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MARCH 21-22, 2009
Volume 8 Issue 117

Santa Monica Daily Press

TO THE RESCUE
SEE PAGE 4

We have you covered

THE GETTING CRAZY ISSUE

City Hall faces tough budget decisions

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CITY HALL Faced with a projected budget deficit of nearly $10 million, City Manager Lamont Ewell has asked all city departments to trim 3 percent off individual budgets for the coming fiscal year and 5 percent for 2010-11.

That means programs could be cut, capital improvement projects put on hold and positions left vacant. Department heads are in the process of identifying cost savings while keeping in mind that any suggestion made could affect their ability to deliver services to the public.

The recommendations will be given to Ewell, who will be responsible for drafting a budget and presenting it to the City Council for approval before July 1, the beginning of the next fiscal year.

The current fiscal year's budget is $567 million, the largest in city history that was characterized by Ewell as "aggressive," addressing costly infrastructure and community needs despite current conditions.

"Cities, unlike the federal or state government, are required to balance their budgets and cannot carry over deficits or print new money," Ewell said of the current economic crisis. "So we must live within our means. Our ability to reduce expenses is our best and most viable option."

Ewell said public safety is his highest priority and will do what he can to maintain the current level of service. That said, he has placed a hold on filling any new positions, unless they are "critical to essential services that are provided directly to the public."

"And my office has to sign off on their approval," Ewell added.

The economy is soft and the Transient Occupancy Tax, a charge for each hotel room occupied and the highest projected revenue source last year, dropped precipitously when comparing the month of January 2008 to January 2009, approximately 29 percent.

"Given the news we are hearing from GM, Ford and Toyota, I anticipate that our sales and use tax, of which 22-25 percent is derived from new car sales and leases, will also fall short of anticipated projections," Ewell said.

Without Santa Monica Place, City Hall is also losing approximately $1.2 million in tax revenue annually.

But despite all the bad news, Ewell said he speaks with other city managers daily and Santa Monica is in a better position than most, leaving him feeling confident that City Hall can weather the storm without much disruption.

"I have a few tools to work with," he said.

Even so, Ewell still expects suggestions from each department, helping to spread the impact so that no one agency bears the brunt.

ONE BY ONE

For Joan Akins, acting director of Community Maintenance, that means more than $800,000 in spending reductions. Reductions could include freezing vacant positions and cutting overtime.

Akins recently met with the department's three division managers to talk about the proposed cuts.

"We explained to them the requests and most everyone living on the planet realize the whole world is having this economic crunch so none of us were surprised," she said. "There is not fat in our budget and so it's going to mean you leave vacant positions."

Akins said that the budget reductions might be noticeable to the public in terms of maintenance.

"If we had any (projects) that we were about to begin or had not done, we would not start those," she said.

In the Housing and Economic

SEE BUDGET PAGE 7



OFF AND RUNNING

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Students run laps during Will Rogers Elementary School's third annual Jog-a-Thon Friday.

A place to rest for the weary

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

FIFTH STREET At 52 years old and living on his own, Craig Blasingane found himself in unfamiliar terrain.

He might have in the past been an entrepreneur and owner of three houses, but when it came time to move into a single-room occupancy unit last month after spending eight years homeless, Blasingane just felt out of his element.

"It's a little shaky at first because you are by yourself," he said. "I was a little nervous because in transitional housing, you have lots of people."

Blasingane is one of 33 members of Step Up on Second who have moved into the nonprofit organization's newest housing development for individuals with mental illnesses since it opened in the 1500 block of Fifth Street last month.

Tucked between an auto body shop and the Salvation Army's Silvercrest Residence for seniors, Step Up on Fifth finally opened its doors at the end of February, nearly two years after the estimated $17 million project broke ground. A grand opening is scheduled for March 26.

Designed by Santa Monica firm Pugh + Scarpa Architects, the 30,000-square-foot housing development includes subterranean parking for 23 vehicles, a ground floor that could include an art gallery and computer training lab, and four stories of apartments above, containing 46 SROs altogether.

Each unit is roughly 300 square feet and comes with a full bathroom, kitchenette and Murphy bed, which folds up into the wall. Alternating floors come equipped with a laundry room and the building has two community rooms that have a full kitchen.

While the building is not expected to be LEED [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design] by the U.S. Green Building Council, it was constructed with sustainable elements in mind, said Tod Lipka, the chief executive director of Step Up.

Those elements include a design that maximizes shade and natural ventilation, and use of green materials, such as non-VOC paint, recy-

SEE STEP UP PAGE 12

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Antique book road show
Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St., 2 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
Spend an afternoon with old books at the library. Dr. Michael Cahn from UCLA Department of History will share his book expertise. He is a historian of rhetoric and of print. Bring your book treasures to share and compare, and perhaps solve a riddle or two. Cost is free. For more information, call (310) 392-3804.

'And Awaaay We Go To Wonderland'
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 4th St., 12:30 p.m. —1:30 p.m.
Kids 2 to 102 take a musical journey to help save the fairytale world, solving riddles, predicting the future, traveling through time, and experiencing a mini-language lesson along the way. Lots of audience participation makes this captivating Rudie-Carlo Family Theatre an outing for the entire family. Birthday and tea parties, hosted by gaily costumed fairy tale characters, are available for every performance. $10.50-12.50. Call (310) 394-9779

Sunday, March 22, 2009

Beach cleanup
Santa Monica Pier
10 a.m. —12 p.m.
Help the Surfrider Foundation clean up the beach and feel good about yourself. Cost is free. For more information, visit http://surfriderwlam.org

'My Father's Dragon'
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m. —12:30 p.m.
Fantastical animal costumes and audience participation take you to Tangerina and Wild Island to rescue a baby dragon. This performance is based on Ruth Stiles Gannett's 1948 classic children's book and is best enjoyed by kids four to 10. Seats are $6 to reserve. Call (310) 828-7519 for more information.

Time to dance
Crossroads School
1715 Olympic Blvd., 2 p.m. —5 p.m.
Provide your kids with an avenue to showcase their best dancing and singing to top entertainment professionals. All kids between five and 12 are invited to attend. Registration begins at 2 p.m. Class ends at 5 p.m. Class cost $30 for one $50 for two. For more information, call (310) 402-5563

Peach Tree Pottery Art Show And Sale
Peach Tree Pottery
3795 Boise Ave., Mar Vista, 90066, 1 p.m. —5 p.m.
Peach Tree Pottery Art Show & Sale Featuring Ann Dunn (watercolor) and Linda Mechanic (pottery and ceramics). Artwork also shown by appointment through April 4 (Peach Tree Pottery is three blocks west of Centinela, just north of Venice Boulevard) For more information, call (310) 567-2708

Colin Hay
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Originally of Men at Work fame, Colin is an accomplished songwriter. Recently on tour with Ringo Star's All Star Band, this will be a unique opportunity to see a famous singer in an intimate setting. Cost $20. For more information, call (310) 434-3412

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.

Sentencing delayed for convicted killers

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN L.A. The sentencing of two gang members convicted last month of killing a Santa Monica residents at the Moose Lodge in 2005 was delayed on Friday.

The court granted a request by lawyers for the defendants for a continuation to give them time to motion for a new trial. The new sentencing date is April 24.

The decision to grant the continuation angered family members of victim Jonathan Hernandez. His brothers, mother, aunts and grandmother appeared, all dressed in shirts bearing the victim's photograph and carrying large framed pictures of the man who, according to his mother, Natalie Preciado, had gotten out of gang life and dreamed of a career as a psychologist to work with at-risk youth.

"My son didn't get a continuation when they killed him," Preciado said. "I don't feel they deserve a right to a continuation."

The defendants, Eric Nuñez and Jose Mojarro, both 24, face life in prison without parole for two counts each of first degree murder.

Both were also convicted of multiple murder special circumstances and allegations that they committed the crime to benefit a criminal street gang.

A third man allegedly involved in the shootings, William Vasquez, is being tried separately because he is a defendant in other murder trials.

The killings took place on March 5, 2005 at a birthday party at the Moose Lodge in Ocean Park. Hector Bonilla and Hernandez, both suspected members of the Santa Monica 13 gang, were killed in an altercation with the three suspects who allegedly belonged to the Alsace clique of the rival 18th Street gang.

The three men were brought in independently. Police took Mojarro into custody July 5, 2005 after he was picked up on a parole violation. Vasquez was apprehended Oct. 6, 2005 in the 500 block of Westlake Street in Los Angeles. Nuñez, who remained at-large the longest, was caught after a violent police chase in January 2006 that ended in a hostage situation. Nobody was hurt.

