INSIDE SCOOP
COUGH IT UP AAA PAGE 3 | OPINION
WHAT IS CITY HALL WAITING FOR? PAGE 5 | CAMP GUIDE
LOOKING FOR NEW ADVENTURES PAGE 6

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TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 108



Santa Monica Daily Press

BREAKING GROUND
SEE PAGE 11

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE LUCK OF THE IRISH ISSUE

Drought forces MWD to raise water rates

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Santa Monicans will most likely have to pay more for their water in 2009 after the Metropolitan Water District board voted last week to increase the rate it charges customers, partly because of the recent drought in Southern California.

The estimated 14.3 percent increase to the district's 26 member cities, of which Santa Monica is a part, will depend on the amount of water in which they purchase. Residents could see their water bill rise by $2 beginning in January.

"The new rate really reflects the cost of delivering water in Southern California and investments that must be made to maintain not only the infrastructure, but also the supply itself," Bob Muir, spokesman for the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), said on Monday.

The total rate hike includes a 9.8 percent base rate increase and an extra $25 per-acre-foot surcharge that will fund the purchase of additional supplies for the MWD. An acre-foot is estimated to be approximately 326,000 gallons, equivalent to the amount of water used for two households.

"These costs include the need to acquire increasingly costly water transfers and more aggressive water conservation," MWD board Chairman Timothy F. Brick said about the March 11 vote.

Santa Monica receives approximately 85 percent of its

SEE WATER PAGE 9

Golay murder trial to begin

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN, LA The murder trial for a pair of silver-haired septuagenarians accused of killing two homeless men in an insurance scam will finally commence today, nearly two years after they were arrested.

Among the defendants is Helen Golay, a former Santa Monica resident who owned at least three apartment buildings in the Ocean Park neighborhood. Golay, who celebrated her 77th birthday in February, will be reunited with her co-defendant, Olga Rutterschmidt of Hollywood, who turned 75 earlier this month.

The women stand accused of murdering Paul Vados

SEE TRIAL PAGE 7

On the hunt for a killer



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

CRIME SCENE: **A Santa Monica police officer on Monday monitors activity outside the home of Juliana Redding, 21, who was the victim of an assault. Redding's body was discovered by police Sunday night. Officers went to check on Redding after receiving a call from her worried mother, who could not reach her after several attempts. Detectives were still searching for a suspect late Monday.**

Aspiring actress/model assaulted at home

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

EASTSIDE A 21-year-old woman was found dead inside her apartment on Centinela Avenue just south of Broadway, the apparent victim of an assault, authorities said on Monday.



JULIANA REDDING

The body of Juliana Maureen Redding was discovered at about 6 p.m. Sunday when officers responded to an apartment complex in the 1500 block of Centinela Avenue, SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla said.

Redding, who is believed to have been an aspiring actress and model, was found dead inside the apartment. It is unknown how long Redding had been dead prior to being discovered. The cause of death is yet to be determined.

"We are not ruling anything out at this point," Padilla said. "There were no obvious signs of forced entry."

Investigators are still trying to determine if anything was stolen from Redding's apartment, and if the attacker was someone she knew.

SMPD responded to the apartment after receiving a telephone call from Redding's mother Sunday night. Her mother was trying to contact Redding by phone, but was unsuccessful. Padilla said friends of Redding called her mother after they were unable to reach her as well.

John Dye, who lived just doors down from the victim, said news of her death, "was very depressing."

"My fear is that this is a random crime," Dye said. "I can't believe this could happen to such a beautiful woman."

Dye said that Redding had moved to Santa Monica from Arizona in November of last year and had plans on attending Santa Monica College.

The investigation is ongoing.

WE TIP HOTLINE

Anyone with information is urged to contact the SMPD at (310) 458-8427 or call detectives at (310) 458-845. Anyone wishing to remain anonymous may call the WeTip hotline at 1-800-78-CRIME (27463).

news@smdp.com

Staff photographer Brandon Wise contributed to this story.


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Story Time for Twos

2601 Main St., 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.

The Ocean Park Branch Library brings back their music and story program for toddlers aged 24 — 36 months. Registration and an accompanying adult are required. For more information or to make a reservation, call (310) 392-3804.

Wild Wild Westside Crime Bus Tour

9341 Venice Blvd., Culver City, Noon — 5 p.m.

In this new true crime tour spotlighting some of the weirdest, most horrific and downright unbelievable crimes of historic West Los Angeles, you'll thrill and shudder to tales of teenage girl gangs, wicked wives, evil spirits, cults and creeps. Seats are $55 per person; 15 percent off for KCRW members. Visit www.esotouric.com for more details.

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Getting Busy on Business

1707 Fourth Street, 5 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

The Westside Business Expo draws hundreds of residents a year with its raffle prizes and product demonstrations. It also gives local employees excellent networking opportunities and offers business owners free information on greening programs, SBA loans, and advice on various business issues and concerns. For more information contact Janet Baum at (310) 393-9825, or at marketing1@smchamber.com.

A Shoulder to Cry On

2200 Santa Monica Boulevard 6:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.

The John Wayne Cancer Institute and the Neuro-Endocrine Tumor Center host a free, bi-monthly tumor patient support group for anyone affected by a pituitary and or hormonal disorder. Friends and family are welcome. For more information go to www.neuro-endo.org or www.hormones411.org

Going Green

Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Bvd., 7 P.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Be part of the solution — educate and empower yourself with simple steps that save our environment and save you money. This six-week workshop covers: Water, Energy, Waste, Chemicals, Transportation and Travel, and Shopping and Food. To register, contact Barent Roth at Sustainable Works, (310) 458-8716 x1 or rothbarent@smc.edu.

Get to Steppin'

16730 Bollinger Drive, Pacific Palisades, 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

The 12 Steps for Everybody's 12-Step writing meeting for all 12-Step programs or anyone with a habitual problem or illness. The group also meets every third Saturday for a three-hour writing workshop from 9 a.m. — Noon. For more information, call (310) 454-5138 or e-mail info@12stepsforeverybody.org.

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.

Local oilman sues Hermosa for $500M in drilling lawsuit

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

HERMOSA BEACH A dispute over oil drilling in Hermosa Beach has festered for 25 years, with a Santa Monica oilman pressing ahead in a $500 million breach of contract lawsuit against a small city that has a $26 million annual budget, it was reported last week.

The oilman, Santa Monica resident Don Macpherson Jr., has won the first round in the courts, and may have the city and its taxpayers on the hook for damages. But the city is appealing.

The court battle has been waged since 1998, but the city and Macpherson have been tussling since an Hermosa Beach City Council 24 years ago decided to let the oilman's father slant drill for oil under the beach from rigs that would be located at the city's maintenance yard.

GOT OP-ED?

Say it loud, say it proud, **but keep your guest commentary to 800 words or less. Send submissions to EDITOR@SMDP.COM.**

The Daily Breeze reports that the plan would have paid the city $500,000 in royalties for the use of the city property. But a giant political battle ensued in Hermosa Beach, with anti-oil activists eventually taking control of the council and banning oil drilling.

Macpherson's father, Don Macpherson, sued for breach of contract. The elder Macpherson died in 1999, and his three sons continue to run the company and challenge Hermosa Beach.

