



Santa Monica Daily Press

HAIR OF THE 'DOG' PARTY
SEE PAGE 17

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE SHE'S A LITTLE IMPETUS ISSUE

PUBLIC SAFETY

A WALK IS AS GOOD AS A HIT

Sunset Park residents frustrated with city's pace in safeguarding perilous crosswalks

STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 10



File photo

Building green may be in the jeans

Council eyes green-building standards for homeowners

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Faded Levi's aren't just fashionable, they're sustainable.

Long the hottest thing in hipster fashion, denim has become the hottest thing in home insulation, and could become increasingly popular in Santa Monica now that the City Council is mulling whether to broaden green-building requirements to single-family homes.

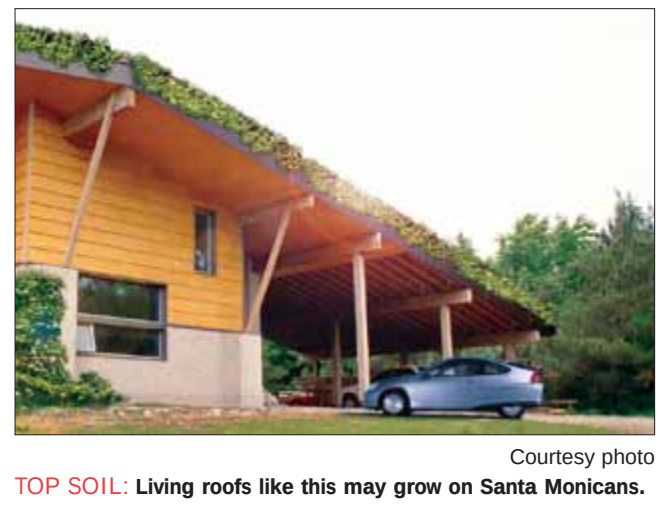
As part of the expansion, those looking to build a new house or do a significant remodel would be required to be 10 percent more efficient than current state standards. To comply, homeowners and developers could choose from a wide

range of options, including the installation of energy-saving appliances, waterless urinals and advanced sprinkler systems that conserve water and prevent urban runoff.

To help, the council is considering offering incentives to those who choose to install solar-thermal and solar-electric systems, solar chimneys and green roofs — which are completely or partially covered with vegetation and soil planted atop a waterproof covering.

The expansion is needed, city staff said, in order to achieve goals set forth in the sustainable city plan, which has benchmarks for more recycling, the use of environmentally-friendly building materials and increased public transit.

SEE BUILDING GREEN PAGE 12





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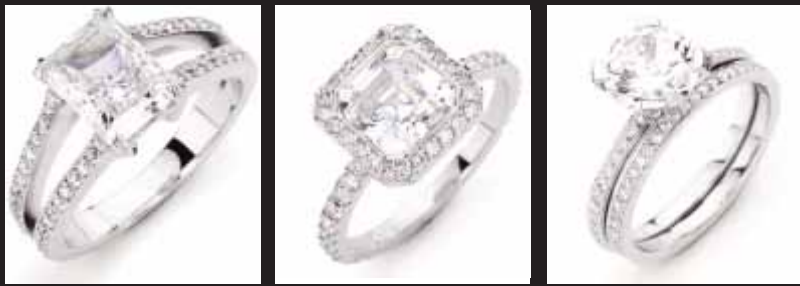
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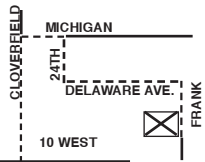
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WHAT'S UP
WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



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. Dr. Ballon 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.

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 Isenheim Altarpiece. The piece will be set up and available for viewing in the church sanctuary; free of charge.

'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 three years of age through second grade are welcome. For more information, call Rebecca Hall at (310) 451-1303, ext. 26.

Kundalini Yoga

2309 Main St., 2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

This class combines the science of movement, posture, breath, sound and meditation. Donations accepted. For more information, please visit www.shiatsumassageschool.org.

Friday, March 23, 2007

Patch Adams Live in Malibu

327 South Latigo Cyn Rd., Malibu, 9 a.m. — 4 p.m.

Dr. Patch Adams will give two workshops at the Calamigos Ranch Conference Center. The focus will be on preventing burnout for medical practitioners and caregivers. Pre-registration is required, limited space available. For more information, call Josie Ramirez at (951) 769-4780.

A Concert for the Midnight Mission: 'From Malibu With Love'

23825 Stuart Ranch Rd., Malibu, 8 p.m.

Hosted by Richie Sambora and featuring performances by Los Lobos, Elliot Easton, Teddy 'Zig Zag' Andreadis, and many others. Ticket prices start at \$90. For more information or to purchase tickets visit www.malibuperformingartscenter.com or call (310) 456-6722.