Their trial began Feb. 5, 2009 and ended with their conviction March 3, 2009, just two days before the four year anniversary of the killings.

news@smdp.com

Pacifica Christian plays ball

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

PACIFICA CHRISTIAN Where to start?

Pacifica Christian High School, a small private institution that was founded just a few short years ago, is fielding its first ever baseball team this season.

The school has rolled out sports team after sports team since its inception and has enjoyed a great deal of success. Its teams, albeit new to the local sports scene, have won league titles and the boys basketball squad this season reached the semifinals of the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section playoffs.

With that said, how can the Seawolves' latest foray into athletics prove to be as fruitful?

Head Coach Julian Chavez, who is leading his first high school team, said that despite all of the obstacles that come with starting a team the toughest task has been somewhat mundane.

"The most difficult part for us was finding a practice field," Chavez said during practice. "It was a lot more difficult than I expected."

Whatever Chavez is doing must be working because his Seawolves have stormed out to a 2-1 record during their inaugural season. The most recent victory came against Mulholland League rival Shalhevet High School on Thursday. Pacifica Christian cruised to a 28-0 rout.

All of this early season success comes from a team that boasts just 11 players with eight of those being freshman. Despite the relative inexperience of its players, the team has stood up to all comers and appears to be on track for a possible playoff selection.

"I think we're pretty good," freshman Zach McMillan said. "We have a shot at a league championship."

Not only have the young Seawolves held their ground against older teams, but appear to welcome the challenge.

"I think (other teams) underestimate us at first," McMillan said. "But, we show them what we got. I think it's our hitting that makes them take notice."

The offense has been strong for a team that has scored 45 runs in just three ball games. With that punch the team will certainly stay in most contests, but Chavez said

SEE **BASEBALL** PAGE 10



CLOSE CALL

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Crossroads first baseman Jaysen Chiaramonte (left) attempts to apply a tag on a Beverly Hills base runner on Thursday in Beverly Hills. Crossroads went on to lose the game, 2-3, in extra innings. With the loss, Crossroads' record is 4-1.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Something to say about schools

Editor:

I am writing to comment on two very important community issues, the Santa Monica High School House System and inter-district permits, which were discussed recently in the Daily Press. I attended the Thursday night school board meeting two weeks ago and spoke, as many other parents did, in favor of maintaining the SAMOHI House System in its present form. The House System has proved its value since inception several years ago. It has brought identity to the high school and through its unique structure improved student performance across the entire spectrum of students as well as made the high school more manageable. This system breaks a large impersonal school down into six, more personal mini-high schools. If the board eliminates the house system, it would be a huge mistake. In addition, I am strongly supportive of the elementary music program which was also mentioned as a budget cut target. The SMMUSD music program is a unique and vital part of the quality education that our Santa Monica students receive.

In brief, I'd like to add my comments to Susan Hartley's recent editorial regarding inter-district permits which were also the subject of Thursday's board workshop. I am troubled by the fact Santa Monica taxpayers are responsible for paying Measure R and the BB bond indebtedness while inter-district permit families pay nothing. Inter-district permit families receive the same benefits from sending their kids to Santa Monica public schools as resident families but are not equally responsible for the financial costs. I can't imagine that a permit family would object to being in the same position as a family living in Santa Monica and that seems only fair particularly in these dire economic times. We all recognize the value and quality of SMMUSD; that's why there is demand for inter-district permits.

I recommend that the board establish a mechanism to equalize the financial position of inter-district families and Santa Monica taxpayers so everyone participates in sharing the costs of running the school system. A quick calculation suggests that $350,000 or more in new revenue could be generated at a time when the board is looking to scale back the house system, curtail the elementary music program, eliminate nurses, and/or institute unpaid furloughs and the state is reducing school district payments. Obviously, any new revenue would reduce the extent of needed budget cuts. I urge the board to take action to implement this revenue generating proposal. It's only fair that everyone who benefits also contributes to the sustainability of our excellent school district.

Brad Pollack
Santa Monica





Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Stimulating the economy one surgery at a time

I WAS HALF-READING A BOOK AND half-watching TV the other day, when I thought I heard someone on TV advertising a "colonoscopy sweepstakes." I assumed that either I had heard wrong or it was a spoof on sweepstakes contests, so I put my book down to find out. It was neither. It was real. It was part of something called "CBS cares." The grand prize winner would get to fly to New York where he or she would receive a free colonoscopy. The winner would also be given three nights in a "luxurious" hotel. Oh, and the winner could bring a "companion" on the trip. That's an interesting bonus, although a colonoscopy probably wouldn't make a good first date.

The pitch was done with a sense of humor, but it was obvious that they really wanted to publicize the need for people to be healthy and have appropriate medical tests.

I think publicizing it like this is an interesting public service. But it can be more than that. And I'm not just talking about the kind of dates that I hinted at that begin with, "Hey, baby, want to go to Miami with me while I get this thing removed from my back?" I think things like the free colonoscopy trip could be a great "travel stimulus package." And the government wouldn't even have to be involved.

First of all, some medical procedures could actually be done on the way to a destination. For example, there's no reason why airlines can't take passengers' blood pressure for free. There are many other tests that could be done on a plane. I can easily imagine ads like this: "Fly United and find out what you're allergic to." "Fly American and get a free chest x-ray." "Travel with Jet Blue and turn your head to the left and cough."

I also think it can be used to bring more tourists to a city. Obviously, it would be hard to turn down a free trip to Paris if all you had to do was have a hearing test once you got there. But it could be used for American cities as well, especially those that have been hit hard by the recession. "Free root canal and three days in Detroit" could help businesses in the Motor City. I'm not suggesting that you have the procedure if you don't need a root canal, but if you have to have one anyway, why not travel?

Another good campaign would be, "Fly to Washington D.C. for a free delivery of your baby." Immigration foes might not like it, but people from all over the world would want to fly to D.C. to make sure their kid would be a U.S. citizen. Imagine how it would help the businesses in our nation's capital. Car seats would be flying out of stores, pediatricians would have more patients, and the blankie biz would be off the charts.

LIKE ANYTHING, THESE MEDICAL GIVEAWAYS MIGHT GET OUT OF HAND. WE'LL KNOW THEY'VE GONE TOO FAR WHEN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY SEES AN AD LIKE THIS: 'FREE TRIP TO CALIFORNIA TO ANYONE WITHOUT MONEY WHO WANTS TO GIVE BIRTH TO EIGHT BABIES.'

Cruises are perfect for this kind of thing since they aren't over in a few hours. There's no reason why they can't offer passengers a free physical during the cruise. But the big boon to cruises would be cosmetic surgery. You go away for a little while and come back with a new face. It's also a natural for another kind of cosmetic surgery. I can see the ad now: "Afraid to take a cruise because of the open sea? Float better after breast augmentation."

Like anything, these medical giveaways might get out of hand. We'll know they've gone too far when the rest of the country sees an ad like this: "Free trip to California to anyone without money who wants to give birth to eight babies."

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his Web site at lloydgarver.com and his podcasts on iTunes.

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The Q Line

Backing Bobby

This past week, Q-line asked:

City Councilman Bobby Shriver has recently said he is mulling a run for state attorney general next year. Would you vote for Shriver as the state's top cop?

Here are your responses:

"I DOUBT IT. BOBBY SHRIVER HASN'T even shown any great skills in the job he has now in the Santa Monica City Council."

"NO I WOULD NOT VOTE FOR ROBERT Shriver, he has only gotten where he is because of his father, but he is nothing like his father."

"MAYBE IT'S THE COMPANY HE KEEPS there on the City Council but he doesn't show any promise to lead me to vote for him. For such a challenging and responsible office as the attorney general, too much of them have rubbed off on him."

"I AM AWARE THAT BOBBY SHRIVER IS a good person and am aware of the good work he is doing for military veterans who, for the most part, are getting the short end of the stick. Still, I would feel a wee bit concerned having a man from the wealthiest political family in the nation in that position. The problem I have is that the wealthiest folks in our nation are the ones shaking our nation down unmercifully. It would be Bobby's job to jail these buggers. I would have the feeling that he would be under a lot of pressure."

"OF COURSE I WOULD VOTE FOR BOBBY Shriver if he choose to run for the attorney general of California. I'm an ex-landlord and I personally think he's a breath of fresh air."

"I WOULD VOTE FOR SHRIVER AS THE state's top cop. I do like him as a member of the City Council, he's he best one. I'd hate to see him go."

"I DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT HE'D BE the best candidate. The best that any of these guys could hope to be is the least worst candidate."