The city has paid more than $1 million in legal fees, and the family oil company has reportedly spent more than that. Last month, a jury ruled in favor of Macpherson Oil, but a second jury will have to decide damages, and the original verdict might be appealed by the city.

It is believed that over 20 million barrels of oil could be collected.

news@smdp.com

AAA forced to pay refunds

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK More than 120,000 policyholders with the Automobile Club of Southern California will receive a refund check after a Santa Monica-based consumer watchdog settled a lawsuit alleging the motor club had illegally tacked auto insurance surcharges on its clients.

The $22.5 million settlement, which refunds an average of $187 for affected AAA members who purchased insurance between April 1, 1999 and July 31, 2004, was announced by both parties last week.

The Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights (FTCR), a non-profit advocacy group based in Sunset Park, filed the lawsuit in 2002, alleging the motor club had violated Proposition 103 by overcharging new clients who were either previously uninsured or who failed to demonstrate that they had carried a policy. The suit was filed against the Interinsurance Exchange of the Automobile Club, the insurance arm of AAA. The lawsuit was a consolidation of two separate allegations brought by the FTCR and Los Angeles resident Tracy Landers.

"We are pleased that the exchange had agreed to settle this lawsuit by providing refunds for these surcharges," Harvey Rosenfield, the author of the proposition and the attorney representing FTCR, said in a statement.

Proposition 103, passed in 1988, is an insurance reform initiative that made it illegal for companies to affix an extra fee for prospective clients who previously were uninsured. It was a practice to keep lower-income and younger people off of insurance, according to Doug Heller, spokesman for the FTCR.

In the late 1990s, the consumer advocacy group started seeing insurance companies using the practice again. The state legislature enacted a bill in 2003 that would've allowed the companies to maintain the surcharge, but that was later overturned by the courts who ruled it unconstitutional under Proposition 103, Heller said.

"It was a Catch-22," Heller said on Monday. "People who couldn't afford insur-

SEE AAA PAGE 7

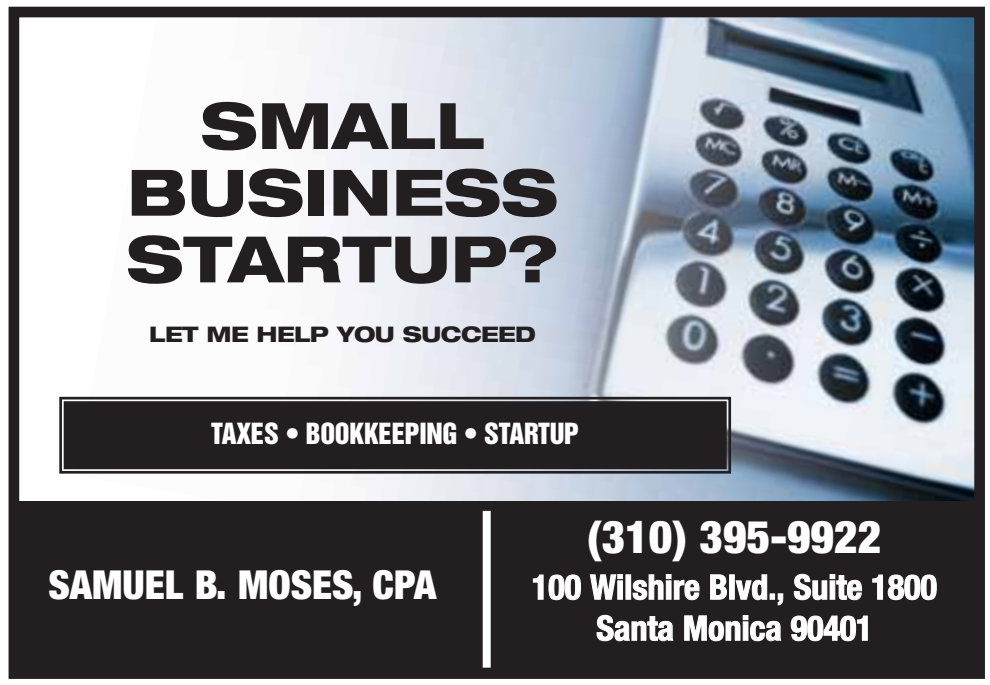


WELL DESERVED

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Santa Monica Fire Chief Jim Hone (left middle) accepts the Rick Crocker Spirit of Volunteerism Award at the Red Cross Red Tie affair on Saturday night. Hone was joined by Crocker's mother, Jeanette Garcia (middle), and sister, Maria Crocker, as well as Councilman Bobby Shriver, a presenter. Crocker, 39, was a 10-year veteran of the SMPD and a major in the United States Marines Corps. He was killed on May 26 in a rocket-propelled grenade attack in the province of Al-Anbar.





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Better things to do

Editor:

I feel great living in a city where people care about their environment and nature. I want to commend the intentions of the "treesavers" as highly noble. It is a good thing when people make a stand for nature. However, I feel they are missing the real opportunity. The federal government wants to come into California's largest forest, clear for roads, and drill for oil. This is untouched nature that we should fight to keep untouched. It deserves more attention than the trees in Santa Monica.

Santa Monica is not a natural setting we are danger of losing – it is a city. The trees in question were planted for aesthetic reasons and now they are being removed mostly for aesthetic reasons. They are not going to be cut down for lumber, but transplanted to another location where they will continue to live. On top of that, new trees will be planted in their place. We are not losing a forest or a natural habitat for animals.

Sustainability is a popular word these days. We are learning we need to be more efficient with our resources. The fight the "treesavers" are putting up is draining our city's resources. Every time they stage a protest and the police need to be there, all the time the city officials have to spend on the subject instead of moving on with business, and of course any court time amounts in more money needed to be spent by the city. It is a drain on our resources because a few want to fight a "noble" fight. My recommendation to the "treesavers" is to use this good intention you have for a good cause. I know it may take a little more effort for you to go out to the forests that are in danger. I realize it is convenient to pick a fight outside your front door. But your efforts really seemed misplaced and the fight is coming off as arrogant.

Ben Fritz
Santa Monica

Watch the company you keep

Editor:

Barack Obama may not have been in public service for as long as Hillary Clinton, but he is not without experience, nor is he without a record of making judgments.

For example, he has the experience of a longtime personal and political fundraising relationship with indicted Chicago businessman Antoin "Tony" Rezko. As for his judgment in maintaining that affiliation over the years, Obama himself has assessed it as a "boneheaded mistake."

Now come revelations about the preaching and teachings of Rev. Jeremiah Wright, with whom Obama has 20 years of experience, sitting in the pews as his pastor delivers incendiary sermons that in many instances are indistinguishable from the hateful rants of Louis Farrakhan, whom the church has honored in its magazine.

If Obama prevails as the Democratic nominee and goes on to win the general election, for the first time in our history we will have a president sitting in the Oval Office who has chosen as his spiritual leader a man who screams to an adoring congregation, "No, no, no. Not God bless America. God damn America."

That will be real change.

David Stoughton
Santa Monica



What's the Point?

