City of Santa Monica is seeking for Colorado Avenue ("City ignores safety and traffic issues," page 4, March 9).

Seattle's mile-short worlds fair monorail remains stuck in 1962, while they are completing a new 14-mile light rail line, also largely in boulevard medians, with short tunnel sections where there is no surface right-of-way.

Los Angeles' Eastside Gold Line, opening later this year, is similar.

Like recent lines in many other downtowns, including Portland, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, San Diego, Salt Lake City, Denver, Dallas, Houston, Minneapolis, and Charlotte, mostly-at-grade light rail has hardly "fallen out of favor."

And "what nonsense," indeed, to claim the City Council's endorsement "was made without traffic studies or environmental reports," when those exact issues are documented in the current Expo Line Phase 2 Draft Environmental Impact Report, which found no significant traffic impacts on Colorado.

Darrell Clarke
Co-chair, Friends 4 Expo Transit

Calling the kettle black

Editor:

In response to "Republicans wear sunglasses at night" article published on Feb. 27, it is clear the author is the one in the dark. If you read international magazines like the Economist, you will see that the rest of the world is laughing at California because our new budget requires us to open new credit cards to pay off old credit cards. This month, S&P downgraded California's bond rating to the worst rating in the nation. That means we will pay the highest interest rates when we borrow money because the world knows California is irresponsible. Mr. Kelley is not aware of the fact that California had a budget surplus in 2000 left by Republican Gov. Pete Wilson. Fact, the Democrat-controlled majority in the state Senate and Assembly and Democratic governor spent us from surplus to deficit in three years! Fact, California has the highest personal income tax in the nation. Fact, 48 percent of all California income tax came from the top 1 percent of earners. How much more can you tax that top 1 percent before they leave the state? You see it's called the Laffer curve and in short it says that if you tax people 100 percent they stop working. When times were good, our sunglass wearing democrats running our state did not put any money aside and kept increasing spending. Fact, we cannot keep spending money we don't have.

David Alsabery
Santa Monica



Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Defatso leader of GOP

A SHOW ON TV TWO WEEKS AGO WAS so ghastly, I'm still having nightmares. And I'm not referring to Jason dumping on Melissa on "The Bachelor." (Frankly, I'm embarrassed I even know that.)

It was Rush Limbaugh speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). He was wearing a black sport coat over an open black shirt that exposed his flabby chest. In all black, Rush looked like a cross between a pimp and a water buffalo.

Limbaugh has gotten so obese lately, as Al Franken quips, "He's too fat even for radio." Perhaps it's a Pinocchio effect. When he lies, instead of Rush's nose getting bigger it's his belly.

To rev up the CPAC wing nuts (who actually need revving down), Rush inexplicably began jumping up and down. (It's sexist, but why couldn't it at least have been Sarah Palin?) Rush's gyrations caused his giant man breasts to shake like vats of Jell-O. Borrowing from "Apocalypse Now," "The horror, the horror."

Rush calls himself a patriot but, of course, he didn't serve in Vietnam. He had a "pilonidal cyst" i.e. boils on his butt. Yuck! He criticizes the morality of others but has three failed marriages (one to a college student half his age, another to an aerobics instructor).

And yet, somehow this bully radio host, who earns $45 million a year but "identifies with the common man," currently calls the shots for the conservative movement in America. William Buckley must be spinning in his grave.

This power struggle crystallized when Rush boasted that he hoped Obama fails. Republican National Committee Chair Michael Steele said Rush's comments were "ugly and incendiary." Rush, and his ditto-head listeners, blasted Steele, who was soon apologizing and kissing Rush's humongous butt.

Newt Gingrich has called Rush's boast "irrational." And former Bush speech writer David Frumm (coined "Axis of Evil") labels Rush "aggressive and bombastic." (And those were the nicer adjectives.) Given Michael Steele's example, Gingrich and Frumm might want to practice up on their puckering skills.

Among Rush's more shameful moments (so many to chose from) was when the Grateful Dead's Jerry Garcia's died. Rush said callously, "He's just another dead hippie to me."

Of course when Limbaugh confessed he was an OxyContin addict (bought over 10,000 pills) he tearfully asked for understanding. (He used his maid to score the drugs. How classy was that?) Rush was so strung-out that he literally went deaf from abusing OxyContin and now wears a cochlear implant.

Then there was the time, during the 2006 campaign, when Rush mocked Michael J. Fox's Parkinson's disease. Imitating Fox, Rush flailed his arms wildly, as he accused the actor of faking his illness to gain sympathy for stem cell research.

Much of the country was aghast. Pundits said Rush's sick antics cost the Republicans the Senate.

Like a spoiled schoolyard kid, Rush pouted and said he was "through carrying water for the Republicans."

A few days ago Rush even joked about Ted Kennedy's cancer. Hilarious, huh? He said the health care reform legislation may be called the "Ted Kennedy Memorial Healthcare Bill." Years ago, Rush basically accused Hillary Clinton of murdering Vince Foster, the White House lawyer who committed suicide.

COLIN POWELL RECENTLY WARNED FELLOW REPUBLICANS THAT LIMBAUGH APPEALS TO THEIR LESSER INSTINCTS, ASKING, 'IS THIS REALLY THE KIND OF PARTY WE WANT?'

How low can Rush sink? I don't think there's a bottom.

Similarly, I'm reminded of George W. Bush as reported by conservative pundit Tucker Carlson. In 1998 Karla Faye Tucker, a born-again Christian, was the first woman executed in Texas since the Civil War. Carlson asked Bush if he had listened to people from all over the world who had pleaded for mercy.

The dispirit group included Bianca Jagger, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell and Pope John Paul II. W said defiantly, "Why should I?" Having seen Karla Faye on Larry King he thought it amusing to mimic her. "Please," Bush whimpered, his lips pursed in mock desperation, "don't kill me." Hilarious, huh?

In the 1957 classic movie, "A Face in the Crowd," a con artist named Larry "Lonesome" Rhodes, played brilliantly by Andy Griffith, rises to great success on radio via his supposed connection with the common man.

Fortunately, he's finally undone by his thirst for power. As Joe McCarthy ended up disgraced in the U.S. Senate, so does Rhodes. I keep waiting for it to happen to Rush, Bill O'Reilly, Ann Coulter and the rest who spread hate at a time when we desperately need unity.

In his first 50 days as president, Obama reached across the political aisle more than George (My Way or the Highway) Bush did in eight years.

And yet Rush continues to spew venom. Colin Powell recently warned fellow Republicans that Limbaugh appeals to their lesser instincts, asking, "Is this really the kind of party we want?" I'm not a Republican, but after seeing Rush at CPAC, I'd settle for his never jumping up and down again.

JACK can be reached at Jackneworth@yahoo.com.

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 PHOTOGRAPHERS
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Taylor Van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Ryan Hyatt, Steve Breen, Elizabeth Brown, Merv Hecht, Ron Scott Smith Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp Mariel Howsepian, Cynthia Citron, Amanda Cushman, Steve Parker and Phyllis Chavez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

NEWS INTERNS
Catherine Cain, Ashley Archibald, Rob Lawrence, Teddy Leshnick
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Raymond Solano, Rachel Dardashti
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Julie Martinez
juliem@smdp.com

Robert Hertel
roberth@smdp.com

Grace Wang
gracew@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Robert Summa
summa@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
A newspaper with issues

410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
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Your column here
Step Up's Brainstorm Writers Group Send comments to editor@smdp.com

An open letter to President Obama

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA,

We are inspired by your election. It represents the promise of America, and a triumph over prejudice and bigotry. Throughout your life, you have spoken up for groups of Americans who need a voice. We are writing to urge you to use your voice to help bring more public awareness and understanding to issues that affect those of us living with mental illness.

We are members of Step Up on Second, an organization that provides housing, job training, meals, medication support, and other services to individuals afflicted with severe mental illness in our community. Over the past 25 years, Step Up has helped thousands of us get off the streets, get on our feet, and learn to live more independently. Day after day, Step Up is a constant source of healing and hope. According to the National Institute for Mental Health, over 26 percent of American adults have some kind of diagnosable mental disorder and six percent of the population suffers from severe mental illness.

Those of us who suffer daily with mental illness face another kind suffering: the pain we feel due to the judgment of others. We are often treated as pariahs. Stigma hurts. It destroys the spirit of not just those with mental illness, but everyone. It polarizes us and eats away at the common bond of our humanity.

Mr. President, we have a message and we hope you can help us spread it: We want people to know that mental illness is a medical condition — a disorder of brain chemistry. It is not a failure of character or will. Would people put down, blame, label, or shun someone with another medical condition, like diabetes? We are human beings, worthy of understanding, respect, and dignity. Without these, treatment and rehabilitation become even more of an uphill battle. There's another problem with stigma: Many people experiencing symptoms of mental illness suffer silently in fear and shame. They avoid disclosing their symptoms because they're afraid of what others may think and of what might happen to their employment or insurance if they were to seek the treatment they so desperately need.

We believe that the time is ripe to turn back the tide of stigma. We are taking action to educate our community about mental illness. Our members are writing articles and speaking to community and business groups. We are getting the word out that we are human beings with talents, abilities, and feelings. With appropriate treatment and programs, many of us can recover and live more independently-like our friend, Craig.

Craig Blasingame ran a successful business for 20 years. He was married and owned three houses. Inside, an undiagnosed mental illness was eating away at him, without his knowledge. To alleviate his suffering, Craig turned to alcohol and street drugs. When his wife and father died, he went over the edge and lost his business and houses. He lived for three years in a patch of bushes.

Two years ago, Craig came to Step Up where he received medication support, meals, case-management, and counseling. He kicked drugs and alcohol and has been sober for two years.

After eight years of unemployment, Craig wanted to work again. Step Up helped him get work in their kitchen and as a security guard at a Farmer's market. He is currently pursuing his commercial drivers license and plans to become a truck driver. In addition, he attends church services and regularly volunteers to help the homeless.

