



GOODBYE, COBI
SEE PAGE 15

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE WELCOME BACK, SPRING ISSUE

Authorities agree with buyers

Local Internet retailer has long history of complaints with the Business Bureau

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN SM Sometimes, there really is nothing to watch on TV.

Boasting itself as the leading resource for digital television, a locally based Internet company's customers are begging to differ.

In response to more than 125 complaints received about TVAuthority.com — an e-

commerce site that sells high definition televisions — the Better Business Bureau on Tuesday released its review of the company, rating its level of service and business practices an F.

"Most ... allege excessive delays with delivery of ordered products or the company fails to deliver at all," the review states.

A self-proclaimed "savvy" online shopper, Shannan Clark, of Jacksonville, Fla., was in

the market for a new television and surfing the Internet for her next big purchase when she came across a price comparison Web site that rated TVAuthority.com as a reliable place to purchase a new system.

She placed an order for an \$1,100 40-inch liquid crystal display (LCD) television on Feb. 18. More than a month, five angry e-mails and three phone calls later, Clark is still waiting.

TVAuthority.com, whose offices are located in Seattle and Santa Monica, has been besieged with negative reviews by frustrated customers over the past few months — customers who have launched an online campaign of their own, posting comments on numerous opinion Web sites about their collective dissatisfaction with the company's level of service.

SEE COMPLAINTS PAGE 12



SPRING THING

Sixth-graders Peter Akpulonu, 11, (left) and Nicholas Ivy, 12, manage to balance eggs on their ends at the Santa Monica Police Activities League during the Spring Equinox Tuesday. Folk tales from various European countries claim that only on this day one can accomplish this feat.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com



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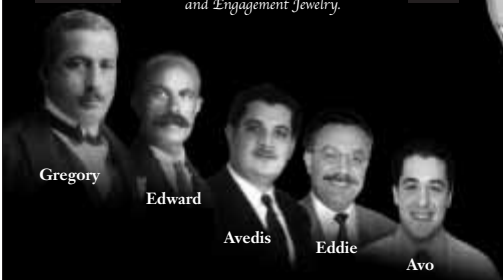
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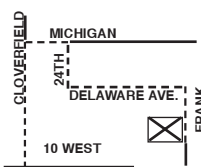
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Calendar

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Mystery Book Group

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

The Santa Monica Public Library's Mystery Book Group discusses Kate Atkinson's 'Case Histories.' Group meets in the Community Room located on the second floor.

'Suite 12' art exhibit

444 Lincoln Blvd., Venice, restaurant hours

Baby Blues Bar-B-Q hosts 'Suite 12,' a black-and-white photography exhibit by local photographers. The opening reception will take place tonight from 6:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m. The exhibit will be open through April 23. For more information, call (310) 405-2622 or e-mail photosbyhart@yahoo.com.

Green living workshops

500 Wilshire Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Sustainable Works, a non-profit environmental education organization sponsored by the city of Santa Monica and Santa Monica College, presents six-week courses designed to help residents learn about important environmental issues, save valuable resources, lower utility bills, eliminate junk mail and protect their health. Group meets at the Wild Oats community room. For more information or to RSVP, call (310) 458-8716, ext. 1.

The Keiskamma Altarpiece

1008 11th St., 10 a.m. — 8 p.m.

The Keiskamma Altarpiece was made by women of the Keiskamma Art Project to celebrate the strength of an African community ravaged by AIDS where grandmothers bear the responsibility of raising orphaned children. Made with embroidery, painting and photographs, this triptych was inspired by the famous Issenheim Altarpiece. The piece is available for viewing in the church sanctuary; free of charge.

Kiwanis Club Weekly Meeting

1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.

The Santa Monica Kiwanis Club holds its weekly luncheon with guest speakers at the YMCA. For more information, call (310) 828-1766.

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Introduction to paddling

402 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

An experienced REI staff member will share information about kayaking and recreational kayaks. Learn which type of kayak, paddle and PFD will best fit your needs, as well as information on local paddling destinations.

Yappy Hour @ Tails of Santa Monica

2912 Main St., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.

A social gathering for dogs and their people. There will be light refreshments, dog snacks and play time. For more information, call (310) 392-4300.

'Get the Creativity Cure'

1049 Swarthmore Ave., Pacific Palisades, 7:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Village Books is hosting creativity coach Dr. Rachel Ballon, who will conduct a complimentary one-hour workshop and sign her new book, 'The Writer's Portable Therapist.' Contact Dr. Ballon at (310) 826-3230 or e-mail Rachwrite@AOL.com. For more information, visit www.rachelballon.com.

No More Kings

23600 Rockfield, Lake Forest, 9:30 p.m. — midnight

No More Kings is playing at the Gypsy Lounge. For more information on the band, visit www.myspace.com/nomorekings.com.

'What's new this week'

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

The Fairview Branch of the Santa Monica Library presents a weekly review and discussion of the week's key news stories, at home and abroad; moderated by Jack Nordhaus. Free and open to the public. For more information, call (310) 450-0443.

Church Mice

1220 Second St., 3:15 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Music, art projects, Bible stories, games and snacks are offered every Thursday in the Christian Education Building of First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica. Children 3 years of age through second grade are welcome. For more information, call Rebecca Hall at (310) 451-1303, ext. 26.

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.





A REAL SQUARE DEAL

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Pan Pan Wang, a photography mentor from Venice Arts, goes over a composition while on assignment with Matt Selbo (left), 11, and Gabi Bon Dorant, 14, at the Virginia Avenue Park Farmers Market on Saturday. The trio were looking to capture a "Behind the Scenes" look at the farmers' market. Venice Arts brings artists together with low-income youth to nurture their creativity, imagination and talent.

One church under God, Christ

Various Christian religious groups gather together to represent a unified front

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

WILMONT A Catholic, a Lutheran and a Methodist walk into a church ...

There was no punch-line this cold Monday evening, as more than 60 devout Christians sat in the First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica, singing hymns and praying to God in unison. Except this wasn't a room filled with just Methodists. Rather, the audience was comprised of followers of varied congregations from across the city — Saint Monica Catholic Community, St. Paul's Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica.

It was a day for Christians of different denominations to put aside their differences and unite for their common love of God — a tradition of the city's Christian churches that

dates back more than 20 years.

"It's a symbol of our hope that one day, full communion between all of our denominations will be restored," said Rev. James Boline of St. Paul's Lutheran, who co-officiated the ceremony.

Unity Day, which has occurred worldwide in the larger Christian community since the early 1900s, was brought to Santa Monica by Rev. Don Shelby at the First United Methodist Church more than two decades ago. He found it as an opportunity for followers of all faiths to gather and celebrate a prayer for unity, said Monsignor Lloyd Torgerson, of Saint Monica.

"We certainly recognize and honor and respect our differences, but there are many issues at the core of all of our missions," Torgerson said Tuesday.

The service is held at a different church every year and participating churches also change every year, said Rev. Patricia Farris, of the United Methodist Church.

About nine years ago, the First Presbyterian Church joined in on Unity Day at the urging of its pastor, Rev. William Wood.

"We are, in fact, one, even though sometimes our ways of

Device can kick-start your heart

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

ST. JOHN'S HEALTH CENTER A broken heart is hard to mend, but it's getting easier thanks to new technology being tested here that allows doctors to travel deep within the pulmonary muscle and perform potentially life-saving surgery in as much time as it takes to pick up flowers, roast a duck and uncork a bottle of wine.

Using an experimental, visually-guided laser catheter with a small balloon attached, cardiologist Shephal Doshi recently treated "short-circuiting" tissue in the upper chambers of a 58-year-old man with an irregular heartbeat.

If left untreated, the rapid, ineffective beating of the atria — one form of arrhythmia — can cause permanent damage, such as heart failure and death. Stagnant blood in the atria can also form clots and lead to a stroke.

The new device, known as the Endoscopic Ablation System, by Massachusetts-based CardioFocus Inc., is expected to make the treatment of arrhythmia easier, more precise and less painful.

"Since the procedure was performed five days ago, the patient hasn't had a single attack. He is feeling very well," said Doshi, the first physician in the United States to use the catheter.

St. John's is the first medical institution to participate in the ENABLE trial, a multi-center clinical investigation set to take place in 20 hospitals nationwide. The trial is part of the approval process set forth by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"For the first time, we can see directly into the heart and treat areas that are not 'short circuiting' with more precision," Doshi said. "We're thrilled to have the opportunity to do this cutting-edge work and, hopefully, this technology makes treatment more successful and safer ... We want this technology to be enabling."

Atrial fibrillation is a rapid, uncontrolled beating of the atria — the two upper chambers of the heart. When the upper chambers "short circuit," they don't completely fill with blood, causing the lower chambers to beat erratically and pump lower than normal volumes.

As a result, patients experience palpitations, chest discomfort and breathlessness. In severe cases, the person can become weak and faint, which can be life-threatening.

"When most people think of the heart, they think of it as a pump, but no one thinks about the electrical system that works hard keeping the pumps going," said Stephen Sagon, president of CardioFocus Inc. "If the pump is blocked, or the electrical system fails, the blood doesn't flow properly."

SEE UNITY PAGE 13

SEE HEART PAGE 13



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Media sheep has wool over eyes

Editor:

What the Bush Administration and all their GOP media sheep are calling, in one talking point, 'micro managing,' the congressional Democrats, and many of the rest of us, call responsible 'oversight.'

Flo Ginsburg
Santa Monica

Affordable housing is no bargain

Editor:

The Rent Control Board feels that families are being rent burdened to occupy a market rate rental these days. To solve this, the city has been building housing by Community Corporation. If one looks at the two buildings under construction on Santa Monica Boulevard, at present, it becomes apparent that nobody would pay market rates for these units.

The building at 26th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard is located on a very busy corner intersection. The vehicle noise and exhaust will prevent any tenant from opening windows for ventilation. It is unlikely children will be allowed outside to get needed exercise or play.

The building at Berkeley and 26th streets is being built right up against a three-story solid brick wall. I can only imagine that the units in the middle of the lower floors will have such poor natural lighting that the occupants will have high energy bills and depressed moods. Again, the units are on a high traffic street and windows will be kept closed.

Landlords who provide market rate rentals know these units would be a hard sell, even with a lot of amenities. I don't envision granite counters, hardwood floors or stainless steel appliances being provided in these units by Community Corporation.

I do hope, instead, that Community Corporation is going to provide health services for respiratory problems and mental health issues that will surface in the future tenants of these properties.

It is sad to think that what should be a welcome addition to offering affordable housing appears to also offer unhealthy living. There is a reason for commercially zoned lands in the city, unfortunately, Community Corporation does not seem to understand that all parcels of land are not deemed suitable for their buildings.

Joan Rogers
Santa Monica

GOP took their shot and missed

Editor:

Why, when a large majority of Americans say they are not satisfied with the way the war is going, do Republicans vote in block against eventually bringing troops home from Iraq. To date, 3,192 soldiers have been reported killed and 24,042 soldiers have been reported wounded in action.

Lest we forget, the war that has now lasted longer than our involvement in World War II, is not an American war, but a Republican war. Are Republicans happy with the bankrupt cause they have bought into?

Bush and Cheney continue to deflect attention away from their failed escapade in the desert by blaming the anti-war movement for lowering troop morale. Maybe it's more a case of soldiers holding a buddy in their arms who has just been shot by sniper.