Sharon Lewis Koho signing

13400 Maxella Ave., Marina del Rey, 11 a.m.

Author Sharon Lewis Koho will be signing copies of her books at Barnes & Noble. The signing will begin at 11 a.m. and continue as long as copies of the book remain in store.

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.



Inventive brothers shake it up

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

LINCOLN BLVD. Whether its chasing down murderers, dousing flames that threaten homes or protecting the public from potentially deadly gas leaks, the Padilla brothers have always been willing to serve the community despite the dangers in front of them — and they have no plans on stopping anytime soon.

In fact, the brothers, who grew up together in Ocean Park, have embarked on a business venture they believe will save countless lives and preserve property, all with the simple push of a button.

The brothers — one of whom is a captain in the Santa Monica Fire Department, another a lieutenant in the police force — are proud partners in Affordable Safety Solutions, Inc. (ASSI), the sole manufacturer of the Safe-T-Valve, an invention by Fabian Padilla that automatically shuts off gas to one's home or apartment in the event of a earthquake of 5.2 in magnitude or higher.

Safety officials estimate that gas pipes near the breaking point at a 5.2-level quake. The Northridge earthquake in 1994, when Santa Monica sustained considerable structural damage, hit 6.7 on the Richter scale.

The valves, which are priced at \$85, are easier to install than others on the market. Most of all, they are cheaper than other valves on the market, according to Fabian Padilla, a former Gas Company claims supervisor.

"I have seen firsthand the devastation fires can cause due to gas leaks," he said at his Lincoln Boulevard office. "I also know that homeowners want to protect their families, pets and homes, whether they are home or not."

ASSI began distributing the valves last year and is poised to expand with new technology that allows the valve to communicate with smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors.

Fabian Padilla manages the company with the help of three of his brothers, who currently serve as ASSI's board of directors.

"It's definitely a real family business," said Fabian Padilla, president of ASSI. "But the best part is, we are all experts in the

SEE VALVE PAGE 11



Melody Hanatani melodyh@smdp.com

FEELING PLUCKY: SMPD Chief Timothy Jackman offers Meal on Wheels client Frank Muchlinski a flower Wednesday to mark the onset of spring.

Driven to help those in need

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — With his trademark toothy grin plastered across his face, Police Chief Timothy Jackman greeted 84-year-old John Frank Muchlinski with a new microwave and a yellow flower.

It was the first day of spring.

As the head of the Santa Monica Police Department chatted with the elderly Polish immigrant, Meals on Wheels volunteer Maria Estrada quietly set down lunch on the table. Soon after they would leave, Muchlinski would heat up his meal — pork rib patty with fresh red beans, seasoned spinach, tossed salad and cantaloupe — with his new microwave.

The two hours Jackman spent with Estrada on Wednesday driving around Mid-City, dropping off meal after meal to 15 different customers was more than a long coffee break for the city's top cop, it was part of

a nationwide effort to raise awareness for Meals on Wheels, a program where volunteers deliver hot meals to homebound or disabled residents.

The oldest client in the Meals on Wheels West coverage area is 103 years old, the youngest is 25.

"This is another opportunity for me go out and meet people (in the community)," Jackman said.

A roll call of local politicians participated in the seventh national campaign, entitled March for Meals, including Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom, Malibu City Councilmember Pamela Conley Ulich and Big Blue Bus Director of Transit Services Stephanie Negriff, among others.

The city of Santa Monica provides funding to the Meals on Wheels program and helped the organization remodel its facility within the First AME Church a few years ago.

"I'm interested in seeing the process and seeing if my perception of the program is

matched by the reality," Bloom said. "We fund a lot of the programs and have a perception (of what they are about)."

When city officials go out and actually see what the program is about, it helps them in the decision-making later on, he added.

The Meals on Wheels program in Santa Monica started in 1974 and gradually grew to serve clients in Malibu, Pacific Palisades and Topanga. The operation is supported by approximately 400 volunteers who drive through 21 different routes in the coverage area. The program has served about 356 different clients so far this fiscal year.

Late Wednesday morning, the Meals on Wheels headquarters at the First AME Church in the Pico Neighborhood was bustling with activity, as organizers ran around trying to group city officials with volunteer drivers to get the meals delivered on time.