David Pisarra — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

How 'the system' hurts good dads

THIS PAST WEEKEND I WAS WALKING my dog through Virginia Avenue Park and as usual saw many dads with their kids in the park. It caused me to realize the difference between the weekend days and the weekdays. During the week, I see the moms with those same kids.

In our law office, we deal with a great many fathers, men who want to be dads to their kids but feel that the system is too hard to navigate alone, and that the deck is stacked against them. These fathers use their every other weekend and maybe a weekday dinner, but they'd like more. Not a week goes by that someone doesn't engage me at the gym, or stop me at the Farmers' Market to vent about "The System" and how unfair it is to them.

Almost always the dads scream about how viciously the state makes them pay child support, but makes it so hard for them to see their kids. It almost never is the money that they are upset about, it's the fact that they can't see their kids. It's the fact that the district attorney will doggedly enforce a child support order but not a child custody order. It is a very sad situation, but there are two good reasons why it happens.

First off, the state is limited in what it can do for people, and secondly, the men don't fight hard enough. It is not difficult for a judge to look at what a person earns, and use that number to decide how much money they should be paying for child support. In fact, it is so easy, that in most cases, the judge doesn't even have to use their judgment, it is done by a computer program and the decision is made.

On the flip side, when it comes to how much love one parent has for their children versus the other parent, this is a problem of biblical proportions. In fact, one need only look to Solomon and the dispute between two mothers to see how difficult this choice can be. In that case, where two women were each claiming a baby as theirs, King Solomon had to make a decision. But rather than choosing one mother over the other, he chose to cut the baby in half. The real mother cried out, she would rather let her child go, than have it killed. She won.

In today's world, where judges are the modern King Solomons, they don't have the luxury of such novel tests to determine who is the better parent. They must rely on a few guidelines, some gut instinct, and how hard the parties are pressing to see their children. This situation means that the fathers must work harder to show the courts that they want, and are able, to raise their children. It's that "want" part that makes the difference.

For fathers who want to be dads, they have to be willing to fight, they have to be willing to tell a judge about their feelings, which is precisely why so often they wont fight for their kids. This is a mistake. Once a judge sees that a father wants to be a dad, they'll work to make it a reality.

This is where the spring cleaning comes in. As children grow, their needs change. Many times in child custody matters, the mother is granted primary physical custody and the father gets a few visitations a month. But as the suckling infant becomes a toddler, fathers have a right, and in my book, a duty, to be present for their children. They must take a proactive role in their children's upbringing, whether they all share one roof or not.

IN TODAY'S WORLD, WHERE JUDGES ARE THE MODERN KING SOLOMONS, THEY DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF SUCH NOVEL TESTS TO DETERMINE WHO IS THE BETTER PARENT.

As a society we encourage people to have children. We spend considerable resources each year to make sure that those children are supported financially, but what we should also be doing, is spending just as much of our resources to make sure that dads have an equal opportunity to be with their kids.

We cut the dads out of their kids lives, and then blame them for not being there. It is fundamentally unfair to the dads, and the kids, who are going to grow up feeling like their dads were never around.

If as a society we are going to have children be "the most rewarding job you'll ever love," then we should support both parents equally in their responsibilities. It should be an automatic 50/50 division of time for the parents.

DAVID PISARRA is a divorce and child custody attorney in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969.



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Your column here

By Brian Bland

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Forget the FAA and approve the jet ban

THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION has landed on Santa Monica again, dropping a "fresh" proposal to reduce the potential disaster of a jet aircraft overrun at Santa Monica Airport (SMO). But it's not "fresh." It has a familiar odor, like jet exhaust and horse exhaust.

FAA honcho Kirk Shaffer will do a touch-and-go at the March 25 Santa Monica City Council meeting to push the proposal, the same site where he crashed and burned last August. Shaffer said then that if Santa Monica is so concerned about executive jets overrunning the runway, the city should buy the homes that sit mere yards away and tear 'em down. That wouldn't create the safety overrun areas SMO lacks, but at least the resulting fireball would not consume homes, just the fliers and some motorists. Shaffer seemed unmoved by the fact the houses were there long before the FAA side-stepped its own guidelines to allow jets to use SMO.

The home-destruction proposal left council members looking for airsick bags. They did hurl, but only angry words. Hundreds of residents were crammed into the chamber like unlucky gamblers on a Sunday night flight out of Vegas. Scores of others watched via TV in the City Hall lobby, jeering like tired travelers reacting to a "flight delayed" sign. In fact, delay was on their minds: The five-year-plus delay the FAA put them through before finally showing up to suggest tearing down their homes.

The other part of the FAA's August 2007 proposal was for an aircraft arresting system called an EMAS to be installed at both ends of SMO's runway. But the system's manufacturer said that size EMAS would work only if the planes heavy enough to trigger the system were going 40 knots or less. Even then, he said, the effectiveness was far below foolproof. He said if those same aircraft were going 70 knots, they'd roll through that size EMAS and exit the other end. Shaffer repeatedly called SMO a "reliever" airport for nearby LAX, in essence, another LAX runway.

Fed up with the FAA's delays, and knowing the number of jets at SMO will keep growing, the council had its staff draft a law to ban the two fastest kinds of jets. Those C and D aircraft pose the greatest danger of a disastrous overrun because of speed, relative size … . The city also believes the FAA is violating the 1984 agreement that governs operations at SMO through 2014. It indicates SMO is designed for generally slower, lighter, aircraft, the A and B classes. The FAA believes its authority allows it to override the agreement.

In November 2007, despite an FAA threat to sue, the council passed (7-0) the fast-jet ban on the first of its two required readings. Council members praised concerned residents for doing the research that refuted the FAA claim that jet aircraft overruns present little or no danger at Santa Monica-sized airports that have no safe overrun areas. The council said it believes the FAA is putting business interests ahead of safety.

More time has gone by. The City Council, in no rush to face a long, expensive, lawsuit, now plans the second reading of the proposed fast-jet ban on March 25 after Shaffer's presentation. Meantime, the FAA has been pressed by a California congressional delegation and the head of the House Transportation Committee, James Oberstar, to cooperate.

The pressure prompted the FAA to make another proposal this month, offering two choices. One is essentially the same "small" EMAS plan the council shot down six months ago. The second option is for a larger EMAS at the west end of the runway and no EMAS at the east end. (You read that right). The FAA claims the sole EMAS would be expected to stop the fastest kinds of jets if they're going 70 knots or less, still far below their usual takeoff and landing speeds. Any faster and, presumably, they would still go out the other side of the EMAS. The same plane going east, of course, would encounter no EMAS at all.

Our neighborhood association, Friends of Sunset Park, with hundreds of members, has not changed its position. We still favor the relatively quick and inexpensive way to reduce aircraft overrun danger: Ban the C and D aircraft. We hope the congressional delegation's welcomed help will continue. But the council … should follow through on its unanimous action of four months ago and enact the ban. Or, the FAA could do the right thing and order the ban. We encourage the hundreds of citizens who turned out in November to return March 25 to remind the FAA and the city that we've lived with the threat of a jet overrun disaster long enough.

BRIAN BLAND is a resident and member of the board of directors for Friends of Sunset Park.