Recently, Craig found a permanent home, his own private room in Step Up's newest building on 5th Street in Santa Monica. In two short years, Craig has turned his life around. "My life is getting better and better," he said. "I am grateful and every day I smell the roses. Step Up gave me the time and the tools I needed to get off the streets and deal with my illness."

Craig's story is just one of many.

Mr. President, we know your proposed healthcare plan provides increased coverage for treatment of mental disorders. We know you want to expand our opportunities for housing and employment. We pray that these measures become reality in the near future. In addition to these proposals, your words can make a huge difference. We hope you will speak out about mental illness and help us put an end to the stigma that damages us all. Please bring your message of hope and change to the millions of us Americans living with mental illness.

The authors are part of the Brainstorm writer's group at Step Up on Second. Step Up's nationally-recognized program focuses on long-term strategies and daily support services to help members receive treatment for their brain disorders, and achieve greater independence in their lives.

The Q Line

Does the House System have a home?

There is talk in the school district that the House System at Santa Monica High School may be done away with to save money. Parents recently pleaded with the Board of Education to keep a system they called important to the development of their children.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Should the district retain the House System or is it time for house cleaning?

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




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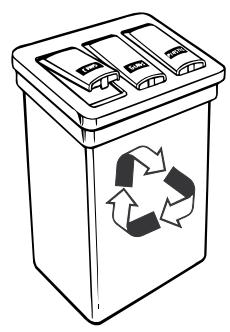
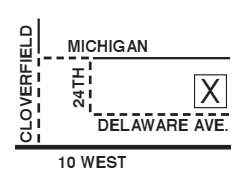
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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
PUBLIC NOTICE OF SIGNIFICANT NONCOMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE INDUSTRIAL WASTE PRETREATMENT REQUIREMENTS IN 2008

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) General Pretreatment Regulations for Existing and New Sources of Pollution, 40 CFR 403 and SMMC 5.20.490 requires the City of Santa Monica to publish a list of industrial users who have been in significant noncompliance with applicable Pretreatment Standards or other applicable requirements. For the purpose of this provision, significant noncompliance is defined under 40 CFR 403.8 (f)(2)(vii) as:

A. Chronic violations of wastewater discharge limits, defined as those in which sixty-six percent or more of the measurements taken during a six month period exceed (by any magnitude) the daily maximum limit or the same average limit for the same pollutant parameter;

B. Technical Review Criteria (TRC) violations, defined as those in which thirty-three percent or more of all the measurements for each pollutant parameter taken during a six month period equal or exceed the product of the daily maximum limit or the average limit multiplied by the applicable TRC (TRC=1.4 for BOD, TSS, fats, oil, grease, and 1.2 for all other pollutants except pH);

C. Any other violation or violations of a pretreatment effluent limit (daily maximum or longer term average) that the Control Authority determines has caused, alone or in combination with other discharges, interference or pass-through (including or endangering the health of POTW personnel or the public);

D. Any discharge of a pollutant that has caused imminent endangerment to human health/welfare or to the environment or has resulted in the POTWs exercise of its emergency authority, under 40 CFR 403.8 paragraph (f)(1)(vi)(B) of this section to halt or prevent such a discharge;

E. Failure to meet, within 90 days after the schedule date, a compliance schedule milestone contained in a local control mechanism or enforcement order for starting construction, completing construction, or attaining final compliance;

F. Failure to provide reports within 30 days from the due date, required reports such as baseline monitoring reports, 90 day compliance reports, periodic self-monitoring reports, and reports on compliance with compliance schedules;

G. Failure to accurately report noncompliance;

H. Any other violation or group of violations which the control authority determines will adversely affect the operation or implementation of the local pretreatment program.

The City Of Santa Monica has found the following industrial facilities within its borders to have been in significant noncompliance with applicable pretreatment standards during the 2008 calendar year:

St. John's Health Center
1328 22nd Street
Santa Monica, CA 90404

Santa Monica College
1900 Pico Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA 90405

CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Three thieves have bitter pill to swallow

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Over the last few weeks, detectives with the Santa Monica Police Department arrested three suspects believed responsible for stealing over $80,000 of prescription medications from a delivery man in Santa Monica. The thefts occurred at about 7:30 a.m. on Feb. 13 while the victim was making deliveries to local pharmacies. The three men allegedly got in the victim's car and ordered him to drive to El Monte. The first suspect is Jorge Arturo Fausto, 29, from South Gate. He was booked for embezzlement. The second was David Chacon, 30, from Bell Gardens. He was booked for kidnapping and robbery. His bail was set at $100,000. The third is Jesse Junior Chacon, 35, from Bell Gardens. He was booked for kidnapping and robbery. No bail was set. All men were arrested at different times.

MONDAY, MARCH 9, AT 3:54 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 2600 block of Lincoln Boulevard – Albertsons – regarding a report of a theft that just occurred. When the officers arrived, they made contact with store employees who said they observed three men and a woman steal a 12-pack of Mountain Dew soda. Officers detained the woman and two of the men as they drove out of the store's parking lot. The third man involved fled prior to the officers' arrival. The woman was not involved with the actual theft but received a citation for driving on a suspended license. The other two men were arrested and booked for commercial burglary and conspiracy to commit a crime. The third man is still at large and is described as a male white in his 20s with blonde hair, between 5 feet 5 inches and 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighing between 130 and 150 pounds. He was wearing a dark T-shirt, jeans and a brown, black and white flannel jacket. He possibly goes by the name "Gino." Anyone with information should call the Santa Monica Police Department. The two men arrested were identified as Corey Jimpson, 18, a transient and James William Slayton, 21, also a transient. No bail has been set.

MONDAY, MARCH 9, AT 11 P.M.,

Officers responded to the 2600 block of Main Street regarding a report of a man attacking passerbys with a knife. When officers arrived, a witness told them she saw a man allegedly swing an open knife at people as he walked by them on Main Street. Officers located the man in the area and took him into custody. An officer recovered the knife. The suspect was positively identified by the witness. The man was identified as Bejamin Lee Beatty, 33, a transient. He was booked for assault with a deadly weapon, exhibiting a dangerous weapon and possession of a switchblade-type knife. His bail was set at $30,000.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, AT 2:56 A.M.,

Officers responded to a report regarding a battery and vandalism. The victim told officers that a neighbor kicked in his door, entered his apartment and punched him several times. The victim was able to call the police. The altercation allegedly started over some odor coming from the victim's apartment, possibly cigarette smoke or incense. The suspect was identified as Michael Robert Cascadden, 45, from Santa Monica. He was booked for battery and felony vandalism. His bail is set at $20,000.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, AT 8:18 P.M.,

Officers responded to 1600 Appian Way regarding a report of vandalism. Witnesses told officers that a man broke into an apartment building window with his skateboard. Officers located the man in the area. When they attempted to detain him, the man allegedly resisted arrest and failed to comply with orders. He was drunk, police said. The man was positively identified by the witness. Police identified him as Levi Yitzchak Boden, 21, a transient. He was booked for vandalism, resisting arrest, public intoxication and violation of probation. He was later issued a citation and released.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, AT 4:30 P.M.,

Officers on patrol in the 500 block of Olympic Boulevard observed a man wanted in connection with an attempted burglary. The man was suspected of breaking in through an apartment window and trying the door of an apartment in the 1400 block of 12th Street in February. The man had been positively identified by the victim. Police identified him as Selethius Antwan Parker, 31, a transient. He was placed under arrest and booked for attempted burglary. Bail was set for $50,000.

Editor in Chief KEVIN HERRERA compiled these reports.





West Dressed

Mariel Howsepian
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Building the perfect man

I REMEMBER IN MY TWEENS, RIDING IN the back seat on the way home from church and telling my mother that when I became an adult, I would get a nose job. My mother said something along the lines of, "Well, when you're an adult, you can make that decision." I took that as her being supportive, her being sympathetic to my plight of having been cursed with what plastic surgery Web sites call an "ethnic" nose – my father's nose. I never did get rhinoplasty. It's not that I'm against plastic surgery. No, on the contrary, I love it. My freshman year of high school, I listened enthralled as my English teacher described how a surgeon had peeled down her face to chisel off a calcium deposit on her forehead, and then pulled her face back up like he was making a bed. Plastic surgeons, good plastic surgeons, can perform miracles.

A few weeks ago, I was forwarded a fun list: The Most Desired Features. Patients of plastic surgeons Dr. Toby Mayer and Dr. Richard Fleming bring in glossy pages torn from magazines. Give me Angelina lips, patients say. Beyonce eyes. Cheeks like Heidi Klum. I can't imagine tearing a nose out of a magazine and taking it in to a doctor the same way, in high school, I walked into a hair salon at the mall and asked for a "Rachel." But women do tear noses out of magazines, and last year, the noses most torn out belonged to Katherine Heigl, Amy Adams, and Michelle Williams. Dr. Mayer and Dr. Fleming take note of which celebs' features are most requested – they've been tracking this for the past 10 years – and put out their annual list. I have spent far too much time the past couple of weeks thinking about the list, studying the list, surfing the web for photos of celebrities, contrasting Robert Pattinson's jawline to George Clooney's. I have spent far too much time building a Franken-man.

The rule was simple: I could only use most-desired parts. Not since junior high, when I wallpapered my bedroom with "Beverly Hills 90210" posters from "Tiger Beat," have I spent so much time thinking about which pretty boy is prettiest. But here he is, my Franken-man. He has Josh Duhamel's nose, James Franco's eyes, Will Smith's chin and jawline, Wentworth Miller's lips, Johnny Depp's cheeks, and Matthew McConaughey's body. This is not the way plastic surgeons operate. In a conversation with Dr. Mayer, I asked him if he could show me on a computer what I would look like with a different nose. He said no, but his son, who is great with computers, could. Being a good plastic surgeon and being good at Photoshop are two different things.