"YES, I WOULD VOTE FOR BOBBY SHRIVER as the state's attorney general. He's the smartest man in Santa Monica."

"I WOULDN'T VOTE FOR BOBBY SHRIVER for dog catcher or the school board. Come on, what does he have in common with the plain folk. He lives in a part of town with no buses, no jets, no traffic, no light rail, no bums, no low income housing, no architectural blight – all the things the rest of us are infected with."

"YES, I THINK THAT MR. SHRIVER WOULD help the homeless instead of criminalizing them."

"NOT LIKELY UNLESS BOBBY SHRIVER is the candidate running against some moronic right wing Proposition 8 supporter."

"OUR CITY VOTED TO MAKE POT THE lowest legal priority below a parking ticket. The state legalized medical pot, and now the FDA says it won't raid pot dispensaries. He'll get my vote if he's in favor of legalization."

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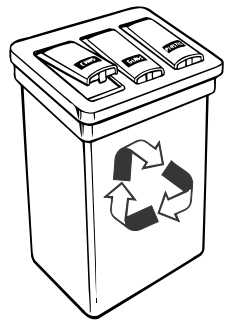
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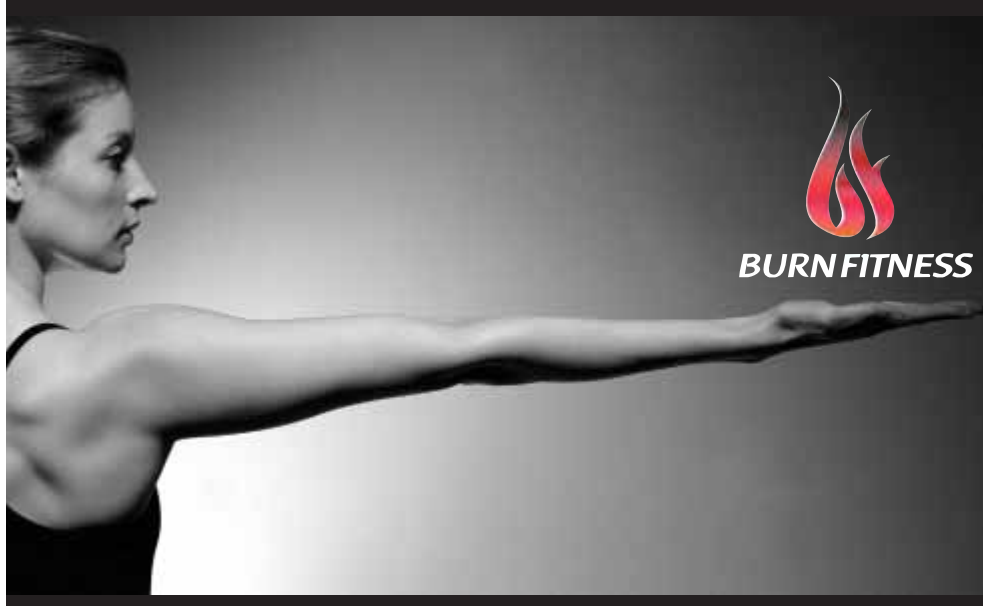


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Kitchen Vixen

Elizabeth Brown
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Waste not, want not

YOU GO TO THE GROCERY STORE RIGHT from work hoping to buy a few ingredients to whip up something for dinner. You spot the frozen bags of veggies that already contain the pasta and some sort of sauce. Perhaps you grab one of those salad packs that contains a packet of dried cranberries, some nuts and even a dressing. You think, "OK, all I have to do now is make some chicken or fish. That shouldn't take too long."

Well, it might seem that way but a recent study done at UCLA's Center on Everyday Lives of Families (CELF) showed that families that buy those "packaged" convenience meals only spend about 10 to 12 minutes less time preparing dinner than families that prepare meals from scratch.

The researchers can't exactly explain the difference in time but Margaret Beck, the study's author, suspects that it may have something to do with pleasing the palette of finicky children instead of having everyone eat the same thing. Though this doesn't necessarily explain why people buy more "convenience" foods.

Some believe that the food industry has shaped our taste buds to crave more salt and sugar. Also, fewer people rely on recipes and grocery lists. If you plan ahead, you could buy all of the ingredients to make your favorite "convenience" meal for less money and more nutrients.

I have seen a television commercial of a mother and her children shopping for the ingredients to make a homemade version of their favorite take-out chicken meal but forego the homemade version because it "seems" more costly. But if they had shown the cost of the actual ingredients in relative portions for the recipe, I guarantee that the homemade meal would be comparable or even less expensive and certainly more nutritious than the "take-out" version.

To save money and time in the long run, think of other ways to use fresh ingredients besides the initial intended recipe.

Here's a good example to get you started.

In honor of spring, let's make one of my favorite dishes: Spring Rolls with Almond Dipping Sauce. With the "leftover" ingredients, create some slaws which make a great topping for salads or a bed for fish. Or see my Sweet C Slaw in the Feb. 21-22 edition of the Santa Monica Daily Press or on my blog at kitchensciencevixen.blogspot.com.

ELIZABETH BROWN is a registered dietitian and certified holistic chef specializing in weight management, sports nutrition, disease prevention and optimal health through whole foods. She can be reached at eat2liv@earthlink.net.

Tofu

1 pound tofu, firm
1/4 cup tamari soy sauce
2 tablespoons brown rice vinegar
1 lemon, juiced
1 teaspoon toasted sesame oil
1 tablespoon fresh grated ginger
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon maple syrup
1/2 cup of water

Make marinade by combining tamari, brown rice vinegar, lemon juice, sesame oil, grated ginger, garlic, maple syrup and water in a blender. Slice the tofu fillets into long pieces about 1/2-3/4 inch thick . Place tofu in marinade in a flat, deep, baking dish and cover with plastic wrap. Allow tofu to marinate for two to 24 hours.

Spring Rolls

1/2 head green cabbage, finely sliced
6 medium carrots, cut into matchsticks or shredded
20 sprigs fresh cilantro
20 mint leaves
10 spring roll wrappers (rice), 8 1/2 inch size

Shred carrots using a hand grater. Set aside in a bowl. Chop the cabbage. Set aside in a bowl. Chop cilantro and mint together. Set aside in bowl. Boil some water to use for soaking the rice paper wrappers. Set up a large shallow bowl of very hot water. Slip a spring roll wrapper into the water. When the wrapper becomes pliable, (after about 45 seconds) remove it from the water and lay it flat on a cloth towel. Place a small handful of cabbage one inch away from the end closest to you. You will be rolling away from your body. Add carrots, marinated tofu and cilantro/mint mixture. Roll the wrapper away from you, tucking in the sides as you roll, and rolling as tightly as possible.

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Renting popular books could be a challenge

FROM **BUDGET** PAGE 1

Development Department, which is facing a $331,000 cut for the upcoming fiscal year, holding off on hiring consultants could result in a savings of $131,000. That along with a hiring freeze could get the department where it needs to be.

"It's difficult because so much of what we do in public service is a labor intensive process and when we started looking at the cuts, there was only so much consultant cost or other non personnel cost that you could cut," said Andy Agle, director of Housing and Economic Development.

"We're trying to find ways to still provide the services that we provide, which are people intensive," Agle added. "Responding to reduced budgets is a challenge."

Greg Mullen, the city's head librarian, said he has to make $550,000 in reductions to meet the city manager's request. With a budget dedicated mostly to staff — meaning salaries and benefits — Mullen said he is forced to look at a small range of categories, including supplies.

Two vacancies in the reference department will be frozen, which include salary and benefits for a savings of $200,000. Cuts in the material budget will result in having fewer copies of new materials and fewer new titles added to the collection.

"Probably, what people will experience is it would take longer for them to get a copy of a new book or popular book," Mullen said.

There are also cuts planned for office supplies, staff travel and overtime budget.

"We're not eliminating things altogether," Mullen said. "For the most part, we're cutting it down."

Making it more difficult is the fact that more people are using the library than in years past. With little money to hire repairmen, Mullen has seen in increase in people renting do-it-yourself titles.

Mullen said he has seen a 20 percent increase in activity at the library in terms of items checked out.

"At the same time we are trying to scale back budget wise and we're trying to scale up service."

He said people are having to save money by borrowing books rather than going out and buying them.

Some departments are finding savings thanks to attrition. City Attorney Marsha Moutrie said a number long-time attorneys retired over the last year. New hires come aboard at a lower base salary.