SEE MEALS PAGE 11

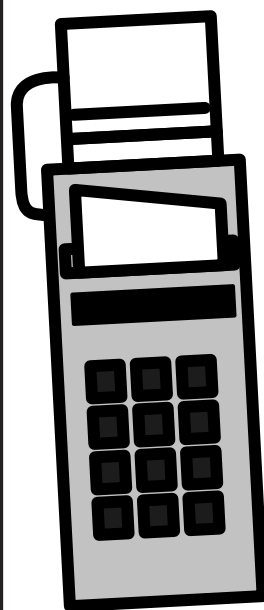
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Build housing, tenants will follow

Editor:

Regarding Joan Rogers’ complaint about the unhealthy air around the new Community Corp.’s building on 26th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard (“Affordable housing is no bargain,” March 21, page 4), there were not one, but two preschools on that site for many years. Where was Ms. Rogers’ deep anxiety about community health then? My son attended one of those preschools – Free To Be Me – and has no evidence of any greater lung damage than any child or person living in the LA basin can expect to have. He played outside every day there along with the other kids. Does Ms. Rogers think living in missions or on the streets is better for poorer families and their children?

You build where it is most affordable, especially for housing that is not expected to bring market rates to the developers. More and more infill housing – for the rich and the poor – will need to be built to accommodate the population growth in our region. Compared to where some of it is and will be located, 26th and Santa Monica is a very desirable location.

If Ms. Rogers is so concerned about our filthy air, I hope she gets out of her car and rides the bus a lot. That will do more good than writing snide letters about affordable housing developers to the SMDP.

Alan Toy
Santa Monica

Teachers need a home retreat

Editor:

It seems that Scrooge is still alive and kicking. In Monday’s issue (“School contribution ineptitude,” March 12, page 4), we read that Boyd Willams is protesting a measly 5 percent raise for our teachers. In the same issue, we read of 55-percent and 91-percent increases in rental units. Shouldn’t teacher salary increases be geared to the rise in housing costs?

Wallace UMBER
Los Angeles

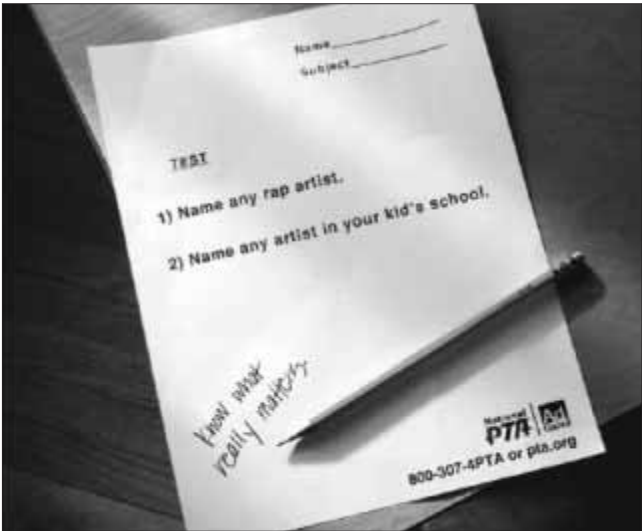
The route of all misunderstanding

Editor:

I love the way Michael Klein rationalizes how he is correct on Route 66 (“The pier is still the end of the line,” March 8, page 4). I have lived in Santa Monica for over 50 years and I am a geographer and life member of the National Route 66 Federation. I don’t care about the subject of driving on the pier that started the debate, but I do care about how he has twisted the facts to meet his needs. “Technically, the Santa Monica Pier is not the real end of Route 66” means it is not the end. The correct end is Santa Monica Boulevard at Ocean Avenue, and it was probably the Santa Monica Visitors Bureau that chose to make the pier the end, for photo purposes.

I take offense to Mr. Klein’s statement that “many, if not most, folks join the CA Route 66 Preservation Foundation in thinking that Route 66 ends at the pier.” That comment is incorrect. People join the foundation either because they have an historic interest in Route 66 or, for people like Mr. Klein, who seems to be geographically illiterate, they join to learn the correct information about Route 66.

Kent CULLOM
Santa Monica



That Rutherford Guy

John H. Whitehead

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Congress needs its backbone back

SPECULATION OVER A POSSIBLE U.S. military strike against Iran has moved from questioning whether the U.S. will launch an attack to questioning when it will do so. Despite denials by the Bush Administration that a future offensive is planned, the present military build-up in the Persian Gulf of aircraft carriers, fighter jets, missiles and minesweepers and the stockpiling of oil reserves suggest differently.