Ron Lowe
Santa Monica



Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The 16 words that changed the world

"THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa."

These 16 words, spoken by the president in his 2003 State of the Union Address, ended up becoming the justification for preemptively invading Iraq and is the reason why Lewis Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff and assistant to the president, is now a convicted felon. It took a little over four years to play out, but the effect of those 16 words is now becoming clear.

Gov. George W. Bush came to Washington early in 2001, after a majority of justices on the Supreme Court "granted" him a (highly technical) electoral victory over Vice President Al Gore in 2000. Needless to say, he didn't have a clear mandate. What he did have was Karl Rove, who had to know that no incumbent wartime president with an approval rating over 50 percent has ever lost an election. Rove's mandate was clear: Keep the president's approval rating up and the United States in a military conflict. On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, 19 guys with a death wish provided everything he would need.

Unfortunately, the war in Afghanistan was over by the end of 2001 and the 2004 election was too far away for the president to run as a "wartime incumbent."

The State of the Union is a constitutionally mandated address to a joint session of Congress which the Bush administration has used masterfully. In 2002, the president created the "Axis of Evil" (countries which seek WMD's and/or export terrorism): North Korea, Iran and Iraq. The countries were selected because of their synergy: North Korea seeks WMD's, but doesn't export terrorism, Iran sort of seeks WMD's and definitely exports terrorism, and Iraq sort of seeks WMD's but doesn't export terrorism. The administration started with Iraq.

But by the fall of 2002, polls showed the administration had failed to make its case. Still, they couldn't wait any longer. Their plan predicted a six month war which, even if it ran long, would still be over in time for the president to coast to re-election. So on Oct. 7, 2002, the president gave a speech in Cincinnati in which he outlined the threat posed by Saddam Hussein. In his original draft, the president was going to publicly accuse Saddam of trying to develop nuclear weapons by saying, "and the regime has been caught attempting to purchase up to 500 metric tons of uranium oxide from sources in Africa." But the Director of the CIA, George Tenet, person-

ally told National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley to remove that portion because he didn't want the president to be a "fact witness for that statement."

On the eve of the 2003 State of the Union address, there was fierce debate between the White House and the CIA. The president wanted the Africa/uranium story in the speech, but Tenet wouldn't clear it. The White House needed Saddam to be pursuing nuclear weapons, but the agency had no evidence of it. The bottom line was Tenet couldn't allow the president to make that exact statement. So they came up with a compromise: The president would represent the statement as truth, but attribute it to another source. Sure, the British government had learned that Saddam Hussein had sought uranium from Africa, but the American government had learned that the British story wasn't true.

How? The vice president asked the CIA to investigate the story. The CIA sent former Ambassador Joseph Wilson. He told the CIA the story was wrong. The CIA notified the rest of the intelligence community, but not the White House — so the president could maintain plausible deniability (which he did). The rest is history.

When it became clear how wrong pre-war intelligence was and the Africa/uranium story ended up being the last piece of the war-justification puzzle, Joseph Wilson spoke out in an op/ed entitled "What I Didn't Find in Africa," which destroyed the administration's case for war. In response, the White House decided to destroy Wilson's credibility — not by challenging the facts of his report to the CIA, but by trying to emasculate him. They suggested he was only chosen because his wife works for the CIA, and it was her idea to send him. It's that disclosure (and its pathetic cover-up) which created this whole mess.

Ironically, the effort to get to the bottom of the Africa/uranium story and the effort to discredit the man who actually did the job were both coordinated out of the office of the vice president. Even more ironic is the fact that the man who asked the Justice Department to investigate the disclosure of the CIA agent's identity — Tenet — is the same man who tried to prevent the president from using those now-infamous 16 words in the first place.

If they had listened, Lewis Libby wouldn't be a convict.

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The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West L.A.

Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

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Building environmentally wise pays big dividends

Dear EarthTalk:

Do buildings with various "green" features cost more to build and operate than traditional buildings?

Chris Wiedemann
New York, NY

IT IS DIFFICULT TO DO AN APPLES-to-apples cost comparison of a "green" structure against one that is not due to differences in design, materials and other factors, including the location. But the general consensus is that a green building might well cost slightly more up front, but it will very likely reap the rewards of lower operating costs going forward.

The U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program is the standard-bearer used today in evaluating the relative green-friendliness of building projects. A 2004 nationwide study conducted by Greg Kats of the research and consulting firm Capital E found that structures that qualified for the lowest LEED rating ("LEED Certified") cost builders less than 1 percent more up-front than equivalent non-green buildings. For projects with more ambitious green features that qualified for higher LEED ratings (silver, gold and the highest, platinum), the cost premiums went up from between 1.9 percent and 6.8 percent — still surprisingly low.



Getty Images

GREENING: While it may cost more to go green, the benefits should outweigh the costs.

the initial investment. Another 2004 study by Lisa Matthiessen of the consulting firm Davis Langdon came to similar conclusions. According to Matthiessen, incorporating sustainability elements in a project's design from the get-go — not layering them on later in the process — is essential to keeping the costs down.

Despite these financial benefits, Kats points out that there is, unfortunately, a "consistent disconnect" in peoples' minds between the higher up-front costs of building green and the ensuing savings in operating costs. He says that overcoming this is fundamental to understanding the value of green building.

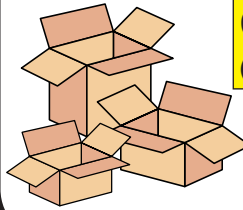
And, of course, money is not the only issue. Transitioning to a greener built environment is important for the conservation of natural resources as well as for reducing pollution. According to statistics gathered by the U.S. Green Building Council, the 76 million residential and five million commercial buildings in the U.S. collectively consume 65 percent of America's electricity, 37 percent of its energy, 25 percent of its water supplies and 30 percent of its wood and materials. Likewise, buildings account for 35 percent of the nation's solid waste, 36 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, 46 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions, 19 percent of nitrous oxide emissions and 10 percent of fine particulate emissions.

Want to get down to earth? Submit questions to earthtalk@emagazine.com.

TRANSITIONING TO A GREENER BUILT ENVIRONMENT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AS WELL AS FOR REDUCING POLLUTION.

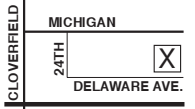
What surprised Kats even more, though, was the value of the payback. Overall, Kats found that the average cost premium for building green was about \$4-5 per square foot, while the financial benefits derived over 20 years from incorporating sustainability features — such as lower energy and water bills — was in the range of \$49-65 per square foot, or about 10 times the value of

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The Q-Line

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A kingdom for a parking spot

At times it seems that motorists drive themselves silly by circling city streets and area parking structures time after time searching out an empty parking space. Of course more parking would be nice, but at what cost?

This week's Q-Line question asks:
What would you like to see done by our trusted city officials to remedy what at times seems like a daily scavenger hunt for an available spot?

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



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State officials issue confidentiality rules

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES The California Department of Justice on Monday released a new confidentiality policy to determine when information on its contracts should be withheld from state records, after an Associated Press investigation found tens of millions of dollars of contracts were improperly shielded from public view.

“This policy change will absolutely ensure those things don’t happen again,” said agency spokesman Nathan Barankin.

The AP investigation found that information on scores of Justice Department contracts, many of them no-bid, was erroneously labeled “confidential” and omitted from computerized state records, cloaking it from public sight.

The hidden contracts included spending

on lobbyists, consultants, legal firms — even courier services.

Current and former agency officials said the omissions were mistakes, and there was no attempt to intentionally hide spending or protect favored contractors from scrutiny. Since 2003, the department labeled “confidential” more than 1,700 contracts with individuals and companies, valued at over \$100 million.

The new policy is intended to set more precise standards for imposing confidentiality, mirroring exemptions in state open-records laws.

It requires employees to provide a written explanation of why any information on contracts should be withheld from state computer data, and the recommendation must be approved by a supervisor, with advice from lawyers when needed.

Legitimate exemptions would include

purchases of wiretapping and other surveillance equipment, legal advice in ongoing trials or information that would jeopardize security for officers.

The policy “creates a paper record and a bit of an administrative burden on secrecy, on confidentiality, which in a bureaucracy is a wonderful thing,” said Peter Scheer, executive director of the California First Amendment Coalition.

“The path of least resistance going forward will be to put things on the public record. The path of some resistance will be to withhold them. And that’s the way it should be,” Scheer said.

The issue of confidential contracts is expected to come up Thursday at a state Senate subcommittee meeting in Sacramento.

The contracts reviewed by AP were issued between 2003 and last year, when Bill

Lockyer, a Democrat, was attorney general and headed the Justice Department. Jerry Brown now holds the job; Lockyer was elected state treasurer in November where he manages billions of dollars in state investments.

The confidential contracts were listed in the state’s main storehouse for tracking the spending, the State Contract Procurement Registration System. The massive database was created several years ago, in part to provide an open window into the way state government selects and pays billions of dollars to outside companies and individuals.

After initially refusing to disclose names of hidden contractors — the department said it would be too laborious to review so many — officials agreed to inspect a sample of 131 contracts. The finding: only 12 were correctly labeled confidential.

Gigantic passenger jet lands at LAX to show off sheer size

BY JOHN ANTCAZAK
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The world’s largest passenger plane completed a bicoastal American debut Monday, touching down at Los Angeles International Airport minutes after a sister aircraft landed in New York.

The massive Airbus A380 descended out of a dank, gray sky and made a picture-perfect landing in Los Angeles just before 9:30 a.m. as hundreds of spectators cheered from both sides of the airport. About 15 minutes

earlier, an A380 touched down on the other side of the country, at John F. Kennedy International Airport.

“Pretty exciting day,” Airbus North America Chairman Allan McArtor said as he greeted Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, who watched the arrival with company officials and other dignitaries.

“This is going to be a very significant airplane for the future of air travel and tourism,” Villaraigosa said.

The flight crew came out of the plane about 30 minutes after landing and was

greeted on the stairway by Villaraigosa. Along with several dignitaries, the group made its way down a Los Angeles fixture — a red carpet. Photographers swarmed the crew as news helicopters hovered overhead.

The double-decker, four-engine A380 is 239 feet long, has a wingspan of more than 261 feet, seats 555 passengers in a typical three-class configuration or 853 in a one-class economy setup, and can fly some 8,000 nautical miles. By comparison, the largest passenger plane now in service, the Boeing 747-400, seats about 415 people.

Airbus has 166 orders from 15 airlines for the new plane, which already has made tests flights in Europe and to Asia. Each A380 costs about \$319 million.

The Los Angeles airport, the fifth-busiest worldwide, is expected to be the first U.S. destination for the A380 when it enters commercial service. Officials said the Australian airline Qantas will be first to fly in and out of Los Angeles in early 2008. The inaugural Los Angeles flight originated in Toulouse, France. With only 23 people aboard, an Airbus crew tested out the planes systems.

NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR HIGH PLACE AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT

DATE: March 21, 2007

TO: State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

LEAD AGENCY: City of Santa Monica, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Contact: Jing Yeo, AICP, Senior Planner Phone: (310) 458-8341



The City of Santa Monica intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the High Place Affordable Housing Project. In accordance with Section 15082 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the City of Santa Monica has prepared this Notice of Preparation to provide Responsible Agencies and other interested parties with information describing the proposal and its potential environmental effects. Environmental factors which would be potentially affected by the project are: Aesthetics/Shadow Effects, Air Quality, Construction Effects, Cultural Resources Neighborhood Effects, Noise, Traffic and Circulation.