Using more technology could also be a way to save. Barbara Stinchfield, director of Community and Cultural Services, which is forced to cut about $670,000 of it budget to meet Ewell's request, said she is trying to find ways to cut back on printing brochures and other materials, and instead use the Internet to disseminate information.

"In going through this decision making process, we're looking at cuts in the administrative area, whether it's salary savings or efficiencies with supplies, travel and training," said Stinchfield, whose department is responsible for providing youth, recreational and senior programs.

There could include some increases in program fees for residents, but only those programs which have not seen an increase for several years. That's for 2010, that is if the reductions are still needed.

"When you get down to $1.1 million, it's very, very painful because if we were to have to reach that target, we'll have to have some service reductions," Stinchfield said.

"Our department uses seasonal employees for summer programs or part-time employees for recreational programs and if there were to be an impact that would be where the impact would be," she added. "We would first propose to hold permanent positions that are vacant open before we would do that."

Planning Director Eileen Fogarty said she is focused on finishing the Land Use and Circulation Element, a planning document that will dictate development in Santa Monica for at least the next 20 years, and will not make any reductions that would affect that. However, she is going to have to scale back on plans to streamline the planning process, and four or five positions will be frozen.

"It's tough for everybody," she said. "When you are forced to make these cuts people still expect you to get the work done . People will have to do more with less."

So far, Fogarty said her staff understands that City Hall is struggling because of the poor economy and is ready to make sacrifices and work harder.

"It becomes hard when no one knows when this is going to be over," she said of the recession.

SMPD Police Chief Tim Jackman has already decided to cut the We-TIP program in which people who give solid leads can receive rewards via a nonprofit. To participate in the program, the SMPD must pay an annual fee, around $5,000. Jackman said the program has not been as effective as he would like given the amount of money spent.

"We may rejoin them at some point in the future if their marketing efforts improve, but right now, with the budget issues we have, it's not worth the money," Jackman said.

Supplies and equipment are areas to find some savings, he said, but they represent only about 10 percent of the department's budget, the rest being officers' salaries. Even then, cutting back on supplies is difficult.

"That includes gas for all the cars," Jackman said. "If they are running on empty, we have to put gas in them. We need paper for printers and copiers."

Overtime for officers could also be cut back. That means fewer officers possibly on the Third Street Promenade, the Santa Monica Pier and Pico Neighborhood. Jackman said the department evaluates overtime spending regularly and cuts back during certain seasons when the city's overall population shrinks. Jackman emphasized that any reductions in overtime do not impact regular patrols or the Neighborhood Resource Officers program.

"It is very important for the community to know that the basic patrol service is always provided, period," the chief said.

While public safety is a high priority at City Hall, Jackman believes budget reductions should be felt by all departments. It is equitable and helps his officers maintain a high level of service. For example, cuts to Human Services would directly impact homeless outreach, possibly creating more problems on the streets.

"We all have a role to play and support one another."

REACTION FROM RANK AND FILE

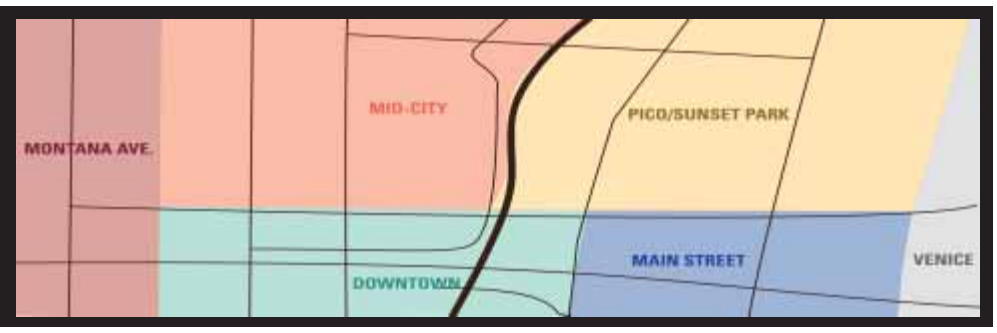
Stephen Demmer, a member of the Revenue Division and the president of the

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 10



westside DISH

YOUR GUIDE TO DINING IN Santa Monica, Brentwood, West LA and Venice Beach





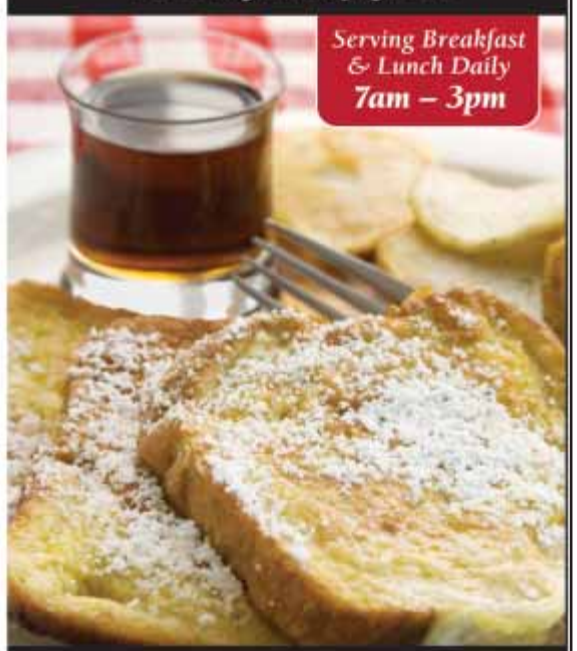
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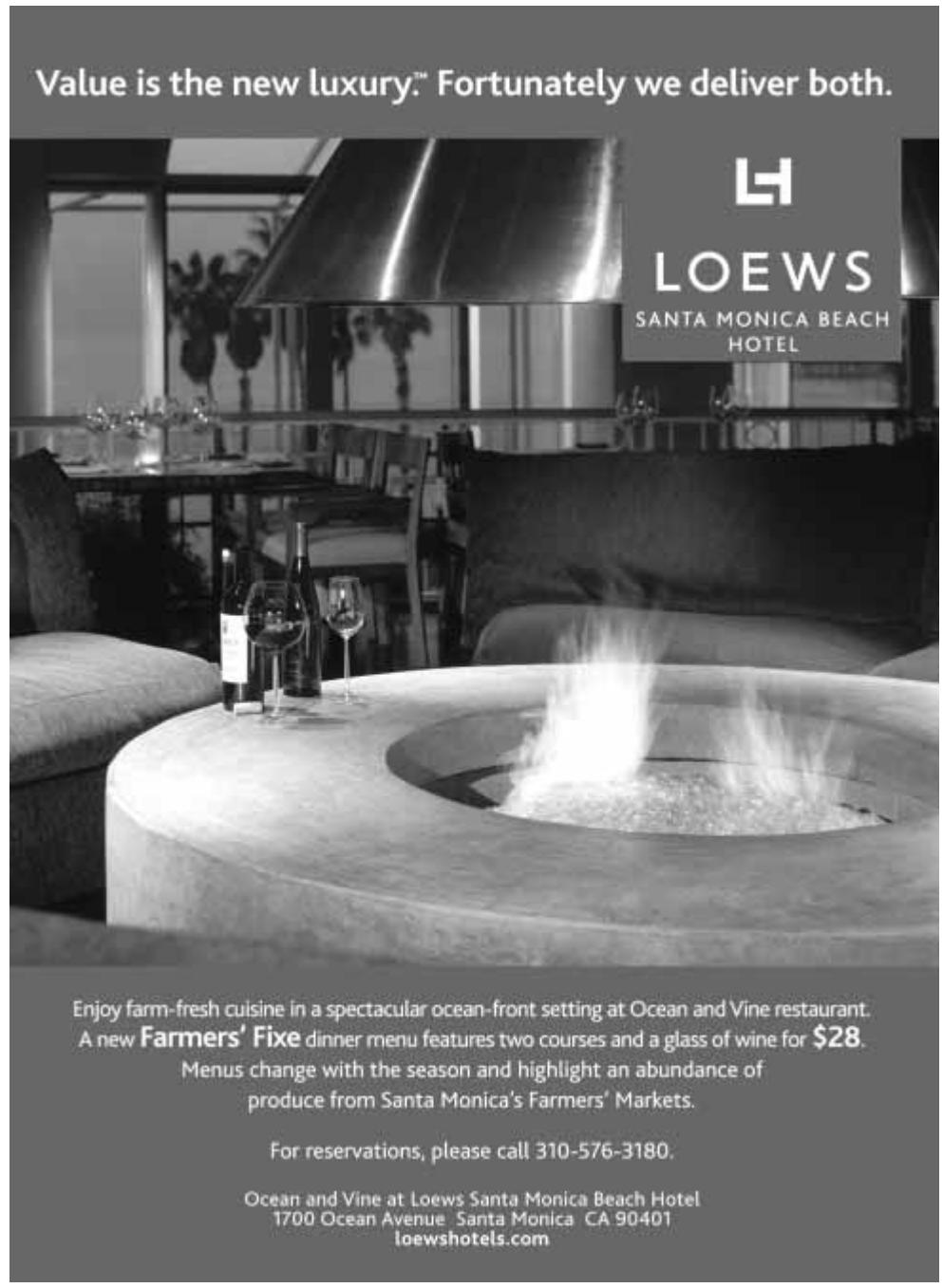
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Seawolves off to strong start

FROM BASEBALL PAGE 3

that it's pitching and defense that will carry the team to a potential league title.