Dr. Mayer suggests that if you want to get an idea of how you will look with plastic surgery, you should look at your plastic surgeon's work. For example, if you are considering plastic surgery from Michael Jackson's doctor, look at Michael Jackson; I most certainly don't want a nose job from that guy.

I'm over wanting a nose job at all.

Last year, I traveled to Armenia to see the country where my grandfather was born. On the first day of my vacation, my guide pointed out the car window to The Mountain of Ara, and began telling me a legend. Ara the Handsome is the Armenian equivalent of Adonis, the prettiest of pretty boys. An evil, Assyrian queen named Shamiram (also known as Semiramis) was so captivated by Ara's Photoshop-good-looks that she tried everything to woo him away from his wife and country.

Shamiram wasn't good with rejection. She decided that if she couldn't have Ara, no one could. She wanted him dead, so she declared war on Armenia, and after Ara was killed in battle, she had his body placed on a mountaintop. Some sources say that mythical dog-like creatures licked Ara back to life, but others say that Ara's body became part of the mountain. "If you look," my guide said, pointing to the mountain's peak, "you can see the nose."

Ah, the nose. The most desired nose.

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

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Calif. fight over inmate care may go to high court

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO When the quality of health care in California's sprawling prison system was first challenged in court, it seemed only a matter of time before major reforms would take hold.

Nearly two decades later, the desires of the federal courts and inmate advocates have run into a wall of political inertia.

Legislative stonewalling, California's mounting financial problems and legal counterpunches by the state have conspired to stall the most ambitious of the overhaul plans. The result is a showdown over whether federal judges can take control of a state's inmate population and order it to make costly changes to its corrections system.

The dispute seems headed for the U.S. Supreme Court.

If the state appeals to the high court, the justices will face a clash between two constitutional amendments: one that shields inmates from cruel and unusual punishment, and another protecting state sovereignty.

"How far can you go to require officials to expend money to avoid violations?" said John Oakley, a University of California, Davis law school professor who specializes in the power and jurisdiction of the courts. "It's an extremely complex situation. You've got these touchy issues of state sovereignty."

The legal challenges over California's inmate medical and mental health care systems date back to 1991 and initiated studies that found the system was indeed failing prisoners.

Some doctors, for example, reused tongue depressors, passing them from patient to patient. More recently, court-appointed medical officials say poor care contributed to the death in January 2008 of a 36-year-old developmentally disabled inmate who had the IQ of a 9-year-old. His medical records and medication were left behind during repeated transfers between prisons.

Ultimately, the courts ruled that negligence or malfeasance in the prison health care system was leading to the death of an inmate at the rate of roughly one a week.

Finding the level of care unconstitutional, a federal judge in San Francisco in 2005 appointed a receiver to oversee the medical and mental health systems and implement reforms. Improvements have followed.

The receiver has gone on a hiring binge and ordered higher salaries to fill vacancies, with many prison doctors now making about $250,000 a year. A private company runs prison pharmacies, while hundreds of millions of dollars have been redirected from the state general fund to pay for new prison medical buildings and equipment.

At California State Prison, Corcoran, kidney patients receive dialysis treatment inside a new center that costs $4 million a year to operate.

At the same time, the state has taken steps to reduce inmate overcrowding, a condition that a federal judicial panel found was the central cause of the prison system's poor medical care.

But those changes are just the beginning of the reform efforts conceived by the court-appointed receiver. What is to follow is at the heart of the legal conflict between that office and the state.

Relations began to deteriorate last June after state lawmakers and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger balked at the receiver's demand for billions of dollars to revamp California's inmate medical system.

The plan called for seven new medical facilities to treat 10,000 ailing inmates, creating a "holistic" environment that would include indoor basketball and handball courts, electronic bingo boards, stress-reduction rooms, music therapy, kitchens to teach cooking skills and outdoor gardens where inmates could relax in private.

Total cost: $8 billion, plus another $6 billion with interest over the bonds' 25-year payback period. The receiver's office has argued that if the governor and Legislature fail to approve the spending, the court could demand the money from the state treasury.

It didn't help that the receiver's plan came to light at the same time California was grappling with a $42 billion deficit and facing the prospect of massive budget shortfalls for years to come.

The result was a pushback from the Schwarzenegger administration and Attorney General Jerry Brown.

"This thing has escalated out of control. It's the most extravagant proposal for inmate health care we've ever seen in the United States," Brown, a Democrat, said in an interview. "This is a down payment on an endlessly escalating prison budget, and we've got to put a stop to it."

Brown said the receiver's plan would create a system that coddles inmates with "Cadillac care" not afforded to many California taxpayers. He calculated that the scope of the receiver's original proposal for new medical facilities would be "the equivalent of 70 Wal-Mart stores."

The state refused to approve the bonds and even a $250 million down payment to begin construction planning. Schwarzenegger went a step further in the two-year budget he signed last month, cutting $181 million from the medical receiver's office.

In addition, Brown and Schwarzenegger filed court papers seeking to abolish the receivership and wrest control of the prison medical system from the courts. A hearing on that motion is scheduled for Monday in federal court in San Francisco.

"The receiver will never get that money," the Republican governor said in a January appearance before the Sacramento Press Club. "It is outrageous, when we are seeing that programs for kids are being cut and where we have to make severe cuts in education and in health care."

The receiver, facing a public outcry over his spending plan, responded by submitting less expensive alternatives to the court.

One revision calls for building three medical facilities to treat 5,000 inmates at a cost of $2.5 billion. Operating those centers would cost a projected $480 million per year, or $96,000 per ailing inmate.

The receiver, J. Clark Kelso, said his plan is the only way to bring the state to constitutional standards of care within five years. He described his proposals as the most cost-effective way to meet the court's mandate.

"We're not building a Cadillac," he said. "We are not wasting taxpayers' dollars."

In the main legal case, a federal three-judge panel last month tentatively ruled that overcrowding was the main cause of the poor medical care. The judges are expected to order the state to release up to a third of its inmate population, but state officials promise an immediate appeal to the Supreme Court once the ruling is made final.

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Bill could lower birth control costs at colleges

BY JUSTIN POPE
Associated Press Writer

The estimated 39 percent of American college women who use birth control pills could enjoy relief from big price increases over the last two years thanks to a provision in the budget bill signed by President Barack Obama.

Students had seen prices for oral contraceptives at college health clinics shoot up two- and threefold — the apparently unintended consequence of a deficit-reduction provision that went into effect in January, 2007.

The bill Obama signed Wednesday restores an incentive for drug-makers to offer discounts for the pills, although it doesn't guarantee they will do so.

Still, college health officials were celebrating the news.

"It's been something that all of the members of the American College Health Association have been watching very closely," said Dr. Gregory Moore, director of the health service at the University of Kentucky. "There was a great deal of celebrating I'm sure."

Prior to 2007, pharmaceutical companies had a financial incentive to sell drugs at deep discounts to a range of health care providers, including college clinics. The drugmakers were also eager to attract young women to products they would stay with for years after graduation.

But the 2007 change meant the discounts counted against pharmaceutical companies in a formula that calculates the rebates they owe the states to participate in Medicaid, and the discounts stopped.

Colleges passed most of the price increases on to students — from $12 a month to around $30 at Florida State, for instance — and a few smaller colleges that couldn't buy in bulk stopped offering them altogether, forcing their students to get them at higher prices off-campus. The change prompted concerns some students might shift to less preferred contraceptives.

"For those students where they were used to getting oral contraceptives for maybe $10 a month, that quickly escalated to the $30-, $40-, $50-a-month level," Moore said. "For many college students that had a disastrous effect, and they maybe even stopped."

Whether drugmakers will again offer the discounts was still unclear.

A spokeswoman for German-based pharmaceutical company Bayer Schering Pharma AG, which makes the popular oral contraceptive Yaz, did not respond to a request for comment Thursday.

Lisa Ellen, a spokeswoman for Kenilworth, N.J.-based Schering-Plough, which makes another popular contraceptive, Desogen, said the company was reviewing the legislation and "whether and how we're going to support the college health clinics with discounted pricing."

In a statement, Planned Parenthood Federation of America president Cecile Richards called the legislation "a victory for women's health and especially for women who have struggled to afford the rising costs of basic contraception in these tough economic times."

Michelle Obama tours, mingles at NC Army base

BY MIKE BAKER
Associated Press Writer

FORT BRAGG, N.C. First lady Michelle Obama, venturing away from Washington to define her White House role, called on the American people Thursday to embrace the military families in their communities.

In her first major advocacy mission, the wife of President Barack Obama spent the afternoon visiting with soldiers and their families at North Carolina's sprawling Fort Bragg. She then told a crowd of community leaders in nearby Fayetteville that Americans need to reach out to members of the military.

"Our soldiers and their families have done their duty — and they do it without complaint," Mrs. Obama said. "And we as a grateful nation must do ours — do everything in our power to honor them by supporting them."

Mrs. Obama has said she wants to focus on military families during her time as first lady. She spent time hugging military members at a dining facility and talking with their spouses in a private session — all in a support center that had some windows boarded up with plywood.

Later she visited a classroom of kids, ages 3 to 5, at a Fort Bragg child development center. She gave an animated reading of "The Cat in the Hat" — a book she used to read to her daughters — and then did a few minutes of crafts with kids preparing "Thank You" cards for wounded soldiers.

"Military family members have their own special courage and strength," she said later.

To emphasize her commitment to the military community, Mrs. Obama also gave her first network television interview since the couple took office, sitting down at Fort Bragg with ABC's "Good Morning America." She said in her speech that military members aren't just confined to bases and the surrounding community, noting that the families of National Guard and Army Reserve personnel are struggling to cope in all parts of the country.