There is no shortage of opinions on the prospect of war with Iran. Those in favor seem determined to extend our war efforts on another front. Those opposed are leery of embarking on another drawn-out military offensive while we continue to lose ground in Afghanistan and Iraq. And we, the people, are left feeling powerless as the Bush Administration’s saber-rattling may be moving us inexorably closer to yet another war and yet another tragic loss of lives. This is the problem with allowing one branch of government to become more powerful than the others.

The genius of the American system of government is that its powers and authority are deliberately divided. Referred to as the separation of powers, this means that the president, the courts and Congress each individually serve as one-third of the American governing body. And there are important reasons why the separation of powers must be preserved, especially when it comes to the power to declare war.

James Wilson, one of our founding fathers strongly in favor of creating a strong presidency, recognized that by preventing the president from declaring wars, the Constitution guarantees that the government “will not hurry us into wars.” He went on to explain, “It is calculated to guard against it. It will not be the power of a single man, or a single body of men, to involve us in such distresses.”

The framers of our Constitution understood that there is a world of difference between the power to declare war and the power to conduct war. They also knew from experience the dangers inherent in vesting both powers in the same person. That’s why they severed the power to initiate war, which rests with Congress, from the power to conduct it, which rests with the president.

However, although Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution makes clear that only Congress has the power to declare war, Congress has absolved itself of that greater responsibility. As Congressman Ron Paul (R-Tex.) has noted, “The process by which we’ve entered wars over the past 57 years, and the inconclusive results of each war since that time, are obviously related to Congress’ abdication of its responsibility regarding war.”

Since the 1973 passage of the War Powers Resolution, which limits the power of the president to wage war without Congress’ approval, Congress has resorted to issuing “authorizations of force” rather than “declarations of war.” By doing so, they are able to lessen the perception that the U.S. is committing itself to as serious an endeavor as

war, shift the burden of engaging in hostilities to the executive branch and subsequently further erode our governmental system of checks and balances. The consequences of the government’s utter failure to obey the dictates of our Constitution and the wisdom of its drafters have been devastating — both to the rule of law and the war efforts.

So what is to be done?

First, Congress needs to do its job by reining in the runaway executive branch and enforcing the separation of powers. The Founding Fathers were deeply devoted to securing a government committed to an equal distribution of power. Fresh in their minds was the tyrannical rule of the British king. They understood well that if power weren’t shared and checked, a dictatorship would occur. Indeed, it is for this very reason that they created the three co-equal branches of government.

THE FRAMERS OF OUR CONSTITUTION UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE IS A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE POWER TO DECLARE WAR AND THE POWER TO CONDUCT WAR.

Second, Congress and the Bush Administration should stop playing semantics and games. If it looks like war and it feels like war and the deaths and casualties mount up as they do in war, then it is war. And no amount of word-play or authorizations of force can get around that.

Third, it’s time for Congress to get a moral backbone. There is no such thing as a free pass on issues of such great magnitude as war. War is irreversibly consequential. Thus, unless there is an extreme emergency, the decision to enter into war should be made with cautious deliberation and only after a measured public debate among our elected representatives.

We are, at present, treading dangerous waters. And, at the very least, we owe it to those in uniform to guarantee that the ultimate sacrifice will only be asked of them under the most scrutinized circumstances.

Thomas Jefferson believed that by putting the power to declare war with Congress, it created an “effectual check to the dog of war by transferring the power of letting him loose.” Let’s put that power back where it belongs before the dog turns on its master and destroys the republic.

Constitutional attorney **JOHN W. WHITEHEAD** is founder of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.

PUBLISHER

Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR

Michael Tittinger
editor@smdp.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS

Kevin Herrera
kevinh@smdp.com

Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

PARENTING

Nina Furukawa
nina@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fabian Lewkowicz
fabianl@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN

Christine Chang
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Robbie P. Piubeni
rob@smdp.com

Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT

Cynthia Vazquez
advertising@smdp.com

TRAFFIC MANAGER

Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Tessa Vergara
tessav@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Frances Casareno
production@smdp.com

CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER

Annie Kotok
anniek@smdp.com

CIRCULATION

Keith Wyatt
Glenn Bolan
glennb@smdp.com

NEWS INTERNS

Irene Manahan
Kristin Mayer

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Dave Danforth
dave@smdp.com

EDITOR-AT-LARGE

Carolyn Sackariason
csackariason@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
A newspaper with issues

1427 Third Street Promenade, #202
Santa Monica, CA 90401

OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Activists host LA Free Press founder

Art Kunkin, founding publisher and editor of the Los Angeles Free Press and longtime progressive activist, educator, networker and journalist, will speak at the Activist Support Circle's public gathering on Wednesday, March 28.

The gathering will take place at the Friends Meeting Hall, located at 1440 Harvard Street, and begin promptly at 7 p.m.