One of the problems the team has is — again — practice. A trio of his players also play on the school's boys volleyball team, which also plays during the spring semester. He said that has hurt the defensive side of the ball the most because players don't have an opportunity to play with their teammates, developing much needed chemistry and familiarity.

Despite those shortcomings, Chavez feels that his team is further along than he expected and gives much of the credit to his players. He hopes that will carry on for seasons to come.

"These kids are only going to get better," Chavez said. "I can't wait to see where we are when these guys are all seniors."

Chavez' players are also optimistic about the future and credit their coach for that rosy outlook.

"He's done great thus far," Hammer said. "I feel like he can relate well to us. He's easy to talk to and makes practices fun."

daniela@smdp.com

Police to discontinue tip line service

FROM BUDGET PAGE 7

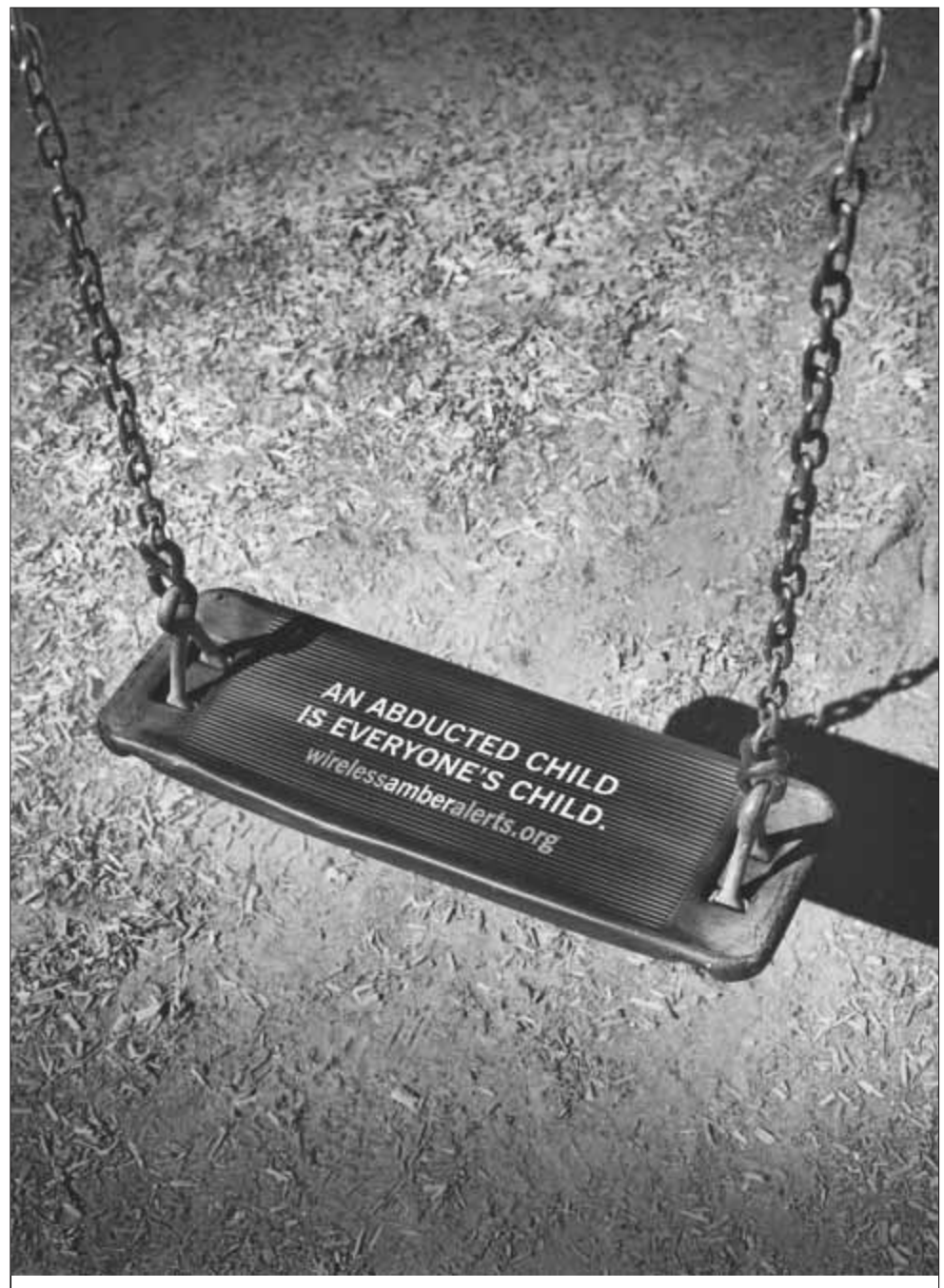
Santa Monica Municipal Employees Association, the union representing over 900 city workers, said he is monitoring the situation closely to see what Ewell and the City Council ultimately decide. The union has not taken an official position on Ewell's request.

"It's still too early," Demmer said. "People are just hanging tight."

SMPD Lt. Doug Theus, president of the Police Officer's Association, said his members are concerned but understand the economic climate and that cuts will have to be made. While they like overtime, they realize that it is "a luxury."

"We're taking it in stride," he said. "It might be a little stressful, but we are not making any cuts and everybody is keeping their jobs. Everybody is happy about that."

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2007 Volvo XC90 3.2 SUV	Traction Control, MP3, Alloys, Roof Rack, 24k miles, Certified, VIN#71377620	$23,552
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Latest Step Up project opens

FROM **STEP UP** PAGE 1

cled-content carpet, and natural linoleum flooring. One of the design features that has caught the attention of some tenants is a perforated mesh material that wraps around the building.

"As one of our tenants said, it's like putting arms around," Lipka said. "It creates a sense of containment, having our own little mini community inside the community."

The nonprofit purchased the land, which was formerly a parking lot, about eight years ago out of an initiative to create more supportive housing, understanding the link between permanent shelter and recovery for their members, many of whom were homeless.

City Hall provided a $7.1 million loan toward the project, the remainder of which was funded by Step Up, state tax credits, grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and several organizations, including the Annenberg Foundation and the Ahmanson Foundation.

The residential complex is the latest development to come online for Step Up, which, in addition to its headquarters on Second Street, also operates a center for members between the ages of 18-28 who experience mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder, depression and schizophrenia. Step Up on Fifth comes staffed with two onsite managers who are part of the transition team. Members also have a case manager and access to outreach workers, all of whom help the tenants acclimate to their new surroundings.

"When you're homeless and you're trying to survive, you don't have any other kinds of responsibilities you have with a house like paying rent and keeping your place organized and clean," Lipka said. "People need help and support."

Blasingane knows first hand how difficult it can be to go from transitional to permanent housing. After owning a business for 24 years, he ended up homeless, developing an addiction to drugs and alcohol and suffering from depression.

"Everything spiraled out of control and I hit bottom," he said.

He came to Samoshel and was later referred to Turning Point transitional housing from where he landed at Step Up.

"I'm used to it now," Blasingane said. "It's very tranquil, I'm able to go in and out, and there's security.

"Everything is positive about this place."

The rent for the new units are set at $833 a month, most of which is subsidized by the federal government. The tenants pay no more than 30 percent of their income toward the rent, with the subsidy paying the difference, Lipka said. Most tenants make about $10,000 to $12,000 annually, translating to a contribution of about $325 a month. Blasingane provides maintenance service for both Step Up on Second and the Santa Monica Farmers' Market.

Les Jones, a member who also serves on the organization's board of directors, said that housing provides a sense of stability, noting the difficulty in finding a job when a homeless individual is just getting off the streets.

"It's very hard to do things when you've got to carry your life on your back and so I think it's important that housing adds a stable point to really doing something with your life," Jones said. He has lived at Step Up on Second for the past six years, suffering from severe depression, anxiety and schizophrenia.