The Q Line

Adding Numbers

The fire and police departments both requested additional staffing from the City Council last week. They say that both agencies need to keep up with the demands of an ever-growing city.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think the City Council should go ahead and honor the request?

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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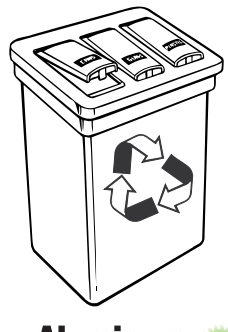
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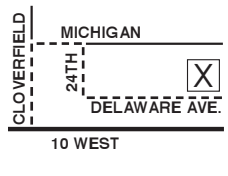



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SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

Youn teens taking more exotic trips

BY BETH J. HARPAZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK When Ann Kahn was growing up, her family took the same summer vacation every year — a trip to Yosemite. But things are different for her daughter, Ashley.

At 19, Ashley has already set foot on every continent — including Antarctica. And all but one of her journeys abroad were taken without her parents, on trips with other teenagers. She started when she was just 13, visiting Europe with a youth travel organization called People to People Student Ambassadors.

"It's definitely changed my life," said Ashley, who is from Green Valley, Calif., and is now a freshman at Sonoma State University. When she was younger, she thought she'd like to be a nurse someday. But now, "I'm a French major. I'd like to work in an embassy. Living and working abroad is definitely something I would like to do."

Thousands of teenagers like Ashley are seeing more far-flung corners of the world, and at younger ages, than any previous generation of Americans. High schools now routinely organize student trips that require passports. Middle-schoolers hike the rainforest in Costa Rica instead of attending lakeside summer camps with color wars and marshmallow roasts. And older teenagers use the community service they did in Africa as fodder for college essays.

A recent survey of 75 tour operators that belong to the Student Youth Travel Association (www.syta.org) found that the top 10 international destinations for youth travel include China, Peru, Brazil and Australia — along with the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Spain, Germany and Greece. More than half the survey respondents also identified middle school as the biggest segment for growth.

"We still have the traditional tours — an eighth grade trip to Washington or a high school trip to New York," said SYTA spokeswoman Debbie Gibb. "But we're seeing growth in places like China that you never would have thought of 10 or 15 years ago. The world is shrinking and the students who take these trips are getting younger."

Typically these trips cost thousands of dollars. But the price tags seem more palatable now that many sleep-away camps routinely charge $4,000 for three weeks in a bunkhouse. A 32-day trip to Europe offered by Westcoast Connection/360 Student Travel (www.westcoastconnection.com) is $9,399. A six-week program in Senegal sponsored by an outfit called Where There Be Dragons (www.wheretherebedragons.com) runs $7,300. Closer to home, the June 27-Aug. 14 session at Camp Mataponi (www.campmataponi.com) for girls on Sebago Lake in Maine is $9,300.

Often parents write checks for the trips, but some students raise money — especially with school-sponsored trips where kids work on community fundraising events. Sometimes travel organizations offer scholarships for low-income students; others provide advice on finding sponsors — everything from asking local merchants for donations to sending a form letter to everyone you know with a request for $25.

When schools sponsor trips, they tend to have a major educational component, whether it's practicing French in Paris or studying evolution in the Galapagos. Summer programs "have more of the fun components — rafting, snorkeling and hiking" in addition to cultural experiences, Gibb said.

Westcoast Connection sends 1,500 teenagers each summer on a variety of tours, from language immersion to adventure and specialty sports like golf or snowboarding. But company spokesman Ira Solomon said "there's definitely been a trend of more substantial summer programming. With colleges becoming so competitive, kids are trying to build their resumes."

So Westcoast also offers community service, sending kids to work in day care centers in shantytowns in Costa Rica, building houses with Habitat for Humanity in Hawaii, and doing conservation work in an Alaskan rainforest.

How do you find the right program for your teenager? Some groups have long track records and work with thousands of kids. People to People, founded in 1956, sends over 30,000 students and teachers abroad annually. It is one of SYTA's four largest member organizations, along with EF, WorldStrides and ACIS.

But many smaller, less well-known organizations offer specialized programming that may be a perfect fit. If you're trying to judge a program "beyond all the fun things your kid is going to see and do," Gibb said, check the company's reputation with the Better Business Bureau; ask about the ratio of adults to students (eight to one is typical for eighth grade, 10 to one for older kids); and find out how the program helps kids get to know each other.

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Seniors charged with killing men for cash

FROM **TRIAL** PAGE 1

and Kenneth McDavid in separate yet similar hit-and-run incidents in 1999 and 2005, respectively. Prosecutors allege that the two elderly women befriended the victims when they were still homeless, setting them up with apartments and later convincing them to sign the women onto their insurance policies before the men were mysteriously killed.

A three-woman, nine-man juror panel was sworn in last Thursday after. All parties are due back into court for opening statements this morning.

The case has moved slowly since the women were arrested in May 2006 as the public defender for Rutterschmidt changed hands from Kim Savo to Michael Sklar, who, after taking over later last year, asked the judge for more time to review the circumstances. Both attorneys also sought motions to dismiss the trial.

The women were initially arrested on federal mail fraud charges, which were dropped shortly after murder charges were filed in late July 2006.

Once the owner of three apartment complexes in Santa Monica, including a pink building on Ocean Park Boulevard in which she lived, Golay and Rutterschmidt, a Hungarian immigrant, are believed to have taken out several life insurance policies on the two victims and ultimately collected more than $1 million in their deaths.

During pre-trial hearings in March of last year, investigators revealed a series of insurance applications and claim forms showing the women claiming various relationships with the two men, including fiancés, cousins and business partners. Relatives of the two men who testified during the preliminary hearing stated that they had no knowledge of being related to Golay or Rutterschmidt.

Prosecutors also claimed that Golay's AAA membership was used to tow a vehicle just blocks from where McDavid was believed to have been killed in a Westwood alley. The tow truck driver testified during the hearing last year, stating he recalled dropping off a person about a block from where Golay lived in Santa Monica. Vados was killed in an alley in Hollywood.

The unusual nature of the case has garnered national attention, mainly because of the age of the defendants. A movie loosely based on the events, titled "Poor Things," starring Rosario Dawson and Shirley MacLaine was also believed to be in the works, though there were talks last year that production had ceased because of legal issues surrounding one of the castmates, Lindsay Lohan.

Prosecutors announced last year that they do not intend to seek the death penalty against the women.

news@smdp.com



MIDDLE MAN

Photo courtesy Cortney Crego

Led up front with hard-nosed play by prop Adam Guerra, the Santa Monica Dolphins held off Old Puget Sound Beach rugby club of Seattle over the weekend for an 18-16 victory in their first match of the 2008 national Rugby Super League season. The squad, now 2-2, will face off this weekend against Huntington Beach. The game kicks off March 22 at 1 p.m. at Daniel Webster Middle School.

Automobile Club settles lawsuit over surcharges

FROM **AAA** PAGE 3

ance before ... were now getting a surcharge."

The exchange maintains that it did not violate the terms of the proposition or any other state regulation developed in conjunction. The automobile club's practices were audited and approved by the California Department of Insurance, AAA spokesman Steve Lenzi said on Monday.