PROJECT APPLICANT: Community Corporation of Santa Monica

PROJECT LOCATION: 1959 High Place / 2349 Virginia Avenue

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project is located on 2.04 acres that currently consists of 13 separate parcels and High Place, a public street. The site is currently developed with 15 one- to two-story residential structures housing 28 residential units, as well as associated garages and accessory buildings. Seven of the onsite structures are listed on the City's Historic Resources Inventory as contributors to a potential grouping. The proposed project involves demolition of all existing structures on the site and relocation of High Place to a public alley that would provide shared access along the western edge of the project. The project would consist of 47 apartment units and 45 condominiums with two separate subterranean garages for each development. The projects are being entitled separately but are analyzed together for the purposes of environmental review. The applicant has applied for the following discretionary permits: a Development Review permit (DR 06-017) for a project exceeding 15,000 square feet of floor area and a Tentative Map (TM06-031).

REVIEW PERIOD: As specified by the State CEQA Guidelines, the Notice of Preparation will be circulated for a 30-day review period. The City of Santa Monica welcomes agency and public input during this period regarding the scope and content of environmental information related to your agency's responsibility that must be included in the Draft EIR. **Comments may be submitted, in writing, by 5:30 p.m. on April 13, 2007** and addressed to: Jing Yeo, AICP, Senior Planner, City Planning Division, 1685 Main Street #212, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Fax: (310) 458-3380. E-mail: jing.yeo@smgov.net

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia de la preparación de un reporte sobre los posibles efectos ambientales referente a la construccion propuesta de un edificio de 92 unidades residenciales, lo cual puede ser de interes a usted. Para más información, llame a Carmen Gutierrez, al numero (310) 458-8341.

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STATE BRIEFS

IRVINE
UCI radiation oncology department put on probation

University of California, Irvine, Medical Center officials confirmed that the hospital's radiation oncology department has been placed on probation by the group that evaluates the nation's residency programs.

Officials said Monday that the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education sanctioned the department in January for failing to meet the council's requirements in an onsite review conducted in May 2006.

Neither the hospital nor the accreditation group would discuss specific reasons for the probation, but residency program director Dr. Jeffrey Kuo said problems were administrative and not related to patient care, excessive work hours or equipment.

UCI becomes the only one of the nation's 79 teaching hospitals with a radiation oncology program to have an unfavorable rating for its department.

The residency program could be forced to close if problems have not been corrected when a review committee returns in January 2009 to re-evaluate the program.

``We're pretty confident that when we're re-reviewed in 2009 that everything will go well," Kuo said.

UCI Medical Center has run afoul of state and federal regulators for a number of missteps in recent years, including problems that led to its liver transplant program's closure in November 2005.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES
Audit faults LAPD's fiscal management system

The police department is losing millions of dollars because of an antiquated fiscal management system that needs a complete overhaul, according to an audit by the City Controller's office.

The report released Monday found that fines are not often collected, sworn officers frequently do administrative work and there is little accountability over money management.

``Policing is not only exceedingly important in the city of Los Angeles, it's exceedingly expensive," Contoller Laura Chick said. ``The only way to do it properly is to do it smart."

The audit recommends a reorganization of the department's Fiscal Operations Division, which is responsible for payroll, budget, financial audits and cost tracking.

Chief William Bratton said he welcomed the audit and agreed with most of its recommendations.

``We will use the findings as a guide to better justify requests and make operations more efficient," he said.

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said he would ask the Police Commission to work with Bratton to plan an overhaul.

AP

RIVERSIDE
Officials find invasive mussels in SoCal water supply

Authorities have found hundreds of tiny invasive mussels in a major Southern California waterway that they said could create havoc with the region's water supply.

Crews inspecting the aqueduct that brings Colorado River water to the area have found almost 800 quagga mussels, which are native to Ukraine, since March 10, Metropolitan Water District officials said in a letter dated Friday.

It's the largest discovery in the West so far of the thumbnail-sized mollusks that have created a billion-dollar problem in the Great Lakes area by clogging water pipelines and altering ecosystems.

But officials said the mussels are still more sparsely distributed here than in the Great Lakes region.

The discoveries were made during a routine maintenance shutdown that involved draining the 242-mile aqueduct.

Fifty siphons will be inspected for mussels during the shutdown that's scheduled to last until March 27.

AP

Palo Alto
California-based team cracks century-old math problem

A century-old math puzzle so complicated that its handwritten solution would cover the island of Manhattan was finally cracked by an international research team working for four years.

The 18-member group of mathematicians and computer scientists was convened by the American Institute of Mathematics in Palo Alto to map a theoretical object known as the "Lie group E8."

Lie (pronounced Lee) groups were invented by 19th-century Norwegian mathematician Sophus Lie in his study of symmetrical objects, especially spheres, and differential calculus.

The E8 group, discovered in 1887, is the most complicated Lie group, with 248 dimensions, and was long considered impossible to solve.

"To say what precisely it is is something even many mathematicians can't understand," said Jeffrey Adams, the project's leader and a math professor at the University of Maryland.

The problem's proof, announced Monday, consists of more than 205 billion entries, with about 60 times the data as the Human Genome Project. When stored in highly compressed form on a computer hard drive, the solution takes up as much space as 45 days of continuous music in MP3 format.

"It's like a Mount Everest of mathematical structures they've climbed now," said Brian Conrey, director of the institute.

The calculation does not have any obvious practical applications but could help advance theoretical physics and geometry, researchers said.

AP

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South of Wilshire	= \$ 1,072,250	\$ 654,560
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Keeping up with the bad guys

State, cities clamp down on registration of sex offenders

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Hundreds of recently paroled sex offenders are being housed for weeks at a time in hotels throughout California, a year after lawmakers complained about the practice.

But local law enforcement officials on Monday said tensions are easing, primarily because state prison officials have become better about telling them where and when offenders will be released.

Prison officials now give at least 60 days notice before sex offenders are placed in communities.

“We want to make sure that the word gets out,” Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said.

Schwarzenegger was addressing a summit of about 350 state and local officials who were exploring ways to better house and treat sex offenders.

The summit was an outgrowth of public outrage last year after it was reported that parole agents in Los Angeles shuffled high-risk parolees between hotels to beat a five-day residency reporting requirement. At least seven offenders were illegally housed in hotels within a half-mile of schools, according to the prison system’s inspector general. There also were complaints that offenders were housed too close to Disneyland.

In the San Francisco Bay area, prison officials temporarily moved a dozen paroled sex offenders into old officers’ barracks at San Quentin State Prison. That move came after the parolees were forced to leave a Solano County hotel until permanent housing could be found.

“The whole accusation that we were

sneaking people into communities — there was some truth to that,” Corrections Secretary James Tilton told reporters after addressing the summit.

Tilton said the department now views its

cisms arose last year.

“I’ve heard less concern from chiefs of late about the sex offenders ending up in the community without the department knowing about it,” Sullivan said.

I’VE HEARD LESS CONCERN FROM CHIEFS OF LATE ABOUT THE SEX OFFENDERS ENDING UP IN THE COMMUNITY WITHOUT THE DEPARTMENT KNOWING ABOUT IT.”

Carey Sullivan, Woodland Police Chief

role as helping communities decide where to place offenders, rather than independently finding them homes. The new approach is working, said Woodland Police Chief Carey Sullivan. He represented the California Police Chiefs Association on a task force Schwarzenegger appointed after the criti-

Placer County Sheriff Ed Bonner characterized previous notification to local law enforcement as sketchy at best: “Hey, they’re in a trailer park on West Fourth Street.”

Bonner said trust between local and state authorities is returning with better communication.

Feinstein questions lawyer firings

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The day after then-U.S. Attorney Carol Lam in San Diego notified the Justice Department of warrants in a corruption case focused on Republicans, a DOJ official contacted the White House about “the real problem” with Lam, Sen. Dianne Feinstein said Monday.

Feinstein, D-Calif. and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, made the claim as questions mounted about the dismissals of eight U.S. attorneys last year and Attorney General Alberto Gonzales’ role in the case. The Justice Department was to turn over more documents to Congress on Monday night, and the Senate began debating legislation by Feinstein to reverse a change in the Patriot Act that allowed the administration to appoint U.S. attorneys without Senate confirmation.

Feinstein said that Lam notified the Justice Department last May 10 of pending search warrants in the investigation of defense contractor Brent Wilkes and Kyle “Dusty” Foggo, who’d just stepped down as the CIA’s No. 3 person. The warrants were part of the corruption case centered on former GOP Rep. Randy “Duke” Cunningham

of San Diego, who is in prison after pleading guilty in 2005 to taking \$2.4 million in bribes from Wilkes and others.

On May 11, Justice Department chief of staff Kyle Sampson wrote an e-mail to an official in the White House counsel’s office asking to discuss “the real problem that we have right now with Carol Lam” that led him to believe she should be replaced.

That e-mail was included in documents released by the Justice Department last week. Sampson resigned March 12.

“Now there could be a straightforward explanation for this e-mail that has nothing to do with public corruption cases Carol Lam was pursuing.

However the timing looks really suspicious and it raises serious questions that need to be answered,” Feinstein said on the Senate floor. “Because if any U.S. attorney were removed because of a public corruption investigation or prosecution this well could comprise obstruction of justice.”

Justice Department officials have said that Lam was let go because of insufficient prosecution of gun crimes and immigration violations. Gonzales has denied that any of the dismissals of the U.S. attorneys were connected with investigations they were pursuing.

But Feinstein has said that despite those denials she believes Lam’s dismissal had something to do with her prosecution of the Cunningham case. Lam’s office indicted Foggo and Wilkes last month on charges of fraud, conspiracy and money laundering, just two days before Lam left her post.

Six of the eight prosecutors ousted last year were conducting public corruption investigations at the time of their dismissals, mostly investigating Republicans, Feinstein said.

A Justice Department spokesman did not immediately return a call for comment Monday.

In testimony earlier this month before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Lam said she had never been told the reason she was told to resign last December. She did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment Monday.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee, said he shared Feinstein’s concern about Lam’s dismissal.

“The sequence of events raises a question as to whether Ms. Lam was asked to resign because she was hot on the trail of criminal conduct relating to the Cunningham case,” he said on the Senate floor.

Family testifies against suspect in murder case

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

RIVERSIDE The fiancée and cousin of a man accused of setting a wildfire that killed five firefighters testified Tuesday that the suspect had boasted about lighting earlier fires.

Crystal Breazile, however, denied that her fiance, Raymond Lee Oyler, set the blaze that claimed the firefighters’ lives last fall.

Oyler, a 36-year-old auto mechanic, is charged with five counts of first-degree murder, 17 counts of use of an incendiary device and 23 counts of arson, including the deadly Esperanza Fire. Prosecutors allege he set 23 separate blazes in an area about 80 miles east of Los Angeles between May 16 and Oct. 26, 2006.

Breazile was called as a hostile witness by prosecutors during a two-day preliminary hearing to determine whether there is enough evidence to proceed to trial.

Breazile, who has a young daughter with Oyler, testified as well.