Jones said that it took him about a year to go from sleeping on the floor to the bed.

"There is this whole mentality that you have to overcome," he said. "It's hard to explain to people who have never slept on the street for any length of time, the mentality that you are lower than pond scum and feeling this on a constant basis."

He eventually began talking with other members at the organization and realized that they shared similar feelings. Jones is planning on running a support group at Step Up on Fifth to help members learn that they are not alone in their battles.

"Just because your environment changes doesn't mean your mentality changes right away," he said. "I want to let them know that they can work through this, it's a process … and most of all, they are not alone in it."

melodyh@smdp.com



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

NEW SITE: **The exterior of the Step Up on Fifth Street building Thursday afternoon. Designed by Santa Monica firm Pugh + Scarpa Architects, the 30,000-square-foot housing development includes subterranean parking for 23 cars, a ground floor that could include an art gallery and computer training lab, and four stories of apartments above, containing 46 SROs altogether.**

The Agent Directory

Your guide to local real estate agents



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NEW DVD RELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS



Photo courtesy MGM

'Quantum of Solace' Two-disc Special Edition

Daniel Craig returns in the high octane action of the world's most famous secret agent, James Bond. Probing deep into the criminal group known as Quantum, Bond works without the support of MI 6 in trying to track down those responsible for murdering the woman he loved. Bonus material: "Bond on Location," "Olga Kurylenko and the Boat Chase," on location shooting, and the film's music. (MGM)

'Bolt'

Nominated for Best Animated Feature Film at the 2008 Academy Awards, "Bolt" is a fun family picture featuring John Travolta's voice for the title character, a television star dog that doesn't realize his adventures are fictional. The two-disc version feature includes a segment taking fans from concept to completion with the show's first-time directors. Also included are the design of the picture, a voice cast in session as well as a pair of music videos. (Disney)

'Primal Fear' Hard Evidence Edition

Richard Gere stars as arrogant, media-craving Chicago-based criminal defense attorney Martin Bail, accustomed to fabricating and selling the truth. When he learns of the gruesome murder of a Catholic archbishop, Bail immediately decides to defend the accused penniless altar boy (Edward Norton). Extended filmmaker commentary, a peak at casting and a segment entitled "The Psychology of Guilt" are included. (Paramount)

'Jeff Beck: Performing This Week' bluray

The legendary guitarist performs at an amazing level from a series of concerts at the renowned Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in London's Soho area. Spanning classic tracks from across his career, the disc includes Beck's "Bolero," "Where Were You" and a pair of tunes with Eric Clapton. Bonus features include interviews with Beck and his band mates as well as a seven track rockabilly set with the Big Town Playboys. (Eagle Rock)

'Ricky Gervais: Out of England'

The British-born creator of "Extras" and two-time Emmy winner brings his distinctly understated humor and offbeat observations for an hour of mirth. His performance at the WaMu Theater in New York's Madison Square Garden covers such topics as fame, Nazis, obesity and nursery rhymes. (HBO)

'Evening Shade' Season One

On DVD for the first time comes this popular ensemble comedy from the early 1990s starring Burt Reynolds. In an Emmy-winning role as Wood Newton, Reynolds is a former Pittsburgh Steeler who returns to his hometown in Arkansas to coach the local high school football team and raise a family. Marilu Henner, Charles Durning, Ossie Davis, and Hal Holbrook co-star. The five-disc set includes all 24 episodes. Reportedly the title and setting for the show were suggested by Hilary Rodham Clinton. (CBS/Paramount)

'The Search for Mengele'

Josef Mengele, the "Angel of Death," was the most notorious SS doctor at Auschwitz. Sending thousands of Jews to their deaths, for 35 years he escaped justice becoming one of the world's most wanted criminals. This documentary, co-written and narrated by prominent British TV host, David Frost, traces Mengele's escape through Germany to Italy, then to Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil, where he finally met his end. Featuring interviews with not only Mengele himself but also his son, historians, journalists, and members of the Israeli intelligence, the film presents Mengele's life and crimes and the complicity of those who allowed him to escape justice. (First Run)

'Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired'

The globally-renowned filmmaker of "Chinatown" and "The Pianist" is the subject of Marina Zenovich's documentary. The focus is about his arrest in 1977, charged with furnishing a controlled substance to a minor and unlawful intercourse among other charges. Less than a year later he left the U.S. and never came back. Archival footage and interviews with key players, the program explores the tragedies that might have influenced Polanski's behavior including his parents dying in a concentration camp and his pregnant wife's murder by the Manson family. (Image)

RANDY WILLIAMS can be reached at writtenbyrw@yahoo.com.



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BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON



'Santa Monica Pier: A Century on The Last Great Pleasure Pier'

James Harris • Angel City Press

What? Another book on the pier? Don't we have enough of them? You may be saying to yourself; what makes this one special?

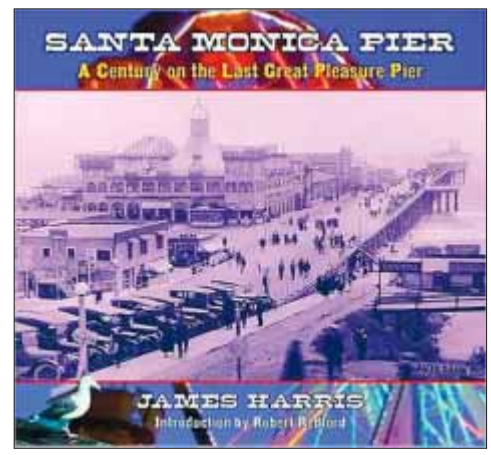
The others are good but this one traces the history of the pier from its beginning as a public utility. "The growth of Santa Monica in the early twentieth century forced the city to confront a serious sewage problem. After considering several options, officials agreed that the best method was to cast it out to sea." This was before our modern day ecology push. It was concluded that if a pier could be built long enough to go past the surf, the waste would wash out to sea and not back to the shore. So began our pier.

A century is a long time. This book contains pictures and facts that are impressive. The pier also at one time was used as a yacht harbor. We still have the sign over the entrance to the long extension from Ocean Avenue to the pier off Colorado Avenue which mentions this bygone attraction.

There really was a Popeye. At least there was a real live person who inspired the character. He was a Norwegian who would fish off the pier in the 1920s and 1930s. The man's name was Captain Olaf C. Olsen. A picture of him with his catch can be found on page 29. A portrait snapshot of him is on page 58. He was a fishing boat operator at the pier.

For trivia fans there is a listing of the 10 most ominous storms on page 75. On pages 58 and 59 we have detailed with snapshots the 10 things that started at Santa Monica Pier.

On pages 109 to123 we have small venues with pictures of the past businesses on the pier. The Santa Monica Sea Food Co. is now located on the corner of 19th Steet and Wilshire Boulevard for those of you who wonder where it is after reading "Santa Monica Sea Food survived on the pier throughout the next couple of decades, until it moved inland a few blocks."



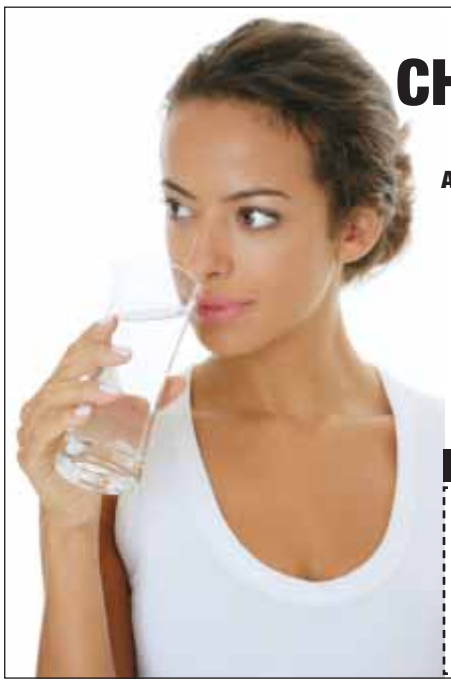
The pier has undergone many face lifts. At one time we knew the pier by a different name. It was called the Newcomb Pier in the 60's and 70's. The story is detailed on pages 44 to 45.

What the City Council couldn't do back in 1971 the storm of 1983 nearly did. "The notion that the City would tear down Santa Monica Pier, a structure that it owned and that offered free pleasure to its citizens never really entered anyone's mind. Furthermore, it was the last of the famous pleasure piers that once lined the Southern California coast. If anything it was a monument. Nobody would be crazy enough to tear down a monument. But there it was in the newspapers, there it was on television, and there it was on the Santa Monica City Council dais: the pier, the heart of Santa Monica, was going to be torn down." City Manager Perry Scott wanted to take down the pier. "On June 13, 1972 the City Council unanimously approved of the project." Read all about it on pages 64 to 67.