"The issue was settled really because we believe in the best interest of our insured and to avoid protracted and costly litigation," Lenzi said.

One of the largest automobile insurance companies in the state, Southern California's branch of AAA insures more than one million auto policy holders.

The consumer watchdog has filed several suits related to Proposition 103 since it was enacted, including a similar one settled in 2006 with the Government Insurance Employees Insurance Co., better known as Geico. The insurance company, known for its talking gecko mascot, was ordered to pay an average $63 to its affected policyholders.

The FTCR is still involved in ongoing litigation against Safeco.

The automobile club will also pay for legal fees as part of the settlement.

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

THE COST TO QUENCH: **Residents and merchants may see their water bills rise by $2 in January after the Metropolitan Water District board voted to raise rates in response to low rainfall and the need to improve water delivery systems.**

City Hall working to restore local supply

FROM **WATER** PAGE 1

water from the MWD, a result of the loss of groundwater wells after a leak of methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) was detected in 1996. Five groundwater production wells were shut down in the Charnock Well Field after MTBE, a chemical usually added to motor gasoline, was discovered leaking from underground storage tanks and pipes owned by several major oil companies.

The rate increase doesn't come as a surprise for Santa Monica city officials who have anticipated the hike for some time. The MWD increase is being incorporated into an overall water rate study that is being conducted by City Hall and should be available to the City Council next month, according to Gil Borboa, the utilities manager with City Hall.

The results of the study could lead to a citywide rate increase for the roughly 16,000 rate payers in Santa Monica.

Though Borboa said he could not give an estimation for a possible rate increase until the study is completed, he noted that staff made a projection for an 11 percent water rate raise last May.

The drought, caused by record rain shortage in the Southland, has caused municipalities to become clever with water conservation. City Hall last year launched the "20 Gallon Challenge," encouraging its residents to save 20 gallons of water each day. Orange County officials took a more hard-to-swallow route last year, announcing they were treating sewage for drinking water.

Since the Charnock wells shut down, the MWD has supplied most of the local drinking water with the remainder coming from other local groundwater wells owned by City Hall. The MWD water is blended with local well water and treated through the Arcadia Water Treatment Plant before it is distributed.

City Hall is currently planning to construct a new water treatment facility, which should decrease its dependence on imported drinking water. The council voted last month to spend $4.3 million on a design contract for the new treatment facility at Charnock Well Field, a project that includes upgrading the Arcadia Water Treatment Plant.

The project will be funded through as settlement agreement reached with the liable oil companies. City officials also last week reached a settlement with the attorneys who represented City Hall in the lawsuit with the oil companies, agreeing to pay the attorneys $55 million.

"We are working diligently to recover the well supply and hope to have it available to us in 2010 and then we can reduce our MET intake," Borboa said.

melodyh@smdp.com

Holy Week at First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica

Maundy Thursday
March 20, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday
Meditative Taizé
March 21, 7:30 p.m.

Jacaranda Music Concert
March 22, 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship
March 23, 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

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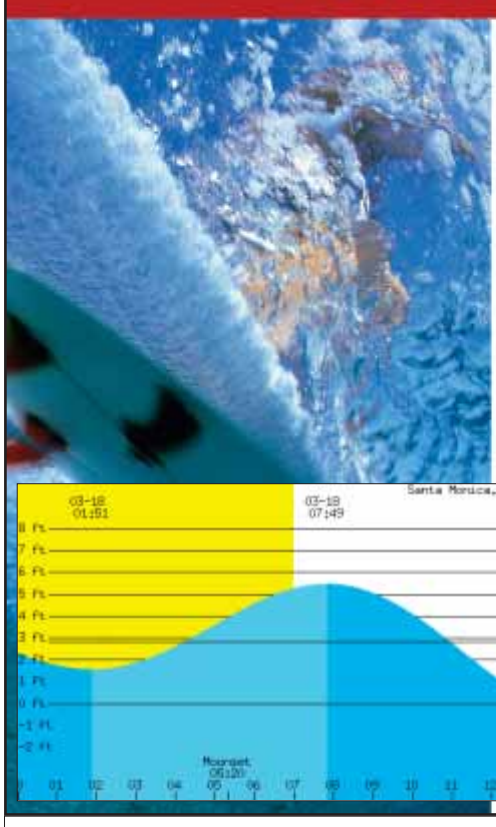
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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 54°**

SWELL FORECAST (7-11 FT)

Today will no doubt be much, much smaller. No NW or SW swells are due. Most all breaks are looking at knee to waist high surf with the best size at west facing breaks. Tuesday's winds should be lightly offshore in the morning, no stronger than 10 mph from the east by the looks of things today.

LONG RAANGE SYANOPSIS

LIGHT SW DURING SECOND HALF OF WEEK...
TRACKING POSSIBLY SIZABLE NW FOR WEEKEND...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **March 11, 2008**

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 -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 36 / 19
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 24

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from Ford

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

PGA

Undefeated Woods sets new standard

BY DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

DORAL, Fla. The outcome has never been more inevitable. Tiger Woods has never looked so invincible.

The world's No. 1 golfer faced a 25-foot birdie putt on the final hole at Bay Hill, and the moment he settled over the ball and the crowd grew quiet, it no longer mattered that Woods had not made a putt this long all week.

This one was for the win.

For most players, making such a clutch putt would be a career highlight. For Woods, it's more like a summer rerun.

"You know what he's going to do, right?" Arnold Palmer whispered to those around him right before Woods rapped his putt down the slope and watched it turn sharply to the right and tumble into the cup for a one-shot victory.

For Woods, it is the ultimate thrill.

"It's knowing that you have an opportunity to end the tournament, and it's in your hands," he said. "Whether you do it or not remains to be seen. It's like having the ball with a few seconds to go. Do you want it or not want it? I would much rather have it in my hands."

Lately, it has been nothing but net.

The Florida Swing long has been known as the road to the Masters, which is three weeks away. Woods already has his game at warp speed, and he's lapping the field. His victory Sunday in the Arnold Palmer Invitational was his fifth in a row on the PGA Tour and his sixth straight worldwide, a streak that spans six months and is the longest overall of his incomparable career. When he won seven straight tour events in 2006-2007, second only to Byron Nelson's 11 in 1945, Woods lost three times overseas.

Now, even the purists must wonder if Woods can go an entire season without losing.

"It's unbelievable, isn't it?" Steve Stricker said Monday. "You think that one of these times, he's not going to get it done. But he continues to do it. And now you expect it. You just learn with him that nothing is unexpected."

Woods' latest victim was Bart Bryant, who did everything right and never felt so helpless.

Bryant twice made birdie to tie Woods for the lead, shot a 67 in stifling heat and waited in the scoring trailer to see if Woods could beat him. There was no television in the trailer, and Bryant didn't need one.

He heard a roar that rattled the trailer, and Bryant forced a smile and slowly shook his head.

"That's why he's Tiger Woods," he said.

Golf is more global than it was a half-century ago, so Woods' winning streak is complicated. This is the third time he has won at least five in a row, and he also won on the European Tour last month, shooting a 31 on the back nine to rally from a four-shot deficit.