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Tribe opens Skywalk over Grand Canyon to tourists

BY CHRIS KAHN
Associated Press Writer

HUALAPAI INDIAN RESERVATION, Ariz. Staring down through the transparent floor and walking very carefully, American Indian leaders, a former astronaut and invited guests walked beyond the Grand Canyon's edge Tuesday during opening ceremonies for a glass-bottom observation deck that lets tourists gaze deep into the chasm.

A few members of the Hualapai Indian Tribe, which allowed the Grand Canyon Skywalk to be built on the canyon rim, hopped up and down playfully on the horse-shoe-shaped structure. At the top of the loop, the group peeked over the glass wall.

"I can hear the glass cracking!" Hualapai Chairman Charlie Vaughn said playfully.

Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin declared it a "magnificent first walk."

The Hualapai, whose reservation is about 90 miles west of Grand Canyon National Park, allowed Las Vegas developer David Jin to build the \$30 million Skywalk in hopes of creating a unique attraction on their side of the canyon. The Skywalk extends 70 feet beyond the canyon's edge with no visible supports above or below.

"To me, I believe this is going to help us. We don't get any help from the outside, so, why not?" said Dallas Quasula Sr., 74, a tribal elder who was at the Skywalk. "This is going to be our bread and butter."

For \$25 plus other fees, up to 120 people at a time will be able to look down to the canyon floor 4,000 feet below, a vantage point more than twice as high as the world's tallest buildings.

The Skywalk is scheduled to open to the public March 28. To reach the transparent deck, tourists must drive on

twisty, unpaved roads through rugged terrain. But the tribe hopes it becomes the centerpiece of a budding tourism industry that includes helicopter tours, river rafting, a cowboy town and a museum of Indian replica homes.

Robert Bravo Jr., operations manager of the Hualapai tourist attractions called Grand Canyon West, said he hopes the Skywalk will double tourist traffic to the reservation this year, from about 300,000 visitors to about 600,000. In later years, he hopes it brings in about 1 million tourists.



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Dallas Quasula Sr.
tribal elder

"It's a great feeling today. Once everybody sees this, and it's televised, they're going to know to come here," Bravo said.

Architect Mark Johnson said the Skywalk can support the weight of a few hundred people and will withstand wind up to 100 mph. The observation deck has a 3-inch-thick glass bottom and has been equipped with shock absorbers to keep it from bouncing like a diving board as people walk on it.

The Skywalk has sparked debate on and off the reservation. Many Hualapai (pronounced WALL-uh-pie) worry about disturbing nearby burial sites, and environmentalists have blamed the tribe for transforming canyon into a mess.

U.S. Timber payments to stand

BY MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Payments to rural counties hurt by cutbacks in federal logging would continue for five more years under a deal announced Tuesday by Senate Democrats.

The deal, announced by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and other Western senators, would authorize about \$2.8 billion to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act through 2011.

Another \$1.9 billion would be directed to rural states through a proposal to fully fund the Payments in Lieu of Taxes program, which reimburses state and local governments for federally owned property.

"This Democratic package represents a renewed federal commitment to the people of Oregon, the rural West and the nation," Reid said.

"With Senator Reid's leadership we have crafted a lifeboat to keep rural communities afloat," added Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore. "This proposal will mean more than \$1 billion (over five years) for Oregon schools, public safety, roads and other essential county services. It couldn't come at a more critical time."

Details were still being worked out, but lawmakers said the plan would allocate \$526 million in emergency spending to extend the law for one year. The so-called county payments program helps pay for schools, roads and public safety in 700 rural counties in 39 states, with most of the money

going to the West.

The Democratic plan would reauthorize the program for four more years under a new formula that gradually decreases overall payments and shifts money away from the three states that receive the most money: Oregon, California and Washington. Those states would still receive the largest individual shares, but their percentage of the overall program would decrease.

The timber law expired last year, amid concerns about wartime budget constraints and complaints that the funding formula was too heavily tilted toward Oregon and other Pacific states.

Oregon, long a leading timber producer where more than half the land is owned by the federal government, received more than \$149 million of \$385 million distributed nationally.

Saving butterflies in Nevada takes big step

BY SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press Writer

RENO, Nev. Federal land managers working to keep a rare Nevada butterfly off the list of endangered species have closed scores of off-road vehicle trails at one of the biggest, most popular sand dunes in the West.

The closure affects about six square miles of public land where an ancient lake once existed. The emergency order replaces a voluntary measure the U.S. Bureau of Land Management imposed two years ago on a portion of up to 200 miles of trails that run through shrubs and other vegetation that is home to

the Sand Mountain Blue Butterfly, the BLM said.

Agency officials could not say how many miles of trails were closed but said the main sand dunes at Sand Mountain where most motorized use occurs will remain open.

An estimated 50,000 outdoor enthusiasts in dune buggies, motorcycles and other off-road vehicles annually traverse the 600-foot tall, two-mile long dunes about 75 miles west of Reno.

The BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been seeking a compromise with off-road groups to restrict vehicles since conservationists first started petitioning for federal protec-

tion of the butterfly in 2004.

The BLM published the closure order in the Federal Register on Friday and will begin posting signs where travel is prohibited, BLM spokesman Mark Struble said Tuesday.

"It's called an emergency restriction so when everybody hears the 'E' word they think we are shutting the whole mountain down. That is not the case," Struble told The Associated Press.

"We're going from a wide-open, cross-country, go-over-any-of-the-bushes-if-they-get-in-your-way kind of situation, to trying to conserve as much of the vegetative resources that is out there as possible," he said.

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**City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2221 (CCS)
(City Council Series)**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA ADDING SECTION 6.36.110 TO THE SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO SAMPLING ON THE PIER AND PROMENADE

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2221 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2221 (CCS) ("the Ordinance") adds Section 6.36.110 to the Municipal Code to prohibit the distribution of goods, wares, merchandise, products or services on the Municipal Pier, Newcombe Pier or Third Street Promenade without a permit or license from the Bayside District Corporation or Pier Restoration Corporation issued in accordance with their Services Agreements with the City.

Ordinance Number 2221 (CCS) was adopted on March 13, 2007, and shall become effective 30 days after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

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Days on the Market

Jodi Summers

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Saving the world can translate into green

BY U.S. STANDARDS, CALIFORNIA TENDS

to be a pretty environmentally friendly state. Back in 1978 — in response to a legislative mandate to reduce the Golden State's energy consumption — we began developing Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings. Lately, the Air Resources Board is considering standards that would ban toxic substances such as formaldehyde from pressed wood products, glues, and adhesives.

Finally, the rest of the country is following suite. Legislation is moving green practices from the fringe to the mainstream, state-by-state, bill-by-bill. Nationally, the 2005 Energy Policy Act, encourages energy efficiency with tax credits to those who make green improvements to their homes during the 2006 and 2007 tax year.

The concept of green remodeling includes: Energy efficiency, water conservation, and healthier indoor air quality; using products and materials that are sustainable; and reusing or recycling materials rather than dumping more waste into landfills.

As far as the government's concerned, the bigger the project, the larger the tax credit. A solar power system for creating electricity carries with it a 30 percent tax credit — or up to \$2,000. The same credit goes for solar-powered water heaters used for residential purposes.

"Solar water heaters in the right kind of climate are the most accepted technology," notes Warren Karlenzig, chief strategy officer of Sustain Lane, a green consulting firm. "But they're not as effective if you live in a place which doesn't get a lot of sun."

Any energy cell system that has an efficiency rating of 30 percent and a capacity of at least .5 kilowatts receives a 30 percent cost credit — and an additional \$1,000 for every kilowatt of power the system can produce.

"Before you start thinking about using solar energy or any of the other high-tech options available," says Karlenzig, "the first thing is to do an inventory."

Most local utilities will perform an inventory for free. It highlights the spots where energy is being wasted. This often includes windows and doorways — improvements that in the past haven't been tax deductible but now carry credits if the materials are Energy Star-certified. Exterior windows and doors, including skylights, which meet Energy Star requirements currently have a 10 percent tax credit up to \$200. Additionally, roofing and insulation or weather sealing that meets efficiency requirements earns a 10 percent credit up to \$500.

The Environmental Protection Agency Energy Star programs and products help save the environment and save consumers money by using less energy through advanced design or construction. For more information, check out www.energystar.gov.

In addition to the Energy Star program, two new sets of national residential guidelines have been introduced to the marketplace: The National Association of Home Builders' Model Green Home Building Guidelines and the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Homes initiative. The national programs are intended to encourage the mainstream home-building industry to adopt sustainable practices.

"It's all connected — you save money, you save energy," says Karen Schneider, an environmental protection specialist at the EPA. She points out that the average American home emitted 22,000 pounds of carbon last year. "Credits are paid for 2006 and 2007, but the payoff will be for the life of the product."

The EPA believes that the benefits can be two-fold. Efficient materials can reduce energy costs by up to 30 percent. That's an average annual savings of \$600 to the average American household, which spent \$1,900 on energy bills last year.

THE CONCEPT OF GREEN REMODELING INCLUDES:
ENERGY EFFICIENCY,
WATER CONSERVATION,
AND HEALTHIER INDOOR AIR QUALITY; USING PRODUCTS AND MATERIALS THAT ARE SUSTAINABLE; AND REUSING OR RECYCLING MATERIALS RATHER THAN DUMPING MORE WASTE INTO LANDFILLS.

Green often costs a little more upfront — roughly two to five percent more — but the savings appear immediately. For example, stepped-up insulation means you can install smaller, more efficient heating and AC units. Buyers and builders can also save by opting for recycled materials, according to the Green Building Initiative.

"Green-built homes don't have to cost so much more," observes architect Peter L. Pfeiffer. "They just have to be better thought out."

If you're looking for the most consistent long-term green solution, the answer lies at your local nursery: Trees. Summer heat flows through the east and west of a North American house, and the Environmental Protection Agency estimates that mature trees planed on eastern and western exposures can reduce temperature by almost 10 degrees in summer months. In some cities, such as Sacramento, local governments give trees away in order to reduce strain on the power grid.

At the moment, there are no tax deductions for planting trees.

For more information regarding green energy savings, please consult your accountant.

JODI SUMMERS negotiates investment properties for Sotheby's International Realty. She can be reached at jodis@verizon.net or (310) 260-8269. Visit her Web sites at www.SoCalInvestmentRealEstate.com and www.santamonicalandmarks.com.



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Windowsills working wonders for gardeners

BY DEAN FOSDICK
Associated Press Writer

NEW MARKET, Va. Live in an apartment long enough and you'll eventually embrace that old adage about there being no place too small to fit a garden.

Take windowsills: These narrow but generally sunlit spaces have been used as homes for plants ranging from African violets to dwarf evergreens and lemon trees.

"You only need about 2 square feet," said Sarah Carter, curator of herbaceous plants and outdoor gardens with the New York Botanical Garden. "Look at light conditions, humidity and temperature and then choose plants that fit rather than trying to get something to evolve."

Herbs are probably the most popular windowsill gardening option, Carter said. Few things are more convenient for gardeners-turned-cooks than aromatic herbs growing on a kitchen windowsill, within easy reach of stove or table.

"They do need a lot of light, so try using a south- or southeast-facing window," she said. "Basil, parsley, rosemary and thyme are easy (to grow) and rewarding. You can start them from seeds in winter and have something green, fresh and usable when they're only a couple of inches high."