"I encourage everyone out there, within the sound of my voice, to reach out on your own — through schools, PTA, Little Leagues, churches, workplaces — and find out if there's a soldier or a soldier's family right there in the community who needs a little extra support," Mrs. Obama said in her speech. "They're there. Something as simple as offering help with car pool duty can make the world of difference to a parent who's trying to hold the family together during a very stressful time."

Sgt. 1st Class Ashlyn Lewis, 31, of Indianapolis, said it was a remarkable experience to see the first lady in the cafeteria at Fort Bragg. She said the Obamas have a lot of work ahead of them to shore up deficiencies in the military's medical system.

"Right now the biggest concern would be taking care of the vets, making sure that the people that are coming home are getting the proper medical care — not just for the Iraqi or Afghanistan vets, but also, there are a lot of Vietnam vets who haven't been receiving the proper care," Lewis said. The Obamas are "headed in the right direction," Lewis added, "but it's going to be a lot of work."



White House to monitor spending

FROM NO DEAL PAGE 1

earlier this month.

State Sen. George Runner of Lancaster, the top Republican on the Banking, Finance and Insurance Committee, said the behind-the-scenes horse trading went far beyond the intent of the massive stimulus spending package.

With billions of stimulus dollars expected in the state, "This will only be the tip of the iceberg when we talk about how stimulus money is spent," Runner predicted. Oversight "will be like Swiss cheese."

Disclosure of the attempted cash swaps came shortly before the Obama administration Thursday implored state officials to carefully spend their slice of the $787 billion economic stimulus package. "If we see money being misspent, we're going to put a stop to it," Obama warned a White House conference.

The mix-up in the nation's most populous county amounted to a cautionary tale about what can happen when millions of dollars in government aid floods local communities. Assemblyman Roger Niello, R-Fair Oaks, the highest-ranking Republican on the chamber's Budget Committee, called the proposed exchanges "dangerous beyond description."

The stimulus funds were being offered for cash trades for as little as 61 cents on the dollar.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority is set to distribute at least $215 million in stimulus funds for infrastructure projects among the county's 88 cities, with each getting at least $500,000. But some smaller communities didn't have projects ready or couldn't meet restrictions in the law, so with the MTA's blessing looked to make a swap.

Bradbury, with a population of 1,000, was working on a deal to sell $500,000 in stimulus dollars to the city of Torrance in exchange for $315,000 for its general fund.

Irwindale, which has about 1,500 residents, was contacted by at least four other cities to swap its $500,000 stimulus allotment. The city hoped to make a trade with Westlake Village for $325,000.

Irwindale is facing a nearly $3 million budget gap, and City Manager Robert Griego said he wanted to use the cash to avoid layoffs.



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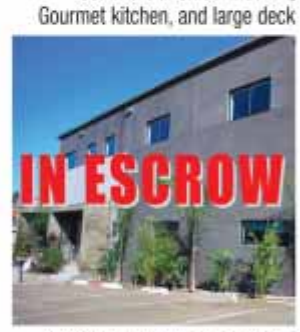
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New VP brings construction bond experience to SMC

FROM VP PAGE 3

ground running."

During her time at De Anza College, Hawk oversaw several capital construction projects that were funded by two voter-approved bond measures, including one in 2006 that brought in $490 million.

The college recently unveiled the new Visual and Performing Arts Center, a building that came in both on time and under budget.

"She oversaw all the relations with the architects, the building management, the technology," said De Anza College President Brian Murphy. "She and one of the colleagues were the ones who were almost in weekly meetings with everyone to make sure it all happened."

The experience could come in handy at Santa Monica College where a series of construction projects, funded by a $295 million bond measure that was approved by voters last year, are expected to break ground over the next several years.

SMC officials are currently working on the development plans for the bond.

But the biggest challenge occupying Hawk's time over the next few months might very well be the budget, an issue aggravated by rising enrollment at the college.

"A lot of my time right now is understanding how the state budget crisis will be affecting Santa Monica College's funding and what the college will have to do differently in response to budget conditions at this point in time."

Hawk comes to the college with more than 23 years of experience in financial management.

After graduating from the University of California, Irvine, Hawk worked 15 years in Orange County for various electronics businesses, focusing mostly on the business side of operations, serving at times as supervisor, financial analyst and controller.

Seeking a change in environment, Hawk later moved to Southern Oregon where she opened a bead and ethnic arts store, trying to explore her creative side.

Bored by the business, she decided to return to school and enrolled in Southern Oregon University, eventually earning a masters in business administration.

It was in Oregon where Hawk began her career in post-secondary education, joining the administration at Rogue Community College, working in various positions from associate dean of business services to student services director over a seven-year period.

About five years ago, Hawk moved back to the San Francisco Bay Area to work at De Anza College.

Going for the business and administration job in Santa Monica was a natural next step.

"There's a few elite community colleges in the state and Santa Monica is one of them," she said. "Just in terms of my own professional growth, I thought SMC would be an appropriate next step."

melodyh@smdp.com

Chief warns statistics don't tell whole story

FROM **CRIME** PAGE 1

do have an effect on crime and we have made some changes in our model that have paid some dividends, but it is really the partnerships that we have built that have made a difference. We work well with the community and that shows with positive results."

That being said, Jackman and others familiar with crime statistics said the numbers do not tell the whole story.

"What you are seeing in Santa Monica is a reduction in stats, not necessarily a reduction in crime," said Malcolm Klein, the former director of the Social Science Research Institute at the University of Southern California who specializes in gangs.

Many crimes are not reported, Klein said, which skews overall statistics.

Jackman agrees, yet feels the stats do provide some insight into what is happening on the streets and in the region. Instead of looking at exact numbers, Jackman prefers to identify a range to see if certain crimes are occurring at or around what is the norm based on decades of data. While it may seem shocking to see homicides jump 33 percent in '08, looking closely at the stats shows that the increase isn't as significant as it initially looks given the small number of murders in Santa Monica.

In '08 there were four homicides compared with three in 2007. Jackman said both numbers are within the norm for Santa Monica, which has experienced a high of 10 to 12 homicides a year to a low of one or two.

Jackman believes the dip in Part 1 crime has a lot to do with connecting the homeless to services, getting them off the streets where they are often easy targets.

He also believes the new community policing model instituted in January of '08, where each beat is assigned a Neighborhood Resource Officer or mini-sheriff, has led to more reporting of crimes, more collaboration with residents, and in turn, more arrests.

Targeting the homeless is key, Jackman said, because they represent 40 to 50 percent of arrests made. They are also responsible for a higher level of violent crimes. For example, if two men get into an argument over a bottle of booze and one man uses a stick to attack the other, the result is an assault with a deadly weapon and robbery, two serious offenses.

Jackman believes the decrease in the homeless population (8 percent according to the citywide count conducted in January) has led to a decrease in crime. With a large percentage of the homeless population suffering from mental illness, addiction or both, Jackman said it is crucial to get them off the streets where they are often victims.

"You have to look at the homeless population in two ways," the chief said. "You have people who need help and those who contribute to the crime problem … predatory people who are trying to be invisible, parolees, those on probation, sex offenders."

Jackman last year hired Ron Hooks of West Coast Care to reach out to the homeless along with the SMPD's Homeless Liaison Program team and city staff in the Human Services Division. Hooks' contract is for $250,000 and ends this month. Jackman said he will "definitely" bring Hooks and his team back. Jackman praised the work of Hooks, his officers, city staff and social service providers.

When it comes to the Neighborhood Resource Officers, Jackman pointed to Artis Williams, who covers the Sunset Park beat. There were a string of burglaries during August of last year that targeted the homes of Sunset Park residents. Working with the neighborhood group Friends of Sunset Park, Williams was able to identify what time of day the majority of burglaries were occurring and assign officers to hot spots. Neighbors also began looking out for one another and seemed no longer hesitant to contact police if they saw a suspicious person milling about.

"It's all about building better relationships with the community," Williams said. "In the past residents may have seen something but didn't think they should bother the police with it or didn't know who to talk to. Some may have been intimidated. But now they have a direct line of contact where they can call or e-mail me."

Zina Josephs, president of Friends of Sunset Park, said the NRO program has been a big help.

"We can phone or e-mail our NRO … and know that we will be treated with respect, that he will not dismiss our concerns, and that his focus is specifically on our neighborhood," Josephs said.

"Learning to trust our own instincts and feeling comfortable in contacting the police immediately can make all the difference in keeping our neighborhood safe," she added. "There's still stuff going on, auto burglaries, etc., but it feels like more of a partnership between the community and the police than before the NRO program was put in place by Chief Jackman."

Klein said the key to good community policing is knowing the neighborhoods intimately. While meeting with Jackman and some of the officers when the chief first arrived in Santa Monica, Klein said he was impressed with how familiar many officers were with the gang problem in the Pico Neighborhood.

The Sunset Park burglaries picked up in August and within a few weeks several suspects were arrested, Williams said.

By the numbers

When looking at the stats closely, it is clear that not all crime went down. Larcenies remained relatively the same, with just a slight increase in 2008. There were 2,104 larcenies reported in '08 compared to 2,099 in '07. The majority were between $50-$200. Most involved pickpockets and thefts from autos. Shoplifting increased by 16 percent while bicycle thefts jumped 40 percent.

In the aggravated assaults category, there were 293 incidents reported last year compared to 328 in '07 for a drop of 11 percent. Robberies were down 8 percent, with 218 reported in '08. Burglaries were down by 18 percent. The use of a firearm when committing an assault or robbery were also down considerably, 42 percent and 38 percent respectively.

Overall, crime continues to decline in '09, Jackman said, but he has seen a spike in auto burglaries and thefts over the last few months, particularly around the Third Street Promenade between California and Colorado avenues. The Ocean Park neighborhood has also seen a spike.