And he won the Target World Challenge in December, although that doesn't count because it was a charity event that Woods hosts for 16 top players from the world ranking. For what it's worth, Woods won by seven shots.

Woods is so dominant that he has won seven of his last eight times on the PGA Tour, the exception being a runner-up finish to Phil Mickelson at the Deutsche Bank Championship on Labor Day. He's an incredible 16 for 25 since the 2006 British Open.

"What he's doing now, you can't even fathom it," Bryant said. "You just can't explain it. It's just incredible. Just what he did today is more evidence of this weird zone he's in. And he's been in it his whole life."

Woods was just starting college in 1994, a skinny teenager who had fallen behind in the championship match of the U.S. Amateur, when his father whispered in his ear, "Let the legend grow." Woods birdied three straight holes to win.

Ernie Els added to the hype when Woods went eagle-birdie-birdie to beat him in a playoff in Hawaii to start the 2000 season.

"I think he's a legend in the making," Els said that day. "You guys have helped, but he's backed it up with his golf game. He's 24. He's probably going to be bigger than Elvis when he gets into his 40s."

He didn't wait that long. He's only 32 and already is tied with Ben Hogan for third in career victories with 64. The only players ahead of him are Jack Nicklaus (73) and Sam Snead (82).

With each victory, Woods adds another layer to the legend.

It's not even spring yet, and consider his year so far: He set scoring records at Torrey Pines with an eight-shot victory. He was headed for a first-round defeat in the Accenture Match Play Championship when he made 90 feet worth of putts to win four straight holes for a stunning comeback victory, and he eventually set a record in the final match for largest margin of victory (8 and 7).

And then came Palmer's tournament, and a putt that everyone knew was going to drop.

Can he go undefeated? Even as well as he is playing, the odds are against it. Woods hinted as much when someone asked what could stop this winning streak.

"All of the players in the event," he said.

Even so, consider what lies ahead. He is playing this week at Doral, where he has won the last three years. Next up is the Masters, where Woods is a four-time champion. He is the defending champion at the Wachovia Championship in North Carolina.

"He's got a lot of memories, and they're all positive," Stricker said.

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Homies

FORMER PRESIDENT CLINTON AND BRAD PITT met with hundreds of volunteers in the Lower 9th Ward at the site where a foundation headed by Pitt plans to begin building affordable homes for Hurricane Katrina victims.

"We hope to see a huge change here in the next six months," Pitt told a group of residents as he posed for pictures Sunday and signed autographs.

The 44-year-old actor and Clinton walked a street as hundreds of volunteers on either side, wielding shovels and rakes, prepared the land for homes. For hours, they cleared overgrown grass and weeds that were covering street drains and sidewalks.

The Lower 9th Ward was one of the hardest-hit neighborhoods in New Orleans when Katrina struck on Aug. 29, 2005, causing the city's levee system to fail with devastating flooding.

"We're working to get the grounds ready so construction can begin," said Anne Bouthilette, a 20-year-old sophomore history major at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

"It is only fitting that we culminate a weekend focused on youth service by turning words into action," Clinton said in a prepared statement.

Associated Press

SPEARS ORDERED TO PAY EX

BRITNEY SPEARS was ordered by a court commissioner Monday to pay ex-husband Kevin Federline $375,000 to cover his attorney fees in their child-custody dispute.

Mark Vincent Kaplan, Federline's lead attorney, had asked for nearly $500,000.

Spears' attorney Stacy Phillips argued that Kaplan was overbilling and that Federline can pay his own legal bills, but Gordon wrote that Spears' actions led to a great majority of the litigation and delays in the case.

AP

Easy does it, Virgo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★Your willingness to get past a problem sets the bar for others. Listen to feedback and use it to guide you. Tonight: Be playful and let go of problems.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You might want to chill out. Take an early day if possible and focus on what matters most. Tonight: Anchor in.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★If you would like to change course, now is the time. Others are finally responsive. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Don't make a decision on a money matter just yet. Confusion surrounds finances. Take your time and realize what is most important. Tonight: Be assertive.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You are in the thick of all the action. An orb of confusion filters through the day. Think in terms of growth and understanding. A touch of chaos surrounds a personal relationship. You will get a beat on what is happening. Tonight: Easy does it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Touch base with your desires. If you see an uncomfortable situation developing, act on it. Be aware of what is happening. Listen to your inner voice. Your high energy comes through in a pinch. Tonight: Easy does it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Zero in on damages. You will have to do something else. Understanding warms up any relationship. Work on empathy. You might want to see life from a different perspective. Talk about your feelings. Tonight: Aim for what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Take a stand if you must, though be careful with your word choice. Someone might see a situation very differently from you. Listening and understanding take you down a new path. Your creativity flourishes in an unprecedented manner. Tonight: A must appearance could be important.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Stay aboveboard, no matter what happens. Evaluate information that heads in your direction. Investigate to determine if your beliefs and projections are valid. Your sense of direction might be colored by intuition. Tonight: Reach out for someone else.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ A partnership might be more instrumental than you realize. You might believe that you have the facts, but unfortunately there is a lot of smoke and gossip, and not that many hard-core facts. Tonight: Say yes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Know that there is a haze around you. While this cloud might add to your allure, it also makes it harder to see the true situation. Are you perhaps putting someone on a pedestal? Think twice. Tonight: Say yes to an offer. You won't want to say no anyway.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might want to rethink a situation. Your ability to understand comes forward. The more caring you are, the better the end results will be. A boss or parent is assertive. This person feels that he or she knows the best course of action. Tonight: Choose relaxing.

Happy Birthday

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

If you want an easy year, rely on your affable nature. You seem tuned in to what people need and want, even more so than in the past. As a result, you make many new friends and broaden your immediate community and circle. Aim for what you want with the full expectation of succeeding. Honor a change of heart or choose to head in a new life direction if you feel that the present one is stale and not working. Your high energy emerges in the professional arena. If you are single, date and date some more. Remember, it takes roughly a year to get to know someone well. Enjoy the process. If you are attached, stay in touch with your long-term goals with this person. Forget the trivial. LEO can be counted on.