If you're a serious salad eater, plant some baby lettuce, spinach or Asian greens to accompany the herbs. Many of these fast-growing vegetables will produce several batches of leaves so don't toss them out after taking the first cutting.

Good drainage is crucial for whatever you decide to grow indoors, Carter said.

"Most houseplants are killed from over-watering. I use broken terra-cotta pots for my bottom layers as a drainer and then add the potting mix. Put plastic drip trays underneath to protect the windowsills."

Beware drafts from unsealed windows, especially if re-blooming orchids. "They can't stand drops in temperature," Carter said.

Draft or no, windowsills are apt to be cold this time of year. Be careful about drawing

your window shades too low — isolated between the shade and the window, plants might freeze or at least be damaged. Even touching a frosty pane for a few minutes can scar a leaf on some tender tropicals. Consider moving your favorite potted plants to a warm, out-of-the-way spot overnight, returning them to the window-side during the day for at least six hours of nourishing sunlight.

Cherry tomatoes, dwarf cabbage, beans, peas and peppers are attractive and don't require much elbowroom. You can quadruple the size of your windowsill garden by adding a few hanging baskets or by building shelves.

LOOK AT LIGHT CONDITIONS, HUMIDITY AND TEMPERATURE AND THEN CHOOSE PLANTS THAT FIT RATHER THAN TRYING TO GET SOMETHING TO EVOLVE.

Sarah Carter
curator of herbaceous plants and outdoor gardens with the New York Botanical Garden

Another easy way to expand is by placing a 6-foot wooden ladder on each side of the window to support a few boards or rectangular pieces of window glass. That makes a sturdy and attractive platform for a sizable collection of container-grown plants.

Greenhouse- or garden windows can be expensive but offer ready-made utility. The most basic of these bay window-like arrangements are vented and tinted to mimic conditions in miniature conservatories. They provide more sunlight and humidity for your plants than the plants would get if placed near the standard flat windows.

Solving problems around the house

BY JAMES AND MORRIS CAREY
Associated Press Writers

When the sun comes out in the spring, it's a good time to put an end to those little annoyances around the house that have been bothering you all winter. Here are some of our tips:

ANNOYING DOOR?

Do you have a stubborn door that just won't stay open? Swings shut before you're in? Hits your back on the way out?

All you need is a flat-blade screwdriver and a hammer to fix it.

Use the screwdriver to remove a hinge pin from the problem door — preferably the center one. Lay the pin on concrete and tap it up near the top, hard enough to slightly bend the hinge pin. Then tap the pin back into the hinge with a hammer.

The new bend will create a slight resistance — just enough to keep the door from swinging shut.

CLOG-FREE DRAINS

If you've got problem sinks, showers and bathtubs with drains that are always backing up, there are easy ways to keep

your drains clog-free.

First, boil two quarts of water, then measure out a half-cup each of baking soda, salt and white vinegar. Just before going to bed, dump the baking soda and salt down the drain, add the vinegar and let this concoction sit and foam for a few minutes. Then pour the boiling water in after it.

The next morning, you'll be amazed to find your drain running clear and free. Repeat every month or two.

FRESHEN UP THE DECK AND PROTECT IT FROM SUN AND WATER

If your wood deck looks more like a pile of firewood than a setting for an afternoon barbecue, chances are it could use a little rejuvenating.

Start by washing the deck with a solution of one cup powdered laundry detergent in a gallon of hot water. Add a cup of liquid chlorine bleach if mildew is present.

Severely neglected decks will require a more potent commercial deck-bleaching product. Look for one that contains oxalic acid. Use this in combination with a power washer, which can be rented from your local tool-rental outlet or paint store.

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SPRING IN FULL-BLOOM

George Rieck, 68, waters his prized African daisies at the Main Street Community Garden on the first day of spring Tuesday. Ironically, a rainstorm rolled into the area during the early hours.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Unfulfilled television deliveries upset buyers

FROM COMPLAINTS PAGE 1

The reviews detail experiences similar to those endured by Clark.

"I placed an order almost a month ago, and to this date, I have no idea what is going on with my order," a user posted on Resellerratings.com on March 16.

In response to the angry e-mails, phone calls and reviews written about TVAuthority.com, its co-founder and president, Neil Kusens, posted a letter on the company's Web site on March 12, addressing the situation taking place within his company. Kusens also owns TV Authority, a separate company that sells televisions in Downtown Santa Monica. The delays in deliveries and issues with customer service have plagued the Internet business, not the Santa Monica showroom.

"Over the past six years, we have prided ourselves on excellent customer service in addition to our great price, selection and product knowledge," Kusens states in his letter. "However, recently we have become embarrassed by the long hold times and delays in all forms of communication."

The owner cites "breakdowns" in the information technology infrastructure, increases in orders along with the growing

market for digital televisions, and losing key personnel all as reasons for the delays.

"We never anticipated this level of inconvenience for our customers, and for that we are truly sorry," he wrote.

Clark began calling TVAuthority.com a few days after she placed the order, when she noticed that the television was listed as being in stock, yet she did not receive a confirmation order notifying the shipping date.

"I TOLD MY HUSBAND THAT THE WHOLE TIME WE WERE TALKING, SHE WAS PROBABLY FILING HER FINGERNAILS AND NOT EVEN LISTENING TO ME."

Shannan Clark, Angry TVAuthority.com customer

"I was on hold for 50 minutes," Clark said on Tuesday about her first call. "I timed it."

The sales associate on the other end told Clark that she would receive her order within 24 to 48 hours and that her account would be updated to include shipping tracking information. That never happened, Clark said.

Her most recent conversation with TVAuthority.com took place over the week-

end, when the sales associate again assured Clark that her television would be shipped within 24-48 hours and she would receive shipping information.

"I told my husband that the whole time we were talking, she was probably filing her fingernails and not even listening to me," Clark said. "She was a person paid to answer to an angry customer."

When no confirmation e-mail was sent,

Clark finally had enough, calling her credit card company on Monday to dispute the charges.

The negative reviews on Web sites like PriceGrabber.com, where one user wrote "Be Smart! Do not buy from these people!" represents only a small portion of the many customers that TVAuthority.com serves every day, Kusens said Tuesday.

The company is looking to change its

ways by transitioning from phone-based communication operations to an e-mail heavy system.

The Better Business Bureau has received 126 complaints over the past 36 months, about 80 of which went unanswered. Before the rating posted on Tuesday, TVAuthority.com was graded as a C-level business, according to Gary Almond, vice president of operations at the BBB.

Many of the complaints have come since the beginning of February, he said.

The new grade could affect TVAuthority.com in that it could dissuade customers from doing business with the high definition television company, Almond said. The BBB also acts as a repository for government agencies and the complaints could be used by those agencies against the business in the future.

One of the customers who complained to the BBB is Clark, who contacted the agency last week.

"From now on, I will do a lot more research," Clark said.

melodyh@smdp.com

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Tiny device can accomplish much

FROM HEART PAGE 3

The disorder affects nearly 2.3 million Americans and is caused by congestive heart failure, heart attack, disease of the heart valves, high blood pressure and infection. In 20 to 35 percent of cases, the cause is unknown.

Doshi expects the number of sufferers to increase as the Baby Boomer generation ages.

Patients with the disorder have a risk of stroke five to six times higher than normal and need carefully controlled blood-thinning therapy to reduce this risk.

"I felt my heart jumping all over the place. I was lightheaded, dizzy and had trouble sleeping," Doshi's patient said. "Medicine only helped for a little while, so I'm hoping to find a permanent treatment to help me feel better."

Doshi said his patient was very active and traveled frequently for his job before he noticed the ill effects of the disorder. He then began to feel dizzy at certain times of the day, was having trouble sleeping and could no longer exercise as often or for as long as he used to.

"For him, it was definitely a quality of life issue," Doshi said.

THE INSIDE STORY

The procedure itself took about three hours to complete. Doshi and his colleagues inserted a slender catheter into a vein in the patient's right leg. The catheter was threaded up into his chest and guided into a large vein in his heart using the experimental, pin-sized video camera, small amounts of real time z-ray and ultrasound imaging.

Once in the area with the "short-circuiting" tissue, Doshi inflated a balloon and was able to visualize the target tissue for the first time. Before, doctors had to rely solely on X-rays and ultrasounds that created a rough model of the heart, but nothing could provide such a clear, live view of the affected area like the new catheter.

Once the target was located, Doshi used a laser, which released precisely controlled arcs of light around the vein. Several bursts of laser energy were able to destroy an area

of abnormal tissue while causing no significant damage to surrounding healthy heart muscle.

Doshi treated all four pulmonary veins within the heart, which were "misfiring. The patient was sedated during the procedure, but was back to work within a few days and felt no pain or burning in his chest, something which comes with the more common procedure that uses radio frequencies to burn heart tissue.

"I FELT MY HEART JUMPING ALL OVER THE PLACE. I WAS LIGHTHEADED, DIZZY AND HAD TROUBLE SLEEPING. MEDICINE ONLY HELPED FOR A LITTLE WHILE, SO I'M HOPING TO FIND A PERMANENT TREATMENT."

Unnamed patient
testimony

While Doshi believes the operation a success, he will continue to monitor his patient for at least a year as part of the FDA study. Doshi is quick to point out that this is not yet a definitive treatment, however, he believes it could soon be the best way to treat atrial fibrillation.

"The procedure went so smoothly and I was pleasantly surprised by how durable it was," Doshi said. "We encourage other centers to get up to speed and join us ... because the sooner we get patients enrolled, the sooner we get all the data in and we get this approved."

Sagon expects FDA approval within the next three years.

kevinh@smdp.com

Churches hold unity service

FROM UNITY PAGE 3

going about it are different," Wood said.

Materials used for Unity Day are published through the World Council of Churches every year. Christian communities in different parts of the world plan the service every year. This year, the service and worship materials were planned by Christian churches in South Africa, according to Farris.

The Unity Day service was planned in conjunction with the presentation of the Keiskamma Altarpiece at the United Methodist Church this year. The focus of the service was the altarpiece and the AIDS pandemic in Africa, where the Saint Monica community has sent out a small group of parishioners every year for the past few years to assist in the building and restoration of HIV and AIDS clinics in Kenya.

Created by 130 women and men, the Keiskamma Altarpiece tells the story of dev-

astation from AIDS in the village of Hamburg in South Africa. Unity Day is traditionally held in Santa Monica during the third week of January, but local church leaders decided to postpone it until March in hopes of incorporating the altarpiece with the church service.

In the spacious church, followers of the four Christian denominations sat as they listened to sermons by the clergy members from the Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Methodist churches talk about the devastation in South Africa.

First Presbyterian parishioner Charles Doak, of Santa Monica, was among those who participated in the service, something he has done for the past few years.

"Our lives are so fragmented that any event that brings us together is powerful," Doak said following the service. "Any service for Christian unity draws me."

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Ad Council



Getting the dirt on repeat polluters

Local officials back bills to improve notification of spills

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA BAY Local lawmakers are trying to put the hurt on polluters, introducing legislation that would create harsher penalties for those who fail to report sewage spills.

State Assembly members Julia Brownley (D-Santa Monica) and Ted Lieu (D-Playa del Rey) have both introduced similar bills aimed at improving the way in which public health officials are notified of raw sewage spills so that they can quickly close beaches and protect swimmers from getting ill.