Jackman urges drivers to remove all valuables from their cars, including laptops, navigation devices and iPods, which are easy to steal.

kevinh@smdp.com





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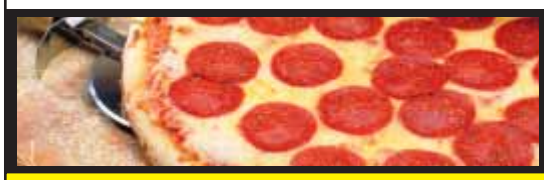
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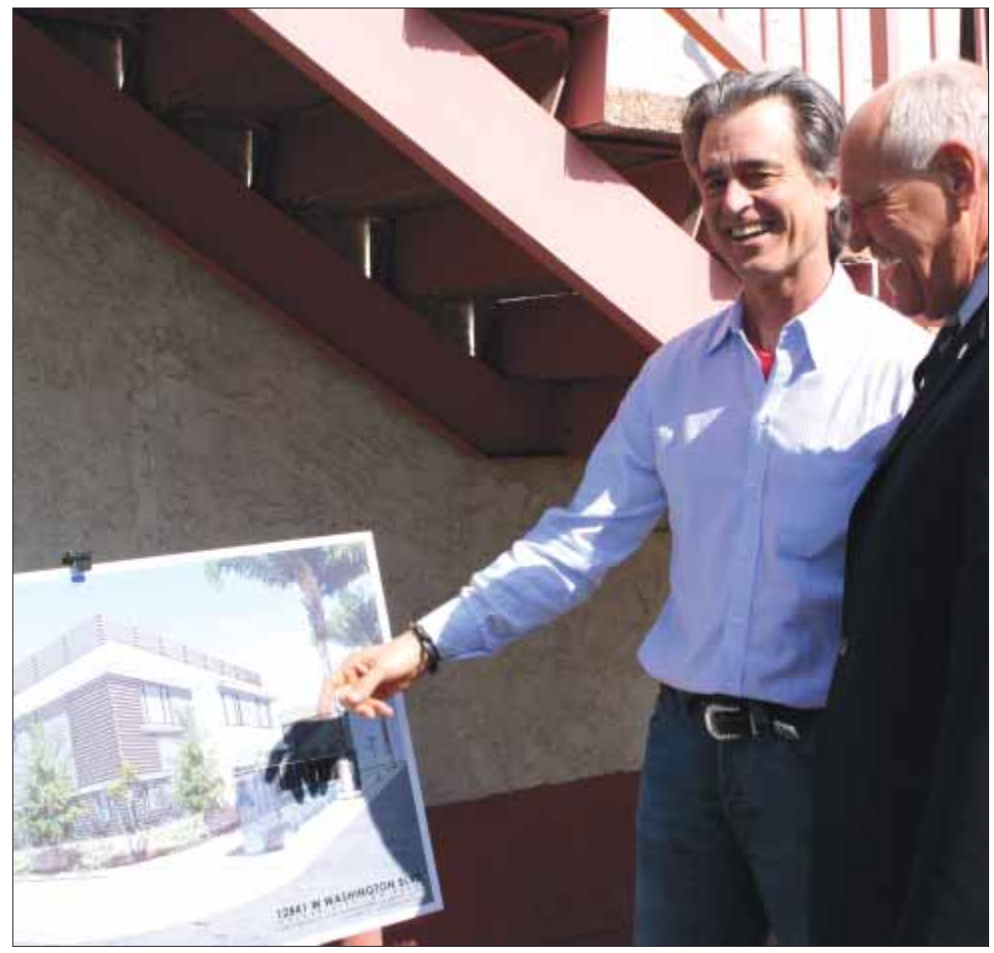
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Ray Solano *news@smdp.com*

NEW DIGS: **Santa Monica City Councilmember Bobby Shriver and Los Angeles Councilman Bill Rosendahl take a look at a rendering of the future Upward Bound House Family Center in Culver City on Thursday. The project is estimated to cost $4 million and provide 18 units of emergency housing.**

Family shelter example of regional approach to end homelessness

FROM **HOME** PAGE 1

Upward Bound House.

Estimated to cost $4 million, the new shelter will provide 18 units of emergency housing for homeless families and children, serving an estimated 210 people every year. In addition to private donations, the project will be funded by various Westside city governments, including Beverly Hills, Los Angeles and Santa Monica City Hall, which has provided about $400,000. Both Supervisors Zev Yaroslavsky and Mark Ridley-Thomas' offices have also provided funding. Ridley-Thomas' district includes Culver City.

The project has been touted as one of the ways in which city officials are trying to take a regional approach to tackling the homeless issue.

"This is a wonderful example of what we're trying to achieve," Santa Monica Human Services Manager Julie Rusk said.

Santa Monica City Hall recently participated in the 2009 Homeless Count, which was held in conjunction with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's countywide survey.

The count, which involved physically tallying individuals living on the streets during a given night, found an 8 percent drop from 2007.

Officials during the ground breaking pointed out that the homeless issue is expected to deepen as more families lose the ability to pay their mortgages and rent.

"Now more than ever we need a facility like Upward Bound House," Culver City Mayor Scott Malsin said.

Yaroslavsky, whose district includes Santa Monica, said that homelessness was not one of his top priorities until his daughter several years ago spent a summer working for the city of Oakland and called her father about how she just spent 20 minutes talking to a homeless man on Telegraph Avenue.

Hundreds of people walked by the pair during those 20 minutes and not one engaged in eye contact.

In the course of hearing the story from his daughter, Yaroslavsky was struck when he realized that he too would not have made eye contact.

"One of the things that society as a whole has not made is eye contact," he said.

Upward Bound House was founded in 1991 by the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica, which incorporated the nondenominational community service agency. The organization started with a pilot transitional housing program in a small four-unit apartment building and expanded in 1996 with the construction of Family Place.

Among the success stories is Kimberly Valentine, who came to Upward Bound House in 2004 to escape an abusive relationship.

She spent about seven months in the program and began taking culinary courses at the Art Institute of Los Angeles in Santa Monica. Today she is the owner of her own catering company, Miss Valentine's Katering.

Valentine catered the ground-breaking ceremony.

"Upward Bound House was great for me," she said. "It offered me encouragement when I didn't feel it from anywhere else."

melodyh@smdp.com

Scientists warn of 'irreversible' climate shifts

BY JAN M. OLSEN
Associated Press Writer

COPENHAGEN Hundreds of leading scientists warned Thursday that global warming is accelerating beyond the worst predictions and threatening to trigger "irreversible" climate shifts on the planet.

Saying there's no excuse for inaction, the nearly 2,000 climate researchers meeting in Copenhagen urged policy-makers to "vigorously" implement the economic and technological tools available to cut emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases.

Their stark message came at the end of a three-day conference aimed at updating the findings of a 2007 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change before U.N. talks in December on a new global climate treaty.

"The worst-case IPCC scenario trajectories (or even worse) are being realized," the scientists said in a statement. "There is a significant risk that many of the trends will accelerate, leading to an increasing risk of abrupt or irreversible climatic shifts."

The climate change panel predicted a sea level rise of 7 to 23 inches (18 to 59 centimeters) by the end of the century, which could flood low-lying areas and force millions to flee. But more recent research presented at the conference suggested that melting glaciers and ice sheets could help push the sea level up at least 20 inches (50 centimeters), and possibly as much as 39 inches (1 meter).

"Recent observations show that societies are highly vulnerable to even modest levels of climate change with poor nations and communities particularly at risk," the statement said.

It noted that policy-makers already have a range of tools to mitigate global warming. "But they must be vigorously and widely implemented to achieve the societal transformation required to de-carbonize economies," it said.

The conclusions of the congress will be presented to politicians when they meet in Copenhagen in December to discuss a new global agreement on greenhouse gas emissions to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2012.

"We know from scientific evidence that climate change is a reality and that climate change will have damaging effects on the economy all over the world," said Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen, one of the politicians attending the scientific conference. "Therefore we need an agreement and we need an agreement this year."

Earlier Thursday, British economist Nicholas Stern, the author of a major British government report detailing the cost of climate change, told the conference that the global recession presents an opportunity to build a more energy-efficient economy.

"Coming out of this we have got to lay the foundations for a low-carbon growth, which is going to be like the railways, like the electricity, like the motorcars, this is going to be over the next two, three decades the big driver in investment," Stern said.

Stern said green investments make sense because energy-efficient economies will be more sustainable in the future.

"We know from this crisis that if we postpone looking risk in the face, it will bite us much more deeply," he said.

Greek terror group: Citibank attacked over crisis

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATHENS A Greek militant group threatened in a statement published Thursday to continue its bombing campaign, saying recent attacks against Citibank were in response to the international financial crisis.

The Pontiki weekly newspaper published a statement from the Revolutionary Struggle group, which claimed responsibility for a failed car-bomb attack Feb. 18 on Citibank offices in Athens and a bomb attack Monday on a suburban Citibank branch that caused damage but no injuries.

Authorities did not immediately comment on the statement but they have not questioned its authenticity. The newspaper has been used by the militant group in the past to publish proclamations.

In the Feb. 18 attack, a stolen car was found packed with explosives outside Citibank offices north of the Greek capital. But the time-bomb — considered powerful enough to destroy the four-story building — failed to detonate.

In the statement, the militant group argued the American bank is part of a "criminal network of international capital" responsible for the financial crisis. It said the bomb contained 125 kilograms (276 pounds) of explosives.

The group said it had tried to warn authorities to avoid casualties by telephoning a newspaper. Police did not say they had received a warning.

Revolutionary Struggle has carried out more than a dozen bomb and shooting attacks since 2003, including the firing of a rocket-propelled grenade into the U.S. Embassy in Athens in 2007.

Greece considers the group a terrorist organization, and the U.S. government is offering $1 million for information that leads to the arrest of Revolutionary Struggle members in connection with the embassy attack.

The militant group vowed to continue to carry out time-bomb attacks against the country's "political and economic elite and the apparatus of capitalism and the state," and would issue warnings to the media.

Greece has faced attacks by domestic terrorists for decades, but major groups were broken up before the 2004 summer Olympics in Athens.