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

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Santa Monica Daily Press
A newspaper with issues

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

Difficulty
SILVER

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

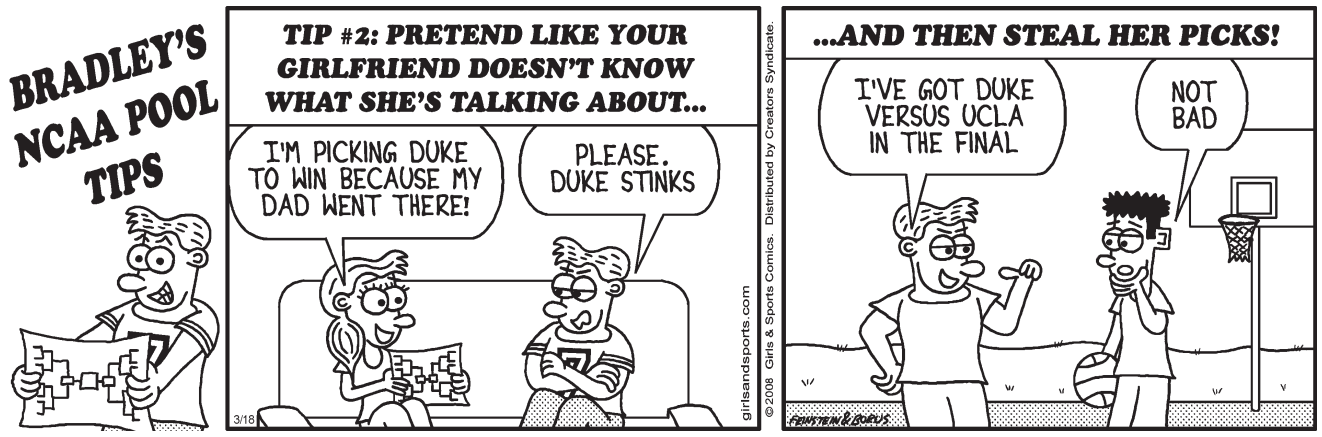
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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



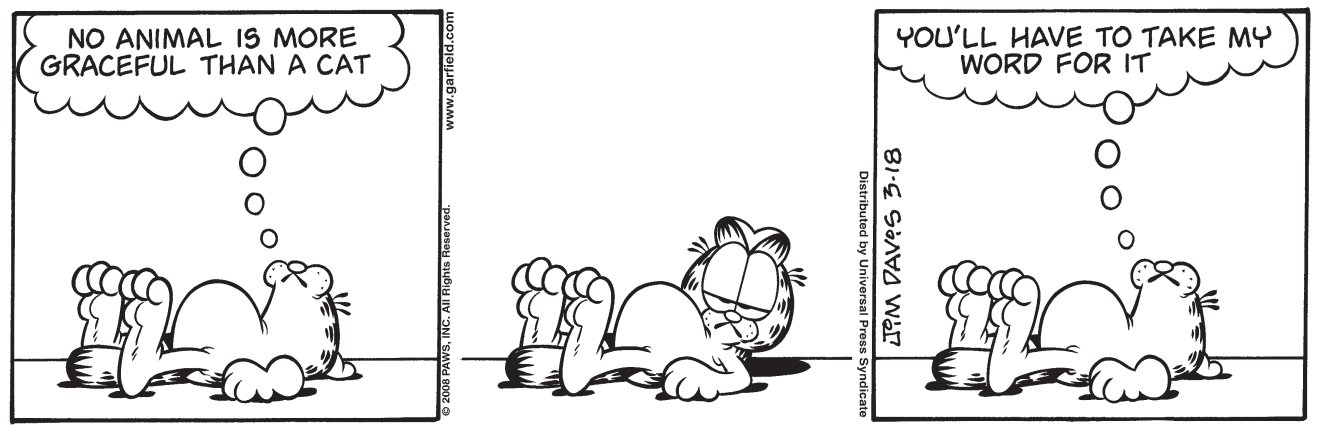
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