In addition to hefty fines, lawmakers are proposing civil penalties. One violation could carry a financial penalty of \$25,000 and a year in county jail, according to amendments expected to be submitted today by Brownley's staff.

"We continue to have sewage spills and it continues to take various entities quite awhile

to report them, making it more difficult to clean it up," said Stephanie Burri, Brownley's chief of staff. "We are trying to make sure we have the quickest reporting we can."

Staff for Brownley and Lieu are expected to work together over the coming months on one bill.

The proposed changes come just weeks after an investigation by county officials revealed over 11.6 million gallons of raw sewage contaminated the Santa Monica Bay Watershed from January 2002 to July 2006. A staggering 189 spills had no documentation.

Because of the failure to report the spills, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health did not close beaches in instances when they should have been off limits due to high levels of bacteria, potentially causing swimmers and surfers to get sick.

Since the report, county supervisors, led by Don Knabe, have created clear protocols for reaching emergency response crews after regular business hours and on weekends. A database has also been created to track spills when they happen, where they happen, the severity and the steps taken to warn the public and protect the environment.

That said, supervisors are looking to

Sacramento for help.

"Many of the reforms that need to happen are things that we can't control locally," Knabe said. "They have to happen at the state level through legislative reform."



THIS HAS BEEN A CHRONIC PROBLEM THAT HAS BEEN PUTTING BEACHGOERS AT RISK FOR YEARS AND YEARS."

Mark Gold, director of Heal the Bay

In September 2006, Knabe requested a widespread investigation to certify how spills are documented throughout the city, and according to the audit, to determine if proper protocols were being adhered to by public agencies to minimize the impact of such spills on public health and the environment.

In November 2001, after discovering evidence regarding a large number of spills, Knabe conducted a similar study about whether there was an actual communication delay between the public agencies in reporting the incidents.

Massive problems dating back several years were unearthed in the latest probe, including

numerous breakdowns in the communication system at every level of government.

"This has been a chronic problem that has been putting beachgoers at risk for years and years," said Mark Gold, director of Heal

the Bay, an environmental watchdog that releases regular reports on water quality at local beaches. "So now that the county is aggressively following through on a complex set of recommendations, I welcome them, but it's long overdue."

Gold said it is important to clarify the reporting process and include strict time limits for notification immediately following a significant spill.

"We think this will be motivation to make sure spills are reported in a timely manner," Gold said.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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SOCCER

Saying goodbye to Cobi's L.A. Galaxy

BY KEN PETERS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Cobi Jones planned to retire before the 2007 season — but when the Los Angeles Galaxy signed David Beckham, he decided to play another year.

Jones, a pioneer on the U.S. national team during the 1990s, said Monday he will retire after the 2007 Major League Soccer season.

When Jones originally let his intentions be known to Tim Leiweke, president and chief executive officer of Galaxy owner AEG, Leiweke interrupted him to say Beckham might be joining the Galaxy.

“And Cobi said, ‘At the end of this next season,’” Leiweke related, smiling.

The 5-foot-7 Jones, who wears distinctive dreadlocks and is quick with a smile, said he’s had a great career, and “I want to go out on a high — with a championship.”

Jones, who turns 37 in June, first played for the United States in 1992 and last played in four games for the national team in 2004. He has 15 goals in a U.S. record 164 international appearances, and he played every minute of the U.S. games at the 1994 and 1998 World Cups, as well as appearing during the 2002 tournament.

He had the Galaxy’s first goal in MLS’s inaugural season, scoring in the 37th minute of the opening day victory over the MetroStars in 1996.

He has appeared in 281 games for the Galaxy, with 66 goals and 86 assists — all team records. Los Angeles has made the MLS championship game five times, winning the title in 2002 and 2005.

Galaxy general manager Alexi Lalas, for-

merly Jones’ teammate with the national team and the Galaxy, said soccer in America owes a debt of gratitude to Jones, calling him a “soccer icon.”

“It is because of players like Cobi Jones that our team, our league and our sport has survived and thrived,” Lalas said.

Jones, who was a walk-on at UCLA, had to prove many critics wrong on his way to becoming one of the country’s best players.

“IT IS BECAUSE OF PLAYERS LIKE COBI JONES THAT OUR TEAM, OUR LEAGUE AND OUR SPORT HAS SURVIVED AND THRIVED.”

Alexi Lalas
Galaxy general manager

“When he first went out for soccer, when he was 7, the coach told us that Cobi couldn’t play the game, so he should give it up and try something else,” Jones’ father, Freeman Jones, recalled.

Mada Jones, Cobi’s mother, said, “He was determined. He came home and started kicking the ball against the stair steps again and again, going up step three, then step four.”

Freeman Jones shook his head and said, “Who would have guessed back then?”

BASEBALL

Dodgers send billionaire pitcher to minor leagues

By the Associated Press

VERO BEACH, Fla. — The Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher who made more headlines for his rocks than his lobs during training camp this spring was reassigned to the team’s minor league camp Monday.

Matt White, a 29-year-old left-hander, discovered a valuable rock quarry behind a house he bought from an aunt three years ago in western Massachusetts. But while everyone else wanted to talk about his possible fortune, White wanted to stay focused on baseball.

The attention the quarry received wasn’t to blame for his reassignment, he said.

Talk of the rock fortune was strange for a week, “but it settled down and I was able to do my job on the mound and that’s what they are looking at,” White said. “I don’t even want to talk about rocks right now, but it wasn’t a distraction to my pitching.”

The reliever allowed one earned run and two hits in 7 1-3 innings. He said he will be sent to Triple-A Las Vegas, where he is likely to be a situational left-hander.

“Just go down and get your work in, keep your focus on what you have been doing since you have been up here,” White said the

team told him. “I will continue to work on my sidearm pitches and go down and get some innings to get ready to be called up.”

The Dodgers signed White as a free agent on Dec. 20. He has spent less than a year in the major leagues since his professional career began in 1998, and White entered camp competing for a job in a deep pitching staff.

The bullpen already includes Takashi Saito, Jonathan Broxton, Joe Beimel, Chad Billingsley and Elmer Dessens, and White also would have been competing with the losers in the fifth-starter competition that includes Hong-Chih Kuo, Brett Tomko and Mark Hendrickson.

Still, he said he never once thought about being reassigned. His one thought was on making the big club.

“I know there is a lot of numbers in here, I am not naive to that, and I understand it is what it is,” White said. “But it’s always a bad feeling to get sent to minor league camp.”

In other Dodgers transactions Monday, pitchers D.J. Houlton and Eric Stults and outfielder Delwyn Young were optioned, and pitcher Jon Meloan, infielder Tony Abreu and outfielder Choo Freeman were reassigned as well.



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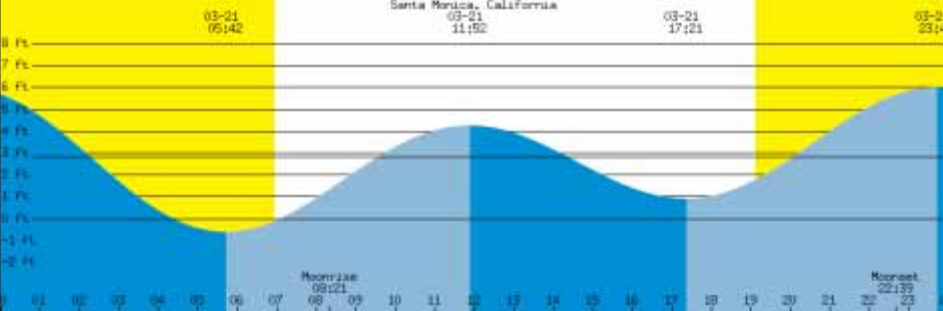
SURF CONDITIONS

SWELL FORECAST (5-7 FT)
Today we're expecting some sizeable NW swell from a system we've been tracking in the western Pacific since last week that peaked at a distance of around 3000 miles from California at a 290-degree angle. With seas that reached 36 feet, this storm threw us some decent sized swell.

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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 5, 2007**

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QUICK STATS

(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 6

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 4

Number of wet days -- 8

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 30 / 31

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 12 / 14

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

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	A+	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+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	B
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	B	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	A+
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	C	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	B
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	D	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	C	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	D	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	B	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken



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

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

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.

Away you go, Sagittarius

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

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



ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Your possessive side emerges, and you need to deal with strong feelings. Your instincts are right-on. You have insight that helps you understand others. Use this knowledge. Deal with a pending matter. Tonight: Listen to what someone shares.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Your happy personality encourages you to make positive changes and think through what could be a problematic situation. You see life with renewed interest and enthusiasm. Let this energy spill out. Tonight: In the whirlwind of life.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Take your time, and you'll come up with new beginnings. Your ability to read between the lines helps you grasp what is going on with a situation. You might want to see someone, but is it realistic? Observe. Tonight: Get extra R and R.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ You take a stand and move forward. Your understanding of a situation changes with a friend's feedback. The unexpected opens doors and has you veering in a new direction. You visualize life with renewed interest. Tonight: Zero in on a friendship.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Basics count. Listen to news that heads in your direction. You are anchored and come from a basic perspective. Build on a friendship. Professional demands take a higher priority. You have style and magnetism. Tonight: A must appearance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You have style and directness working in your favor. You might want to think and evaluate before launching in any direction. Touch base with a loved one at a distance. You might not feel comfortable with unexpected behavior. Tonight: Rent a movie. Let your imagination rock and roll.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Speak to someone and know that this person will understand. In groups, your message is not easily conveyed. Understand limits with the knowledge of what lies ahead. Think carefully before you take a stand. Tonight: Be a duo.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ What starts as a challenge could end in a different type of scenario that might even surprise you. Knowing what it is you seek and heading in that exact direction make a big difference. Do not settle, even if someone is pushy. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Your ability to get the job done emerges once more, putting you in the limelight. You are talented and seem to be directed. Others follow your lead. Understand that what is expected of you could be important. Tonight: Away you go.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might want to move forward and allow others to understand where you are coming from. Communication and brainstorming are very important. Don't push yourself too hard. Understanding helps your ability to empathize. Tonight: Fun and more fun.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ The basics color your decisions and actions. Though you might not be as sure of yourself as you would like, you can make dynamic choices. Count on your ability to read between the lines. Tonight: Design a comfortable few hours.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ You might seem explosive to some as you spin from one issue to another. How you approach a situation could be much different from what you initially intended. Move forward and remain positive. Tonight: Time to talk!

Born Today

Actor Matthew Broderick (1962)
TV host Rosie O'Donnell (1962)
composer Johann Sebastian Bach (1685)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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Happy Birthday!

Veer in a different direction this year. Nothing can or will stop you except yourself. You could be looking at your finances much differently and making your security more important. Allow yourself to move in a new direction and handle situations more creatively. You know where you are heading as your next birthday peeks its head around the corner. The period around Nov. 15, 2007, through Jan. 30, 2008, could be a bit touchy. If you are single, you will shake up the status quo. You will meet someone very different. If you are attached, your relationship will head in a new direction given insight and empathy.

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Sacking Mac

Bernie retiring from standup to focus on films, producing

BERNIE MAC says he plans to bring down the curtain on his standup comedy act after 30 years. Mac told David Letterman on CBS' "Late Show" that he'll retire after he finishes shooting the comedy film "The Whole Truth, Nothing but the Truth, So Help Me Mac" this fall.