The pier has a great history. I recommend this book be in the library of all who live and visit Santa Monica.

James Harris is the pier's Historian.

Contact the best looking book reviewer in Santa Monica at smdp_review@yahoo.com and feel free to give him your comments.


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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

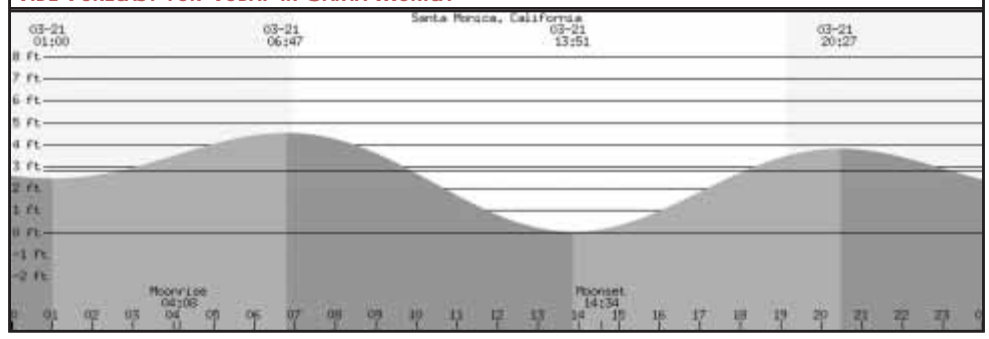
Swell Forecast (3-4 FT)

Saturday the 21st looks weaker yet, perhaps knee+ most everywhere. Sunday the 22nd may see a good deal of NW wind swell.

Long Range Synopsis

Monday the 23rd may also see a good deal of wind swell, possibly head high peaks at the better exposed west facing breaks -- even slightly overhead at the standout west facing spots in the early AM.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **March 17, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 5
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / 6
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 8 / 38

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

Kagemusha (NR) 3hrs 00min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) 1hr 52min
4:55, 10:20

Fuel (NR) 1hr 55min
1:40, 4:25, 7:15, 10:15

The Reader (R) 2hrs 02min
1:45, 7:00

Gran Torino (R) 1hr 56min
2:10, 7:30

Miss March (R) 1hr 30min
4:35, 9:50

Super Capers (PG) 1hr 30min
12:35, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10

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

Coraline 3d (PG) 1hr 40min
11:20am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

Duplicity (PG-13)
10:40am, 1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20

Sunshine Cleaning (R) 1hr 42min
11:10am, 12:30, 1:40, 3:00, 4:15, 5:30, 6:50, 8:00, 9:20, 10:30

The Last House on the Left (R) 1hr 49min
10:50am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

Race to Witch Mountain
11:00am, 12:15, 1:20, 2:45, 4:00, 5:15, 6:30, 7:45, 9:00, 10:15

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

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

Moscow, Belgium (Aanrijding in Moscou) (NR) 1hr 42min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:55

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

Sin Nombre (R) 1hr 36min
1:45, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30

Cherry Blossoms (NR) 2hr 4 min
11a.m.

Man on Wire (PG-13) 1hr 34min
11 a.m.

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

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

He's Just Not That Into You (PG-13) 2hrs 09min
1:00, 6:30

I Love You, Man (R) 1hr 50min
12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:20, 12:00am

Knowing (PG-13)
11:30am, 2:20, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50, 10:45, 12:30am

Watchmen (R) 2hrs 43min
12:10, 3:40, 7:10, 10:30

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

Chat away, Cancer

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Friends surround you. What you decide to do easily depends on those around you, as you are gregarious and happy to be with others. It is times like these when many forget that you can be abrupt. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Others often look to you as a role model. Though you could be tired and wanting to take a timeout, you'll meet expectations. Stop and consider what you want for yourself. Build your inner strength and reserve, feeding it more often. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Take off if you want. Be willing to defer to others. Your vision of the world could be changing greatly, allowing new options and encouraging you to close off from others. Try to empathize with a remorseful friend rather than judge him or her. Tonight: Let your mind and imagination soar.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ A key partner comes forward and asks for feedback and insight. You don't have to see everything his or her way, but sharing more often creates an understanding bond. Tonight: An intense encounter or chat.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Others clearly have plans, and they seem to include you! However, being everywhere at the same time could be challenging, to say the least. You might have to make some choices. Be as diplomatic as you can. Tonight: Out and about.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Some of you might be up for some spring cleaning, whereas others want to finish off or start their taxes. You could be overwhelmed by everything that you would like to do. Stop. Just do one item at a time. Tonight: Make it easy — order in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Many consider you the pro in relating, flirting and making someone feel appreciated. Could these skills help you in other ways too? Perhaps you could help a business associate, neighbor or acquaintance feel good about him- or herself. Tonight: The fun begins.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Be home without any great expectations of what you think needs to happen. You might consider inviting some friends over for the first barbecue of the season or to celebrate some other event. Any reason works. Tonight: At home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Make calls and touch base with friends, relatives and anybody else you might have been neglecting. Don't allow icy waters to separate you. Conversations are animated and a source of fun. Meet a friend for a late dinner. Tonight: Out and about.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Before you decide on an important item — needed or frivolous — do some price comparison. Ultimately, you will be much surer of yourself. Your instincts might tell you one thing while facts tell you another. Tonight: Enjoy yourself with others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Recognize how good you feel, and then decide if you want to keep your plans or make a change. Either works, but you need to make yourself the centerpiece for a while, instead of perpetually giving and giving. Tonight: Wish-upon-a-star time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Know when to pull back and let others do their thing. You won't jeopardize a relationship. In fact, you might enhance the bond as a result. Someone has much to share. Listen. Use your intuition. Tonight: Shhh ... you don't need to tell anyone.

Happy birthday

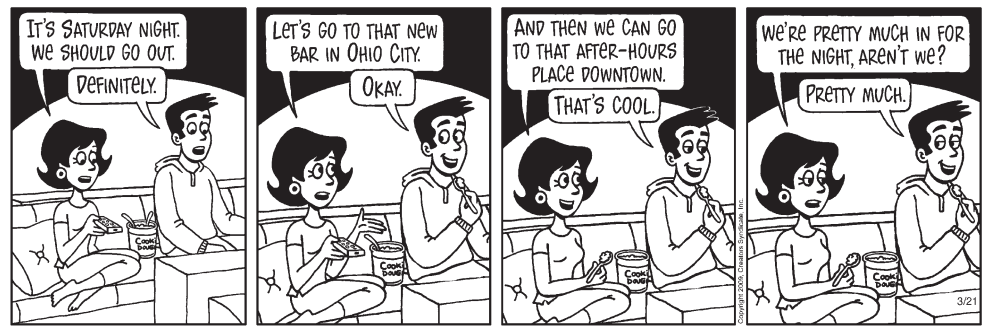
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★ Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year, you make waves, especially if you remain open to networking and making new friends. Establish your goals early on, and you will have time to reach them. Focus could make the next 12 months even more fulfilling. Consider different opportunities with an eye to your ultimate goals. If you are single, a friendship could evolve to more this year. Friendship, in any case, will be a strong base to build on. If you are attached, the two of you will love hanging together more often. Be friends and lovers too. AQUARIUS comes through for you.