But new groups have appeared in recent years and attacks have increased this year following major riots in December over the police shooting of a teenage boy.

On Wednesday, a daily newspaper published a leaked police document detailing heightened security measures for possible terrorist targets, including many prominent journalists.

Four senior officers at the police's anti-terrorism division were suspended over the leak pending an investigation, authorities said.

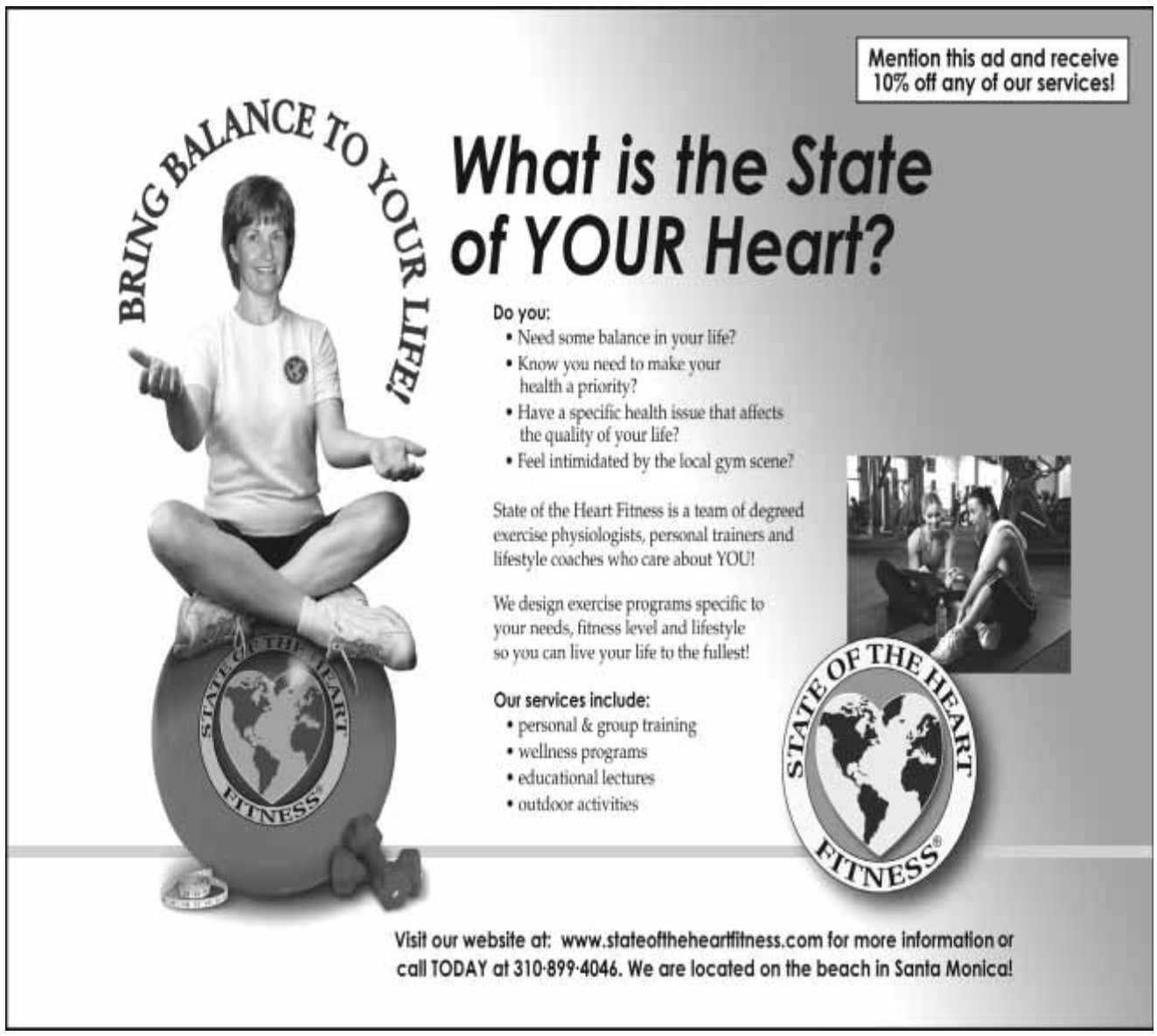
City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

DATE/TIME: March 16, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:
- ARB 09-028, 1761 Sunset Avenue: Single Family Residential
- ARB 09-100, 2118 Wilshire Boulevard: Commercial
- ARB 09-107, 314 Santa Monica Boulevard: Commercial

More information is available on-line at http://santa-monica.org/planning/planningcomm/arbagendas.htm or at 310/458-8341 en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail planning@santa-monica.org, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The request a disability-related accommodation, please contact 310-458-8341 or TTY 310-450-8896 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 & 9, serve City Hall.







NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

SUBJECT: **Review of Bloomingdale's Remodel of existing Macy's Building**

Bloomingdale's proposes interior and exterior remodeling of the existing 151,000 square foot Macy's building at the northwest corner of Fourth Street and Colorado Avenue. As the project site is within the Downtown Redevelopment Project Area, the Redevelopment Agency must review the proposed project for consistency with the Downtown Redevelopment Plan. The Agency will review this project on March 24, 2009.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, March 24, 2009 AT 6:45 PM**

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The Agency encourages public comment. You may comment at the public hearing on the above date and time, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the Agency at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: Bloomingdale's Remodel Project
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

City of Santa Monica

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project, please contact Sarah Lejeune at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at sarah.lejeune@SMGOV.net.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and the Tide Ride serve City Hall.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Peter James en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

WNBA

LA Sparks sign WNBA veteran Tina Thompson

BY BETH HARRIS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Tina Thompson was a player without a team. Now, the WNBA veteran is coming home to join the Los Angeles Sparks, wearing No. 32 in honor of Magic Johnson.

Her signing was announced Thursday, 3 months after Thompson's former team, the Houston Comets, was disbanded.

"It's a pleasure to be home again," she said after being greeted by applause at a news conference. "I've been away quite a while now. The feelings are a little overwhelming. I never expected to be in this position."

She starred at Morningside High in nearby Inglewood before going on to Southern California where she and new teammate Lisa Leslie played together. Thompson is the WNBA's second-leading career scorer behind Leslie.

Thompson, who was the league's No. 1 overall draft pick in its inaugural season of 1997, averaged 18.1 points and 6.9 rebounds for the Comets last season.

She was expecting to finish her career in Houston. Instead, the franchise shut down in December when new owners couldn't be found.

"It was a complete shock," Thompson said. "It was definitely disappointing because the history in Houston was so rich."

The 34-year-old forward led the Comets to four league championships, while averaging 16.3 points and 6.7 rebounds during her 12-year pro career.

"I was very close to retiring. I wanted to end everything there," she said.

Thompson said she had discussions with San Antonio, Connecticut and Washington before signing a multiyear deal with the Sparks. Financial terms were not disclosed.

"I will take it as it goes and re-evaluate at the end of the year," she said, patting her 3-year-old son Dylan, whose head rested in his mom's lap.

Family played a big part in Thompson's decision to come home. Her mother, who lived in Houston during the season, lives in Los Angeles, as does her 89-year-old grandmother, who attends Thompson's games.

"My basketball ties are very strong here," she said. "There's nothing like being at home."

Leslie figured in Thompson's decision, too.

"Lisa kind of cornered me at All-Star weekend in Phoenix," she said. "I had to decide whether I wanted to play again. I was so burned out and I had played so much basketball and I was tired."

Thompson's presence makes the Sparks the first WNBA team to have four Olympians on their roster. Along with Leslie, Candace Parker and DeLisha Milton-Jones helped the U.S. win a gold medal at the Beijing Games.

Parker, last season's rookie of the year and league MVP, is expecting her first child and is expected to miss at least part of the season that begins in June.

"The acquisition of Tina Thompson obviously puts me back in the hot seat," Sparks coach Michael Cooper said. "I'm not going to go as far as saying I'm guaranteeing a championship, but I believe every year we can win a championship."

Los Angeles won back-to-back WNBA titles in 2001 and '02.

"Tina, you've always been on my wish list," general manager Penny Toler said. "It's going to be great. We're about to make a run."

Thompson will be wearing No. 32, with Johnson's blessing. His number is retired and hangs in the rafters at Staples Center, where the Sparks and Lakers play.

"I've always been a big fan of Tina's going back to her days here at USC," Johnson said in a statement. "With her championship experience down in Houston, she has what it takes to help Lisa, Coop and the Sparks bring a championship back to L.A."

Thompson said she'll have no problem playing alongside Leslie, who figures to get most of the attention in what will be her final season before retiring.

"I'm probably the opposite of Lisa when it comes to the idea of the press and the attention," she said, adding that she tried to discourage the Sparks from having a news conference to announce her signing.

Thompson's appearance Thursday was low-key, with no trace of her famous red lipstick on her unadorned lips.

"I only wear the lipstick during games," she said, smiling.

MLB

Dodgers 'curious' about Pedro Martinez

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX Pedro Martinez has caught the attention of Los Angeles Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti.

Colletti said Thursday at spring training that he is "curious" about the possibility of filling the team's fifth spot in the rotation with the free agent right-hander. Martinez pitched six innings of one-hit ball for the Dominican Republic in the World Baseball Classic last week.

Manager Joe Torre calls Martinez a tough competitor who may not have the velocity he once had, but has the know-how and ability to keep a hitter off-balance.

"With his history, and I've had firsthand experience facing him so many times, he's a tough competitor," Torre said. "He was the best in this game at one time. Just from what little I've seen of him, he may not have the velocity he once had, but he certainly has the know-how and the ability to keep the hitter off-balance."

The 37-year-old, three-time Cy Young Award winner broke in with the Dodgers in 1992 and was traded to Montreal for Delino DeShields a year later.

Injuries have limited Martinez over the past three seasons with the New York Mets.