I'm going to put it in theaters and it's going to be 30 years for me, and I'm going to call it," the 49-year-old comedian said on Monday night's show.

"I'm going to still do my producing, my films, but I want to enjoy my life a little bit," Mac told Letterman. "I missed a lot of things, you

know. I was a street performer for two years. I went into clubs in 1977."

"It's a great way to make a living but it also, it takes a toll, doesn't it? It's tough," Letterman said.

"Oh, man, you miss out on so much, you know, and you live in all these hotels – I was on the road 47 weeks

out of the year," said Mac, who starred with D.L. Hughley and Cedric the Entertainer in 2000's "The Original Kings of Comedy."

Said Letterman: "So, one last film record of your work." Mac replied: "That's right. ... Comedy has been so good to me. And that's all I ever wanted, watching

you guys. I had great mentors – Jackie Gleason, Flip (Wilson), Redd Foxx, Richard Pryor, Bill Cosby, Buddy Hackett. I had so many people to watch, that today you don't have that anymore."

His new film, "Pride," will be in theaters Friday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keanu supposedly grazed a photographer with his car

KEANU REEVES was behind the wheel of a Porsche that allegedly grazed a celebrity photographer standing in the path of the sports car, investigators said Tuesday.

The photographer fell to the ground and paramedics were called after Reeves' car allegedly struck the man at 7:30 p.m. Monday, said Deputy Ed Hernandez of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Reeves, 42, wasn't hurt. The Associated Press left a phone message for a representative of the actor seeking comment.

"He grazed a paparazzi standing in front of his Porsche and the man fell to the ground," Hernandez said. It wasn't known how fast the Porsche was traveling.

Reeves was leaving a parking space in the Avenida Tranquila residential area near Los Verdes

County Golf Course about 30 miles south of downtown Los Angeles, he said.

The photographer, whose name wasn't released, was taken to a local hospital for treatment of unknown injuries, Hernandez said.

The Sheriff's Department was investigating.

Reeves' films include "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure," "My Own Private Idaho," "Speed."

AP

GREETING CARD FROM ELLEN



American Greetings Corp. will develop a line of 32 greeting cards with **ELLEN DEGENERES** that will feature illustrations of the comedian along with her quirky observations.

"I look at having a line of cards as another extension of being a host; helping you wish your loved ones well, piggybacking on your birthday greetings," DeGeneres, 49, said in a statement Tuesday. "I like to be up in the middle of everything and doing it this way is much easier than crashing parties."

The cards are expected to be available in stores this summer.

DeGeneres has a syndicated talk show, "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," and she was the host of this year's Oscars. American Greetings has a new focus on humor cards, said spokesman Megan Ferington. It has had previous deals with stars.

AP

Ex-Prime Minister Thatcher gets bio pic

First it was the queen. Now the Iron Lady is getting the British film treatment.

London-based producer and distributor Pathe Productions said Tuesday it had commissioned a film about former **PRIME MINISTER MARGARET THATCHER**, set during the 1982 Falkland Islands war with Argentina.

Pathe said the film would cover the 17 days leading up to the conflict and would focus on Thatcher's controversial decision to go to war over Britain's sparsely populated possessions in the South Atlantic.

Argentina, which claims the islands, invaded them in April 1982, and its troops were evicted two months later by a British task force.

More than 200 British soldiers and 655 Argentinians died in the war, but Britain's victory boosted Thatcher's flagging popularity. Her Conservative Party went on to win the 1983 election by a landslide, and she remained in power until 1990, transforming British society with her free-market policies.

Pathe said the conflict forced Thatcher to "confront her private fears, face down the men who doubted her and forge the image that even today casts a shadow across the political landscape."

The success of Stephen Frears' movie "The Queen" – especially Helen Mirren's Oscar-winning depiction of Queen Elizabeth II in the week following the 1997 death of Princess Diana – has reawakened interest in British dramas about recent history.

Backed by Pathe, BBC

Films and DJ Films, the Thatcher project is produced by Damian Jones, whose credits include "The History Boys" and "Welcome to Sarajevo." The script is being written by Brian Fillis, who wrote the British Broadcasting Corp. drama "Fear of Fanny," about television chef Fanny Cradock.

The Thatcher film has yet to be cast, and no director has been named.

Thatcher has been portrayed before in film and television, although usually in a peripheral role.

AP

UMA SPLITS WITH BOYFRIEND

UMA THURMAN and hotelier Andre Balazs have split up.

Her New York-based publicist, Robert Garlock, says the couple – who have been together on and off for three years – are no longer an item.

"I confirm that they are no longer a couple," Garlock said Monday. Thurman, 36, received an Oscar nomination for 1994's "Pulp Fiction." She has also starred in both "Kill Bill"

AP

Famed Colombian writer gets mobbed

Gabriel Garcia Marquez was mobbed Monday when he appeared at a luncheon during a meeting of the Inter American Press Association.

The publicity-shy Nobel literature laureate arrived just as the richest man in the world, Bill Gates, was leaving the meeting. But the author clearly wished he had the security detail afforded the Microsoft chairman to fend off overzealous admirers.

Garcia Marquez, whose "Hundred Years of

Solitude" is considered by many as a Spanish-language classic, is a national icon in his native Colombia. People treated him like a museum piece as he dined with journalist friends in a big tent at the event. Dozens jostled with police officers standing guard to have their pictures taken with him and to have books autographed.

Garcia Marquez, known endearingly as "Gabo," has in recent years shunned interviews assiduously – even with journalists he knows well.

One young radio reporter tried anyway Monday. "How about a few words for Caracol radio," he said, thrusting a microphone in front of the 80-year-old writer.

"If I give an interview to you I have to give an interview to everyone," the writer responded.

Noting the reporter's crushed expression, Garcia Marquez then softened: "I love you, young man," he said.

After lunch, the mustachioed writer shuffled slowly to a friend's waiting

sport utility vehicle, looking exhausted. He threw up his hands before getting into the vehicle.

"I can't take any more of this. I'm going to Mexico. I'm going to Mexico," he said. He has lived in Mexico City for decades.

Garcia Marquez was feted across Latin America earlier this month when he turned 80. The Colombian government vowed to rebuild the author's childhood home in the town of Aracataca.

AP

MOVIEGUIDE

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AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
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I think I love My Wife (R)
12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:55, 10:20
Pan Labyrinth
(El Laberinto del Fauno) (R)
1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:55
Premonition (PG-13)
1:15, 2:15, 4:05, 5:00, 6:45, 7:30, 9:15, 10:05

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

300 (R)
1:00, 1:50, 3:50, 4:40, 6:40, 7:20, 9:30, 10:10
Black Snake Moan (R)
2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15
Breach (PG-13)
2:15, 5:00, 7:35, 9:50
Bridge to Terabithia (PG)
2:20, 4:55, 7:25, 9:50
Wild Hogs (PG-13)
1:45, 4:35, 7:10, 9:40
Zodiac (R)
2:45, 6:20, 9:45

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

The Last King of Scotland (R)
12:45, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00
The Wind
That Shakes the Barley (NR)
12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55

LAEMMILE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Beyond the Gates (R)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
The Lives of Others
(Das Leben der Anderen) (R)
1:55, 5:00, 8:15
The Namesake (PG-13)
1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:55

MANIN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Dead Silence (R)
11:50am, 2:30, 5:10, 7:30, 10:10
Ghost Rider (PG-13)
11:10am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
The Host (Gwoemul) (R)
11:00am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
Music and Lyrics (PG-13)
11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
The Number 23 (R)
2:10, 7:40
Tortilla Heaven (PG-13)
11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30
The Ultimate Gift (PG)
11:30am, 4:50, 10:20

Janric Classic 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 Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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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

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

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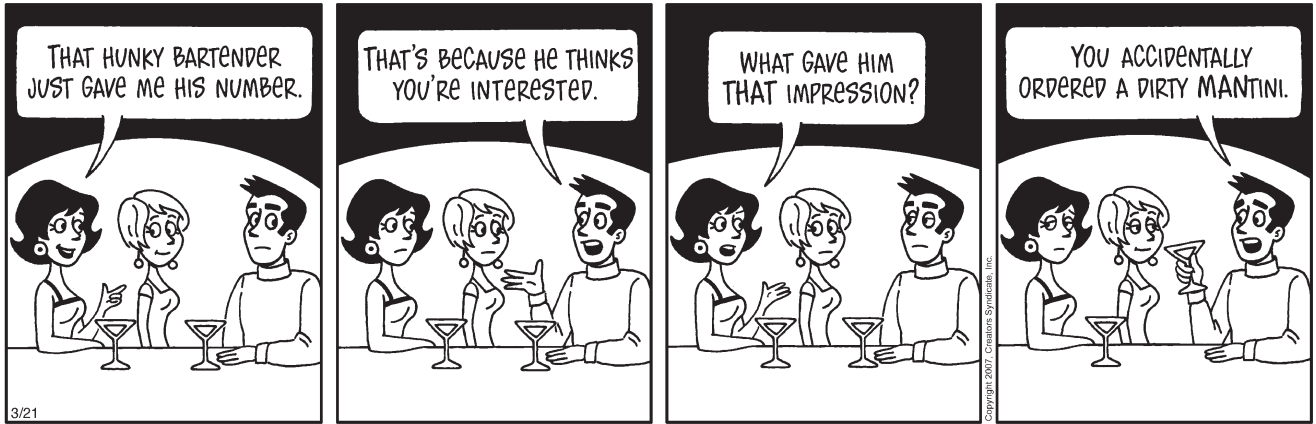
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



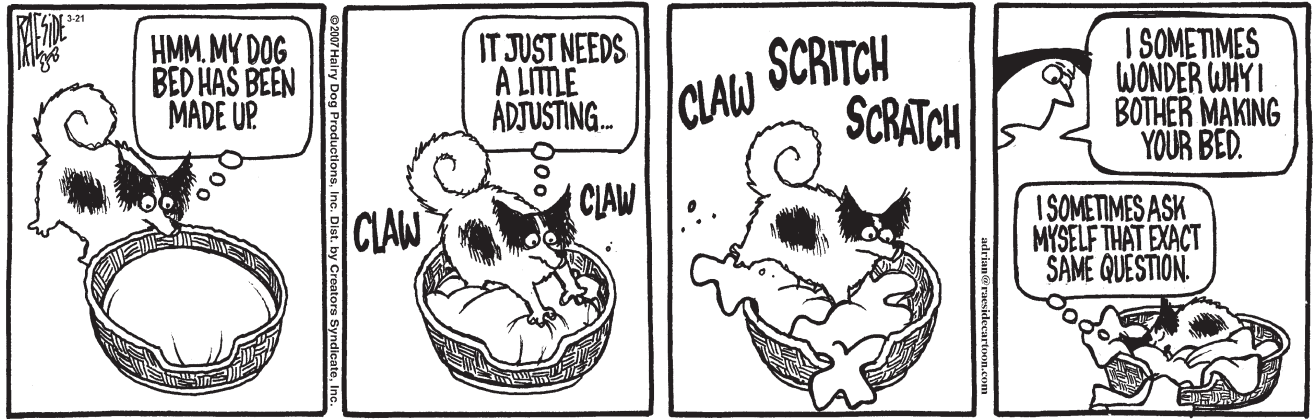
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