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



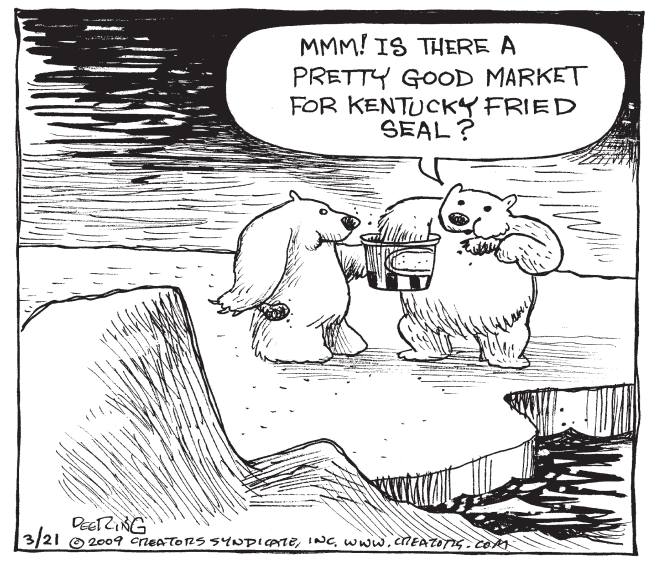
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



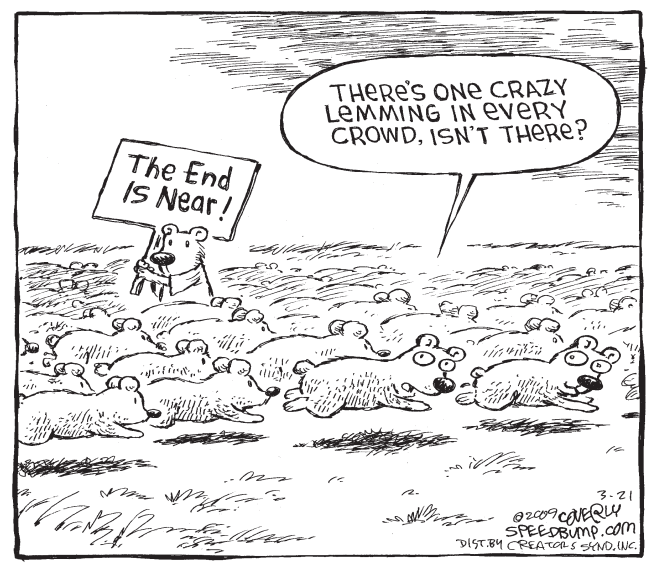
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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

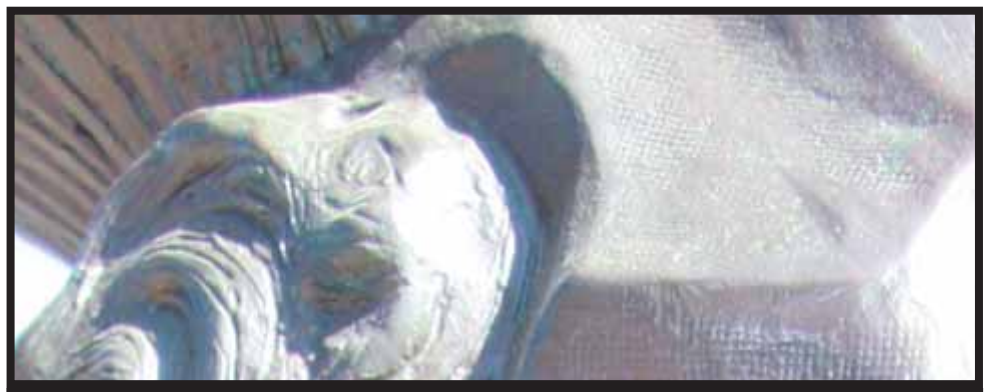
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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File photo

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Flat floats
6 Old coin
11 Dote on
12 Last letter
13 "The Bourne Identity" star
14 Strong winds
15 Response to a joke
17 Squid's squirt
18 Confession item
19 Familiarizes
22 Trendy
23 Frees of lather
24 Layout units
25 Makes scallopini
27 — Moines
30 Use the wrong key
31 Juan Perón's wife
32 Mouse alert
33 Sacred beetle
35 Like excited fans
38 Rust, for one
39 Pact
40 When pigs fly
41 Unable to eat another bite
42 Attire

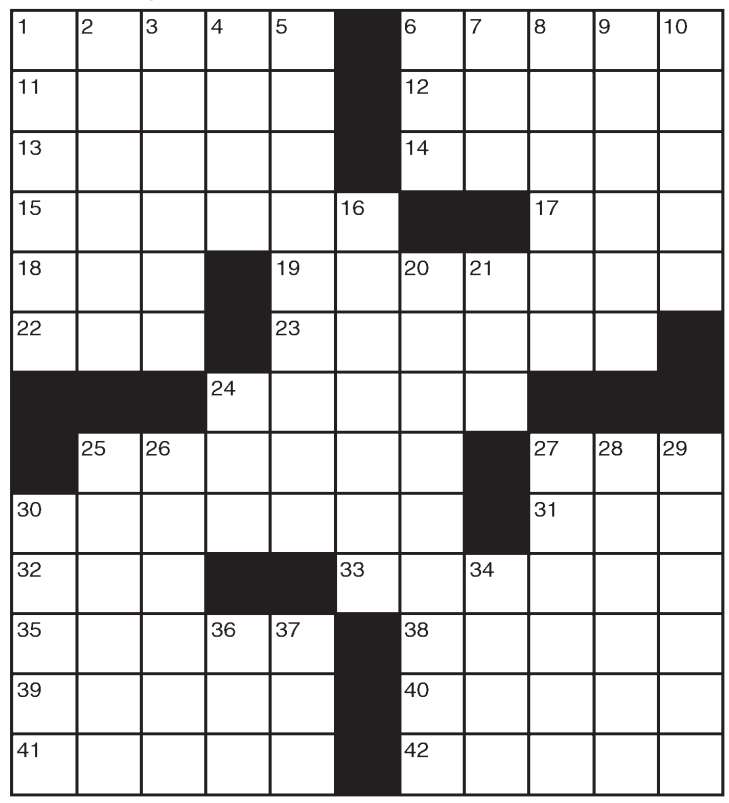
DOWN

1 Salad add-in
2 Slow passage
3 Instigate
4 Run
5 Rank
6 Pound occupant
7 John's "Pulp Fiction" co-star
8 Singer Dion
9 Hollywood bunch
10 Chores
16 Arm muscles
20 Soon
21 Scrollwork shape
24 Place
25 Rugged range
26 Invite on a date
27 Obtain
28 Ducks
29 Fencing weapons
30 Abattoir array
34 Personnel head, at times
36 Good serve
37 Roulette bet

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

Yesterday's answer

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3-21

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FANTASY 5: 6 9 14 17 28

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

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 07 Eureka
RACE TIME: 1.46.83

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Gildazio Costa, 54, was arrested in Framingham, Mass., in February and charged with kidnapping and beating his girlfriend following a five-hour-long argument they were having about what the operating hours are for the local library.

■ First, Do No Harm: Tennessee anesthesiologist Visuvalingam Vilvarajah was arrested in February in Kentucky and charged with providing controlled-substance prescriptions (OxyContin, methadone) to as many as 350 non-patients. However, the more basic question is why Tennessee licensed Dr. Vilvarajah in the first place, since he had been approved by the state Department of Health even though officials knew that he was on parole at the time after serving a sentence for murdering his wife and mother-in-law. A department spokeswoman told The Tennessean newspaper that no law prevented Dr. Vilvarajah's licensing.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1957 President Dwight D. Eisenhower and British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan began a four-day conference in Bermuda.

1960 some 70 people were killed in Sharpeville, South Africa, when police fired on demonstrators.

1963 the Alcatraz federal prison island in San Francisco Bay was emptied of its last inmates at the order of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

1965 more than 3,000 civil rights demonstrators led by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. began their march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

1972 the Supreme Court, in Dunn v. Blumstein, ruled that states may not require at least a year's residency for voting eligibility.

1985 police in Langa, South Africa, opened fire on blacks marching to mark the 25th anniversary of the Sharpeville shootings; the reported death toll varies between 29 and 43.

1990 Namibia became an independent nation as the former colony marked the end of 75 years of South African rule.

WORD UP!

diatribe \DAHY-uh-trahyb\, *noun*:
a bitter verbal attack or speech

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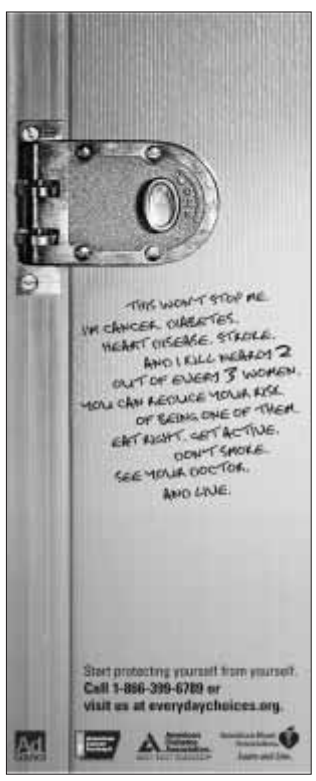


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This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 1/29/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 2/28/2009, 3/7/2009, 3/14/2009, 3/21/2009

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South of Wilshire	$899,500	$759,000
Sunset Park	$1,274,000	$737,000
Ocean Park	$1,250,000	$895,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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