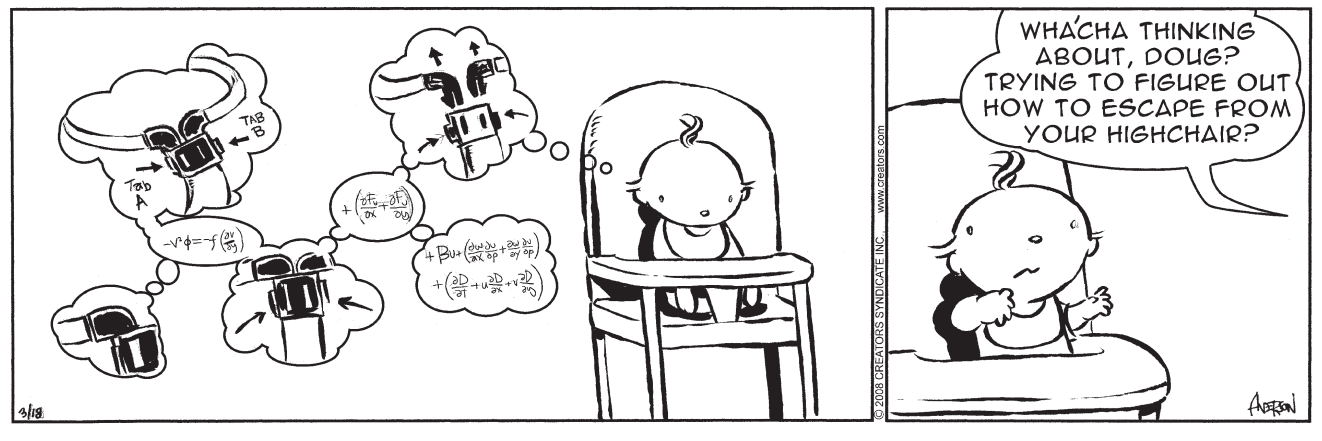
Garfield

By Jim Davis

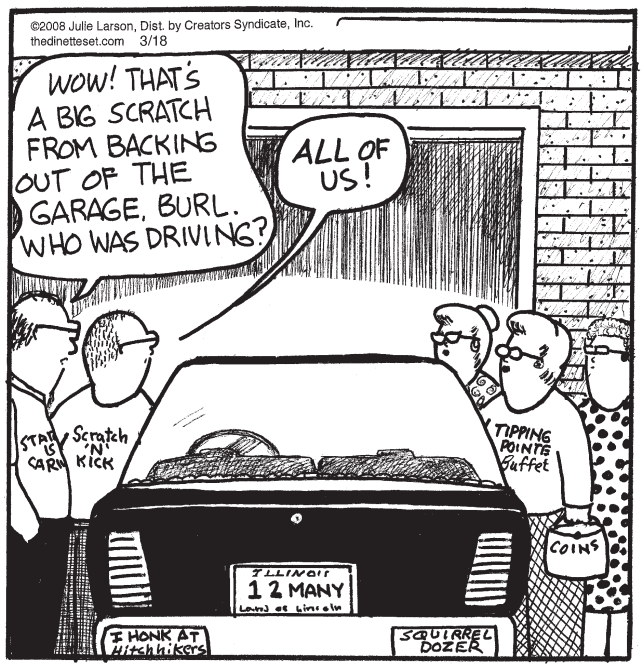


Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

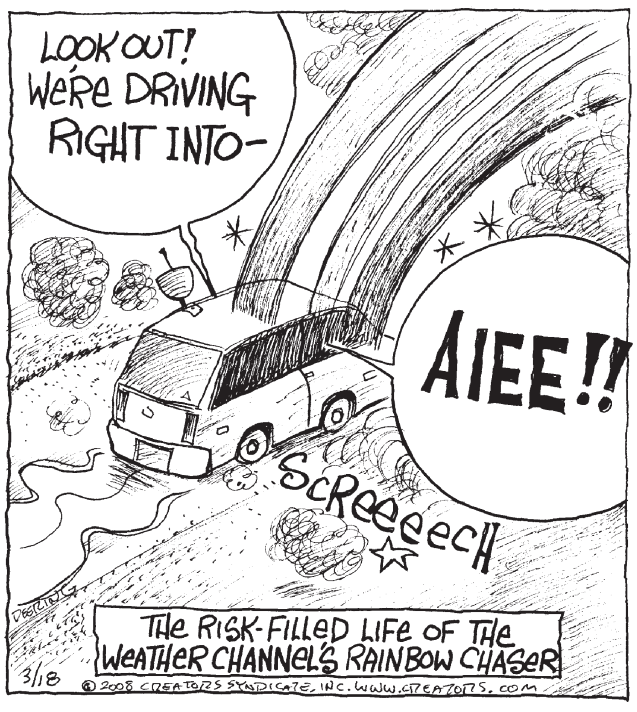


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Big Blue Bus Employee Benjamin Steers correctly identified the image in this photo, which is a metallic sculpture of a bull that sits in front of L.A. Farm restaurant on Olympic Boulevard. Steers will receive a prize from the Daily Press.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Karate's kin
5 Fencing weapon
10 Eye-popping prints
12 Wonder-land guest
13 It's off England's southern coast
15 Tennis need
16 Jewelry item
17 Also
18 Comic oldie "Smokey —"
20 South African farmer
21 Asp or adder
22 For fear that
23 Small error
25 Book part
28 Doesn't own
31 Bunches
32 Nostalgic songs
34 Research spot
35 "The Raven" writer
36 Hound hand
37 It's in the Bay of Naples
40 Aptitude
41 Floor squares
42 "Cast Away" star
43 Cincinnati team

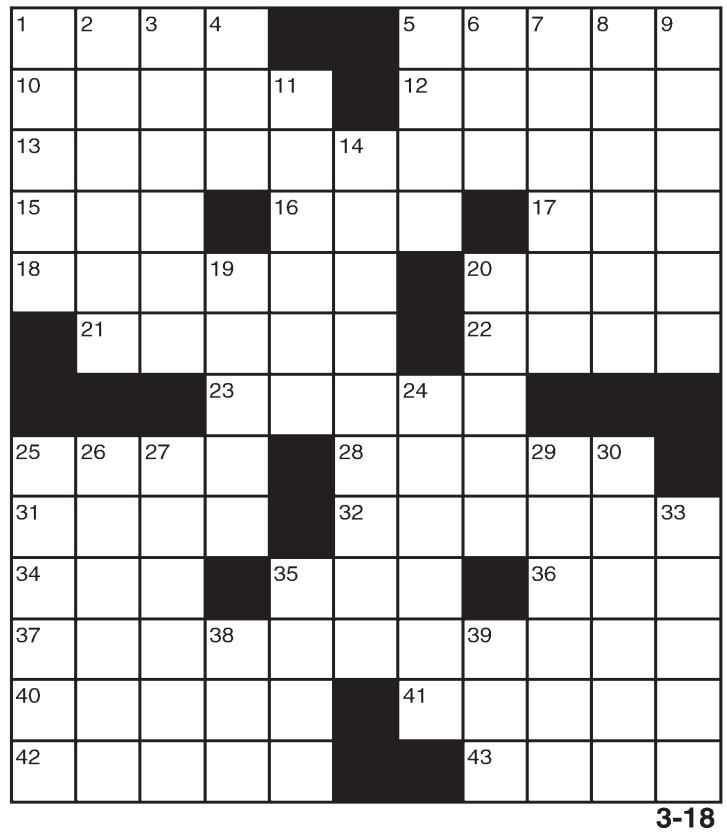
DOWN

1 Combines
2 Unex-pected wins
3 Brosnan's Bond predeces-sor
4 Mine matter
5 Cut
6 Boxing great
7 Oft-stubbed item
8 Cavern sounds
9 Snappy answer
11 Kansas city
14 Safe from blazes
19 Profes-sional parker
20 Mix
24 Choose
25 A bit faded
26 Biggest state
27 Mischie-vous creature
29 Drink
30 Black-ened
33 Cheese choice
35 Office seekers, for short
38 Moose's cousin
39 Ventilate

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

Yesterday's answer

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3-18

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MEGA MILLIONS: 3 12 18 25 52 Meganumber: 21 Jackpot: $69M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 4 11 22 29 31 Meganumber: 12 Jackpot: $17M

Fantasy 5: 11 22 23 30 36

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 1 4 EVENING: 1 8 9

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 08 Gorgeous George 2nd: 07 Eureka 3rd: 03 Hot Shot RACE TIME: 1.42.86

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

■ Questionable Judgments: Two counselors in the Denver school system proposed in December that the school board give high school girls who get pregnant at least four weeks of maternity leave, without academic penalty, so they can bond with their newborns. The counselors said the policy would encourage teen mothers to stay in school. (Meanwhile, the Department of Education of the Australian Capital Territory in Canberra granted permission for a 16-year-old student at Stromlo High School to take smoking breaks, based on a doctor's finding that she is so "clinically addicted" to nicotine that her work suffers without it.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1858 German mechanical engineer Rudolf Diesel, the inventor of the diesel engine, was born in Paris.

1766 Britain repealed the Stamp Act of 1765.

1837 Grover Cleveland, the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, was born in Caldwell, N.J.

1922 Mohandas K. Gandhi was sentenced in India to six years' imprisonment for civil disobedience. (He was released after serving two years.)

1937 some 300 people, mostly children, were killed in a gas explosion at a school in New London, Texas.

1938 Mexican President Lazaro Cardenas nationalized his country's petroleum reserves and took control of foreign-owned oil facilities.

1940 Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met at the Brenner Pass, where the Italian dictator agreed to join Germany's war against France and Britain.

1959 President Eisenhower signed the Hawaii statehood bill. (Hawaii became a state on Aug. 21, 1959.)

1962 France and Algerian rebels signed a cease-fire agreement, which took effect the next day.

1965 the first spacewalk took place as Soviet cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov went outside his Voskhod 2 capsule, secured by a tether.

1974 most of the Arab oil-producing nations ended their embargo against the United States.

WORD UP!

indolent \IN-duh-luhnt\, *adjective:* 1. Avoiding labor and exertion; habitually idle; lazy; inactive. 2. Conducive to or encouraging laziness or inactivity. 3. Causing little or no pain. 4. Slow to heal, develop, or grow.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Santa Monica Daily Press

THE MARKET

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Santa Monica Daily Press

*Terms and conditions. Ad will run for thirty (30) consecutive days. After 30 days, ad will expire and advertiser must call to schedule a free renewal. Ads are renewed for an additional 2 weeks. Advertiser must call within 5 days of ad expiration to renew. If renewal is placed after 5 days of ad expiration, advertiser must pay full price. Photographs must be submitted digitally in JPG or TIFF format. Email photographs to anniek@smdp.com. Photographs only appear on print edition. 20 word description maximum; additional words 50 cents. Call for more details. Private parties only. Terms subject to change without notice.



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Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale As of Mid March 2008

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$ 2,316,750	$ 1,300,000
North of Montana	=	$ 3,725,300	$ 2,088,381
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 1,961,900	$ 1,004,481
South of Wilshire	=	$ 873,966	$ 777,764
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,468,125	$ 724,846
Ocean Park	=	$ 1,776,694	$ 1,112,507

Statistics updated every Friday

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

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