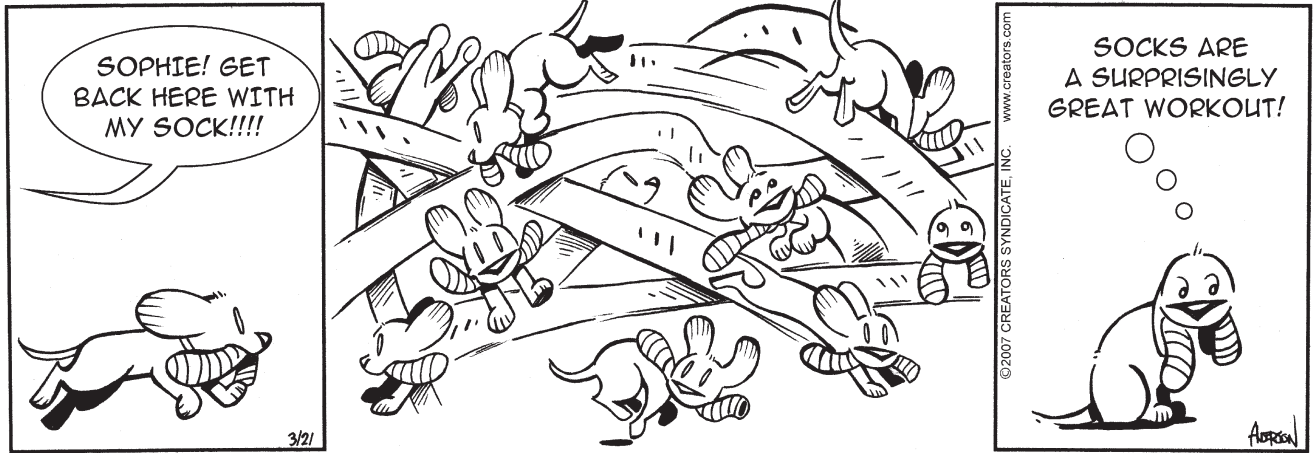
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



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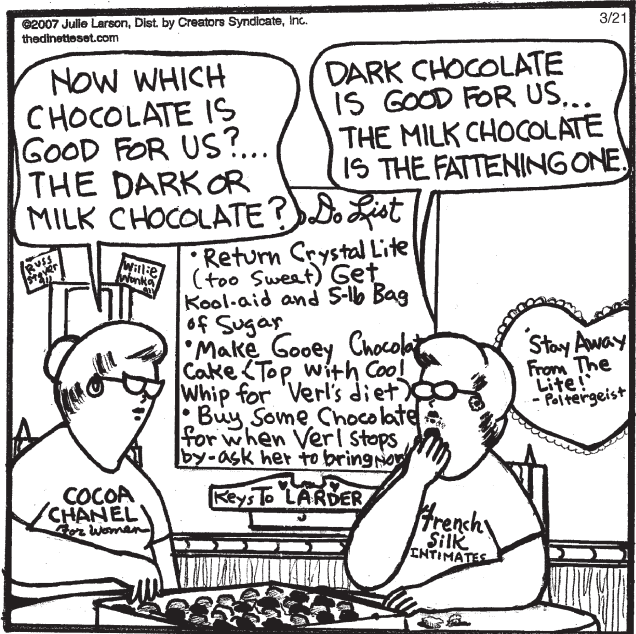
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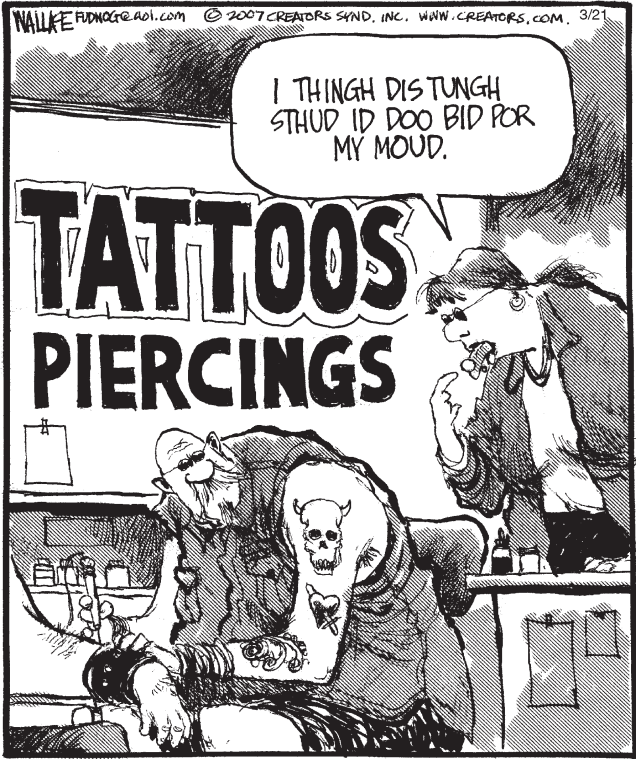
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CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Job for Poirot
 - 5 Docking spots
 - 11 Test type
 - 12 Broad street
 - 13 Musical flourish
 - 14 Trio plus quartet
 - 15 Road goo
 - 16 Cotton seeders
 - 17 VCR button
 - 19 Jotting spot
 - 22 Academy attendee
 - 24 Map ratio
 - 26 Paella base
 - 27 Door sign
 - 28 Take on
 - 30 Crow
 - 31 Cat call
 - 32 Whatsoever
 - 34 Raised
 - 35 Drill part
 - 38 Burning
 - 41 Uncouth
 - 42 Mariner
 - 43 TV's Trebek
 - 44 Some cars
 - 45 No longer fizzy
- DOWN**
- 1 Gun creator
 - 2 Diva's piece
 - 3 Bad thing to criticize
 - 4 Moose's cousin
 - 5 No-frills
 - 6 History makeup
 - 7 Workout count
 - 8 Blasting stuff
 - 9 Shade
 - 10 Ready to go
 - 16 Obtain
 - 18 GI carrier
 - 19 Vatican letter
 - 20 Pub pints
 - 21 Impression

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

Yesterday's answer

- 22 Study all night
- 23 West Wing worker
- 25 Composed
- 29 John Clayton's alias
- 30 Michael Jackson hit
- 33 Fake ID users, often
- 34 Crimson Tide, for short
- 36 Inkling
- 37 Printed matter
- 38 Canyon critter
- 39 Worker, e.g.
- 40 Young buck
- 41 Battle of Britain org.

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

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MEGA MILLION 17 25 36 40 43
Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: \$37M

Super LOTTO 6 17 27 36 41
Meganumber: 3
Jackpot: \$7M

Fantasy 5 3 14 19 34 38

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 2 9 4
EVENING: 6 4 2

DAILY DERRY 1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 07 Eureka!
RACE TIME: 1.46.28

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ **People Confused by "Mother":** The head teacher of Johnstown Primary School in Carmarthen, Wales, ordered in February that there be no Mother's Day cards in school this year because it might be upsetting to students without a mother. Also in February, a government-funded advisory report to Britain's National Health Service recommended that medical staffs not use the terms "mum" and "dad" (and use "guardians" or "carers"), especially since the terms might be confusing or alienating to children of gay couples.

■ In February, the grand mufti of Egypt, Aly Gomaa, told a TV talk show audience in Cairo that he endorsed a recent fatwa by noted scholar Soad Saleh that it is religiously acceptable for women to undergo surgical hymen restoration. Perhaps even more controversial, according to Cairo's Daily Star Egypt newspaper, was Gomaa's corollary, that any Muslim man who insisted on his prospective wife's virginity should be prepared to prove his own. Inexplicable

■ In February, the government of southwestern China's Fumin county decided to improve the feng shui (the harmony of the physical environment) for villagers next to mined-out Laoshou mountain, not by planting trees but by spray-painting the mountainside green. An employee at the county "forestry" department declined to comment to an Associated Press reporter.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1188 Accession to the throne of Japan by emperor Antoku.

1413 Henry V becomes King of England.

1788 A fire destroys 856 buildings in New Orleans and leaves most of the town in ruins.

1801 The Battle of Alexandria was fought between British and French forces near the ruins of Nicopolis in Egypt.

1804 Code Napoléon was adopted as French civil law.

1849 The Norwegian city of Hamar is reestablished by royal decree.

1857 Earthquake in Tokyo, Japan kills over 100,000.

1871 Otto von Bismarck is appointed Chancellor of the German Empire.

WORD UP!

empyrean \em-py-REE-uhn; -PEER-ee-\, *noun*: 1. The highest heaven, in ancient belief usually thought to be a realm of pure fire or light. 2. Heaven; paradise. 3. The heavens; the sky.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Employment

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MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. Unit 218, 1bdrm/1bath, stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, tiling, flooring, granite counter tops, with utilities, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. \$1175/mo (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave unit 1 lower, stove, blinds, tile flooring, carpets, laundry, one parking space, no pets. \$1395/mo \$300 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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5 YEAR/1 ARM	5.75%**
APR 7.0%	
3 YEAR/1 ARM	5.5%**
APR 7.0258%	
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APR 7.1%	
6 MO./6 MO. ARM	5%
APR 7.24%	
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APR 8%	

*Rates subject to change

* As of February 21, 2007

** Denotes an interest only loan



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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: DAVID BLONDER CASE NO. SP007090

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of DAVID BLONDER.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by MICHAEL SOBELMAN in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MICHAEL SOBELMAN be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and

Notices

any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 05/11/07 at 9:15AM in Dept. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner
JAY H. GRANT
10517 SANTA MONICA BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90025
3/21, 3/22, 3/28/07
CNS-1105814#
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF PAUL FEJER

Case No. BP103463

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of PAUL FEJER

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by George Bardos aka Gyorgy Bardos in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that George Bardos aka Gyorgy Bardos be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on April 17, 2007 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 11 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the

Notices

deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:
CAREN R NIELSEN ESQ
LYNN LEE, ESQ SBN
LAW OFFICES OF
CAREN R NIELSEN APC
15760 VENTURA BLVD STE 1520
ENCINO CA 91436-3026
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN772407 FEJER Mar 21,22,28, 2007

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: THOMAS TROY BURKE CASE NO. SP007051

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of THOMAS TROY BURKE.

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by JUDITH J. SCHUMACHER in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that JUDITH J. SCHUMACHER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on 04/20/07 at 9:15AM in Dept. F located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner
LINDA C. SCHUMACHER
SANDRA M. CHAZEN
LAW OFFICE OF LINDA C. SCHUMACHER
3111 CAMINO DEL RIO N., #400
SAN DIEGO, CA 92108-5724
3/14, 3/15, 3/21/07
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Vehicles for sale



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Very Nice Car!
(3L07989)
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'02 Passat ... \$13,788
Leather, Mnrf, Auto, Loaded!
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(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Pwr pkg, ABS, Bose
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\$26,523
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

'03 Mercedes-Benz C230 Spt Cpe.



(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Pwr pkg, ABS, Bose
Premium Sound, Leather. (P1507)
\$26,523
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'04 Toyota Tacoma Double Cab 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
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moon roof. (I6442A)
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'03 Porsche Boxster Cabriolet 2D
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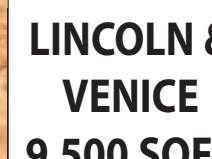
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