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SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP:** 57°

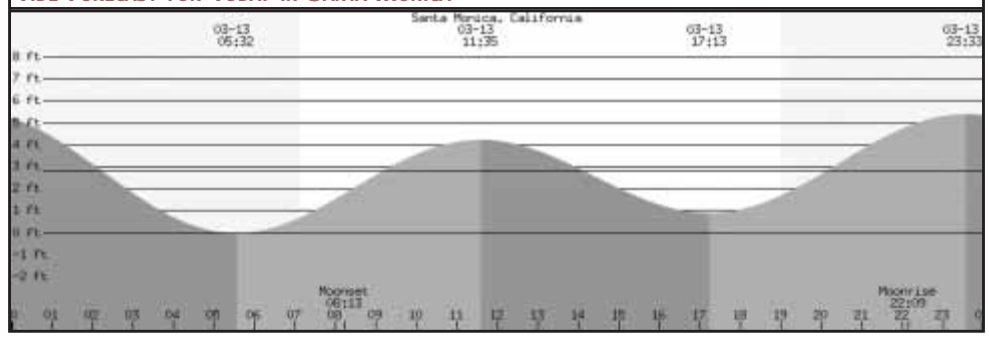
SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)

Friday the 13th the NW swell should back off to waist high. The southern hemi should back off as well, but, it's likely that we'd start seeing some 18- to 20-second period forerunners from the weekend swell.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SATURDAY THE 14TH IS WHEN THE FIRST SWATH OF SOUTHERLY SWELL IS DUE FROM THE ANTARCTIC-PITCAIRN SYSTEMS MENTIONED ABOVE IN THE SYNOPSIS.

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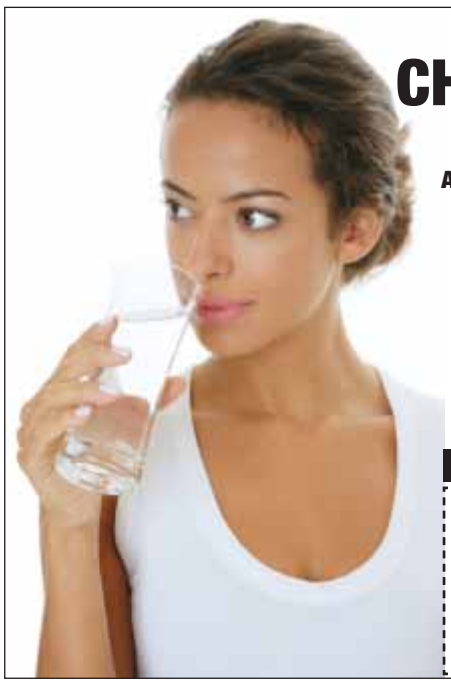
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BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 16
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 42 / 5
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 42

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

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

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

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

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Robert Mulligan Memorial Tribute:
The Man in the Moon (NR) 1hr 39min
Films start at 7:30 p.m.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

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

Fuel (NR) 1hr 55min
1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 10:00

The Reader (R) 2hrs 02min
1:55, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30

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

Coraline 3d (PG) 1hr 40min
11:10 a.m., 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

Coraline (PG) 1hr 40min
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:25

The Last House on the Left (R) 1hr 49min
11:20 a.m., 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10

Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) 1hr 52min
11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 10:20

Miss March (R) 1hr 30min
10:50 a.m., 1:10, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:30

Race to Witch Mountain
11:00 a.m., 12:15, 1:30, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 6:30, 7:45, 9:00, 10:15

Gran Torino (R) 1hr 56min
11:05 a.m., 10:40, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00

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

Slumdog Millionare (R) 2hr 1min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

The Class (Entre les murs) (PG-13) 2hrs 08min
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

Gomorrah (Gomorra) (NR) 2hrs 17min
1:40, 4:50, 8:00

Shermans Way (NR) 1hr 37min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45

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

Taken (PG-13) 1hr 33min
12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 9:50

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

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

Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail (PG-13) 1hr 43min
11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00

Watchmen (R) 2hrs 43min
1:30, 5:00, 8:30

Watchmen, Digital projection (R) 2hrs 43min
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30

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

Get some ZZZs, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You could feel out of sorts. Listen to your instincts. Perhaps you need to call it an early day. A meeting could be too important to cancel. A personal conversation might be as effective as a meeting. Tonight: Visit with a loved one over dinner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Don't try to incorporate too much into your day. Consider an older friend, relative or boss's suggestion. Though there could be some vagueness attached to the idea, that is OK. Allow your creativity to fill in the gaps. Tonight: Listen to a partner's grievances.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Rethink an agreement that could be a bit uncomfortable. If you had to do it over again, how would you? You just might have that second chance. Your high energy helps you through a jam or a situation. Tonight: TGIF could end early!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Deal with a personal matter, especially if it encumbers your thinking or ability to get through the workday. A partner might be vague, but don't read anything more into this behavior than just that. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Though your words generally work magic, a partner could become impatient or testy. Keep pushing yourself hard. You might want to do something very different from in the past, but don't think you will get unanimous approval! Tonight: Hang out with friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Curb spending. You could be taken aback by someone's ideas and how nebulous he or she might be. Perhaps you might need to make this person's concept practical and concrete. Tonight: Run errands and return calls, and then decide.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by a child or loved one. On another level, you could be amused. Keeping a straight face might be close to impossible. If you feel awkward about an emotional situation, don't worry. Tonight: Go for your happiness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You radiate confidence. Others might even think you know more than you do. Keeping your own counsel is the best choice. Confusion about a family or personal matter cannot be changed right now, even if you would like to. Tonight: Nap and then start your weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ A meeting helps you focus on your goals and directions. You could be overwhelmed by everything that you are sensing, on top of what you are hearing. Tap into your strong organizational skills. Tonight: Call it an early night.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Once more, you get a lion's share of work done. You could question what would be possible if you had more support. Someone might be presenting a financial matter or a risk in an extremely positive light. Tonight: You could go till the wee hours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You feel inspired, and hopefully you can help others relax and see the big picture concerning key issues. Consider buying a table fountain (odd as it might sound) or taking a walk by water to become even more creative and centered. Tonight: Go off and follow through on that very different plan.

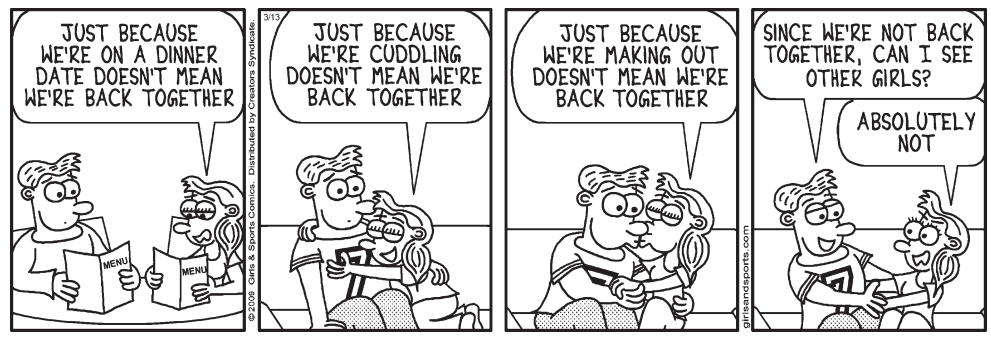
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Working with one associate at a time helps you get over the hump or a problem. The majority might rule in a meeting, whereas individually, you have a greater impact. Tonight: With a special person.

Happy birthday

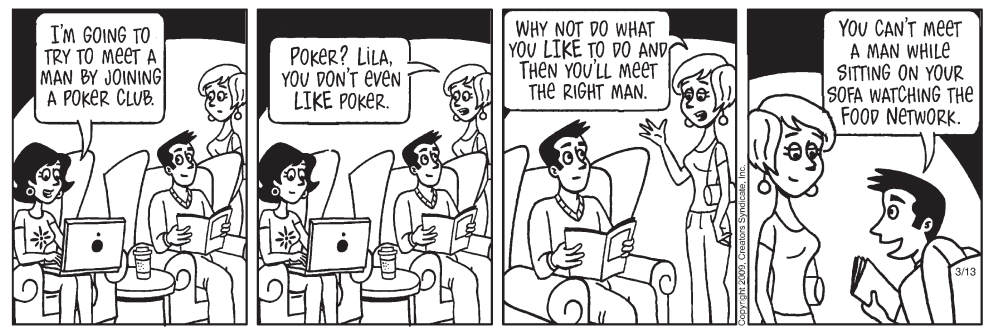
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★ Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year, your greatest strength is relating on an individual level. You can help others see your perspective. Meetings might not be as easy. Listen to your intuition. More often than not, it points to a powerful path. If you are single, the person you are attracted to might not be emotionally available. Be smart and take your time getting to know this person. If you are attached, start sharing more of your dreams with your sweetie. Long walks together also feed your bond. SCORPIO nearly always has a different point of view.

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



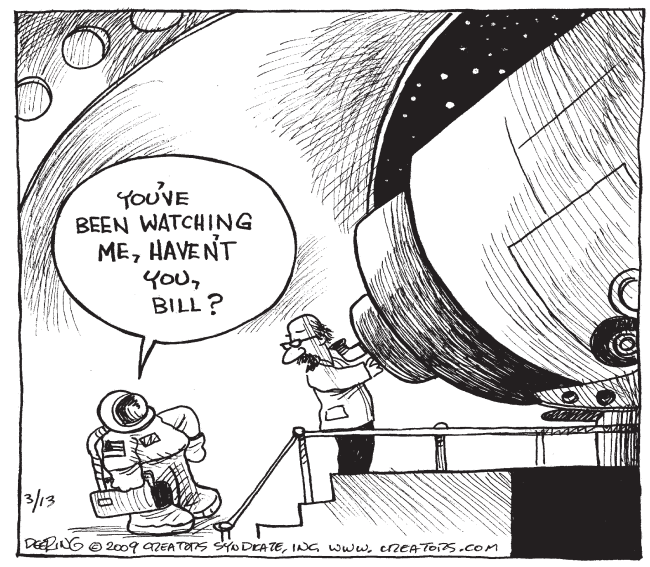
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



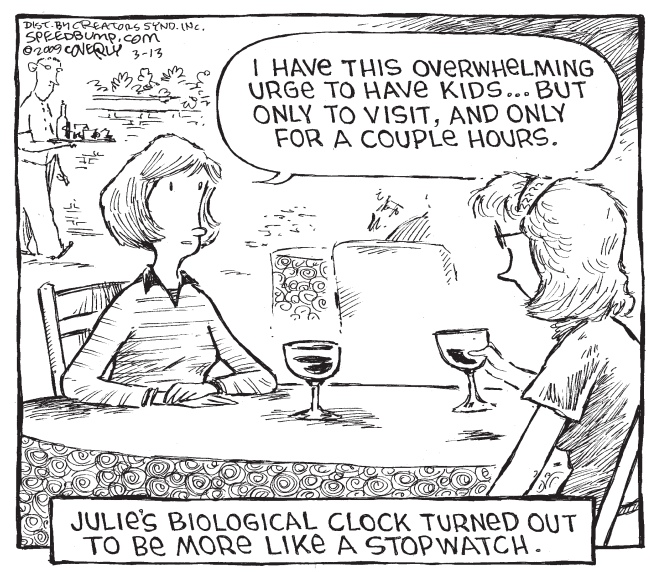
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Robot part
6 Duel count
11 Hiker's path
12 Skirt
13 Snared, as a steer
14 Swift
15 Musical princess
16 Recipe amount
18 Simile bit
19 Ab's neighbor
20 Switch settings
21 Dupe
22 Paper worker
24 Bowling target
25 Michigan neighbor
27 Brood
29 Traffic jams
32 Auditor's org.
33 Gun
34 Galleon setting
35 Collins base
36 Pindar piece
37 Dissenter's vote
38 Frost creations
40 Miniature
42 Commercial cow
43 Follow
44 Comfy spots
45 Takes ten

DOWN

1 Rank indicator
2 Worn down
3 Greedy quality
4 Compete
5 Codger
6 Criminals, in police slang
7 Frank's second wife
8 Roomy quality
9 Light pioneer
10 Some cars
17 Like some indie films
23 Blasting stuff
24 Slapstick weapon
26 Rosie, for one
27 Messy room
28 Colorful bird
30 Gorp bit
31 Be agreeable
33 Derby prize
39 Cambridge sch.
41 Hydrocarbon suffix

L	O	S	E	R	■	S	P	R	A	T
A	P	P	L	E	■	K	O	A	L	A
S	T	A	M	P	■	U	N	D	E	R
■	■	C	O	L	O	N	Y	■	■	■
M	A	E	■	A	R	K	■	S	O	W
A	L	P	A	C	A	■	A	P	S	E
C	L	O	S	E	T	S	P	A	C	E
A	I	R	S	■	I	C	E	C	A	P
W	E	T	■	F	O	R	■	E	R	S
■	■	■	P	I	N	O	A	K	■	■
R	E	M	I	X	■	O	L	E	O	S
I	R	A	T	E	■	G	A	Y	L	E
P	A	N	T	S	■	E	S	S	E	X

Yesterday's answer

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

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

3-13

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 2 27 31 39 40 Meganumber: 23 Jackpot: $26M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 8 15 34 38 47 Meganumber: 2 Jackpot: $20M

Fantasy 5: 7 9 15 26 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 6 6 EVENING: 3 8 1

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 01 Gold Rush 2nd: 12 Lucky Charms 3rd: 08 Gorgeous George RACE TIME: 1.49.79

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

■ A state-of-the-judiciary report in February by Chief Justice AP Shah of the High Court in Delhi, India, estimated that the backlog of cases in the country's notoriously sluggish legal system would take up to "466 years" to clear. Shah acknowledged that progress had been made since 2007, with 56,000 cases cleared, at an average time of five minutes per case, but that systemic problems remained, among them corruption, the complexity of laws and the low quality of judicial personnel. (One property case from the 1950s was not resolved until the mid-1990s.)

■ In February, at the 500th annual celebration of the Buddhist Saidaiji Eyo festival (reputed to be one of Japan's three "oddest"), about 9,000 men dressed only in loincloths tussled over two pieces of sacred wood that were thrown into what the Kyodo news service called a "writhing throng" of men at a temple in Okayama. Those who somehow emerged with the 8-inch-long planks will supposedly have good luck this year.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1964 bar manager Catherine "Kitty" Genovese, 28, was stabbed to death near her home in the New York City borough of Queens; the case generated controversy over the supposed failure of Genovese's neighbors to respond to her cries for help.

1969 the Apollo 9 astronauts splashed down, ending a mission that included the successful testing of the lunar module.

1980 Ford Motor Co. Chairman Henry Ford II announced he was stepping down, the same day a jury in Winamac, Ind., found his company innocent of reckless homicide in the fiery deaths of three young women in a Ford Pinto.

1988 yielding to student protests, the board of trustees of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., a liberal arts college for the hearing-impaired, chose I. King Jordan to become the school's first deaf president.

1996 a gunman burst into an elementary school in Dunblane, Scotland, and opened fire, killing 16 children and one teacher before killing himself.

WORD UP!

tetchy \TECH-ee\, *adjective*: Peevish; testy; irritable.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Auction

ABSOLUTE AUCTION - Tehachapi Land (probate sale) Last bid wins! No Reserve. Online bidding available. March 20 @ noon. www.AuctionCA.com. Elite Auctions (661)325-6500. (Cal-SCAN)

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501 N. Venice unit 120 single, $1125/mo $300 off move-in stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

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

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PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #202/205 $1095 1+1 upper, stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets.$300 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

Venice 608 Santa Clara 2+ 1 1/2 bath townhouse style, newly remodeled, bamboo/marble floors, washer/dryer, stove, refrigerator, granite countertops, blinds, parking, pets OK $2500 (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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RAPTIVA INJURY ALERT! The Psoriasis prescription drug RAPTIVA may be linked to a deadly brain infection and other complications. If you've taken RAPTIVA and have suffered serious infections or experienced other serious disorders you may be eligible for Money Damages. Call the attorneys at James Rolshouse & Associates at 1-800-969-5633. Licensed in Minnesota. (Cal-SCAN)

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20090087772 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CASUAL COMPUTING; CASUALCOMPUTING.COM, 824 4TH STREET, #102, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : YOUSRI M. EL FATTAH, 824 4TH STREET, #102, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403 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/: YOUSRI M. EL FATTAH This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 1/22/2009. 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 2/20/2009, 2/27/2009, 3/6/2009, 3/13/2009

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Expo EXPOSITION METRO LINE CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY
PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE
EXPOSITION CORRIDOR TRANSIT PROJECT – PHASE 2

Notice of Extension of Comment Period on DEIR from March 13 to March 27, 2009

Distribution Date: March 9, 2009 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2007021109

Project Description and Location: The Exposition Corridor Transit Project—Phase 2, located in Los Angeles County, would extend transit service for a distance of approximately 7 to 8 miles within the Exposition Corridor starting at the Phase 1 terminus currently under construction at the Venice/Robertson station in Culver City, to a planned terminus near Colorado Boulevard and 4th Street in Santa Monica. The following project alternatives are evaluated: No-Build, Transportation System Management (TSM), and four Light Rail Transit (LRT) alignment alternatives. The project would provide high capacity transit service in an area currently underserved and experiencing high levels of travel delay and congestion.

Summary of Significant Environmental Impacts: The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was prepared by the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority, the lead agency, to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). It examines the potential impacts to the environment that may result from adoption and implementation of the proposed alternatives and identifies recommended mitigation measures. Implementation of the proposed project would result in potentially significant impacts in nine resource areas: traffic, circulation, and parking; visual quality; cultural resources; paleontological resources; noise and vibration; parks and community facilities; safety and security; water resources; and construction. Incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to a less-than-significant level except in three areas: traffic, circulation and parking; visual quality; and construction. In addition, portions of this project are included on the lists enumerated under Section 65692.5 of the Government Code. It is anticipated that CEQA Findings and Statements of Overriding Considerations and a program for monitoring and reporting on mitigation measures would be prepared before the Expo Authority would approve the project.

Availability of the Draft EIR documents: The DEIR for this project may be reviewed online at *BuildExpo.org*. A hardcopy may also be reviewed at the following locations.

Exposition Construction Authority Office, 707 Wilshire Blvd, 34th Floor, Los Angeles 90017
Los Angeles Central Library, 630 W. 5th St, Los Angeles 90071
Culver City Julian Dixon Library, 4975 Overland Ave, Culver City 90230
West Los Angeles Regional Library, 11360 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles 90025
Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library, 2920 Overland Ave, Los Angeles 90064
Mar Vista Branch Library, 12006 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles 90066
Robertson Branch Library, 1719 S. Robertson Blvd, Los Angeles 90035
Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd, Santa Monica 90401

Review Period: The original comment period on this DEIR began Wednesday, January 28, 2009 and was scheduled to end Friday, March 13, 2009. The March 13 deadline has been extended to March 27, 2009.

Comments that will be addressed and included in the Final EIR must be submitted in writing to one of the following addresses on or before the end of the public comment period. Comments cannot be accepted by phone.

Mail: Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority
Monica Born, PE, Project Director
707 Wilshire Boulevard, 34th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017
Email: *phase2@exporail.net*
Fax: 213-243-5553
Online: *BuildExpo.org*

Written comments should be submitted **no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, March 27, 2009.**

For more information, please visit the project website at *BuildExpo.org* or call the Expo Hotline at 213-922-3976.

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