The Activist Support Circle is an emotional support group for progressive activists that began in February 2005.

Gatherings are free and parking is available on-site or along Santa Monica Boulevard.

DAILY PRESS

Psychics perform readings, healing

The Southern California Psychic Institute invites the public to a Psychic Faire and Spiritual Healing Festival on Saturday, April 14, from 1-4 p.m.

Visitors can request 20-minute readings of their choice, including Tarot, Past Lives, Career, Palm, Love Life, Money and Aura.

Admission and healings are free, but readings require a \$10 contribution or \$25 for three.

The institute is located at 1737 21st St., between Michigan Avenue and Olympic Boulevard.

DP

American Red Cross offers Disney incentives

In March, American Red Cross Blood Services, Southern California Region, is celebrating Red Cross Month and offering blood donors a chance to be part of the happiest celebration on earth. Southern Californians are encouraged to donate blood in March, discover how they have the power to help save lives, and enter a drawing for a chance to win two annual passes to Disneyland Park.

Approximately 60 percent of the American population is eligible to donate blood; however, in Southern California, less than 3 percent donate on a yearly basis, resulting in chronically low blood supply levels. Increased donor response is needed to maintain a safe and adequate blood supply.

To encourage people to give blood in the coming weeks, everyone who signs up to donate blood or platelets at a Southern California Red Cross blood drive in Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego and Ventura counties will be invited to fill out an entry form for a chance to win two deluxe annual passports to Disneyland.

All eligible donors are asked to schedule an appointment to donate blood by calling 1.800.GIVE.LIFE (800) 448-3543 or by visiting www.GiveLife.org.

DP

Concert Series in full swing at the Santa Monica Pier

Oldies group the Rhythm Kings will perform this weekend as part of Santa Monica's Sunday Concert Series, a free event for the community in its 17th year.

The series started Monday with Westside Crew playing R&B, funk, rock and Latin. The line-up for the rest of the spring, through May 20, features local favorites in jazz, rock and blues.

"They're just little local bands, but they attract about 300 people each week, sometimes more," said Rachel Waugh, marketing manager for the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corporation. "They have a pretty dedicated audience that comes out each week. Of course on Sundays, when the weather's nice, they attract a lot of visitors too."

All concerts start at 2 p.m. and are held weather permitting on the pier parking deck in the Central Plaza with plenty of chairs and dancing room.

The Santa Monica Pier Lessee's Association produces and Pepsi-Cola sponsors the shows.

"What's really neat about this event is that it's something the tenants started after the storms of the 1980s," Waugh said. "They started this in 1990 to celebrate when they had rehabilitated the pier."

Limited parking is available on the pier and in beach lots. For more information on the concerts, please call 310-458-8901 or visit www.santamonicapier.org.

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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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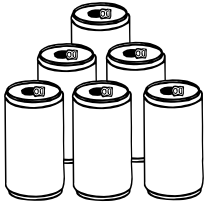
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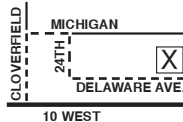
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FOURTH AND BROADWAY IN SANTA MONICA

Alleged arsonist to answer

Judge orders man to stand trial for deadly 2006 California blaze

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

RIVERSIDE A judge Tuesday ordered the man suspected of setting an arson wildfire that killed five firefighters to stand trial on five counts of first-degree murder and multiple counts of arson.

Superior Court Judge Jeffrey J. Prevost threw out one count of arson for an earlier fire because investigators were unable to recover an incendiary device. Raymond Lee Oyler, 36, now faces 22 counts of arson and 17 counts of use of an incendiary device for allegedly setting nearly two dozen fires between May 16 and Oct. 26, 2006.

The judge also found probable cause for special circumstance allegations that could make Oyler eligible for the death penalty. Deputy District Attorney Michael Hestrin said his department hadn't decided whether to seek a death sentence.

Relatives of the dead firefighters sobbed and clutched each other as Prevost read his ruling. Oyler showed no emotion but members of his family cried quietly.

An arraignment was scheduled for April 9.

The deadly fire, which followed several smaller blazes, was ignited amid fierce Santa Ana winds and eventually charred more

than 60 square miles near Banning, about 80 miles east of Los Angeles. Oyler was arrested Oct. 31, days after it began.

"When the defendant is arrested, there's no more fires," Hestrin told Prevost. "There hasn't been another single arson fire in the Banning Pass area. It's inconceivable that this was not done by one defendant and not done by Mr. Oyler."

Defense attorney Mark McDonald countered that the devices investigators found at the scene differed too much to have been made by just one person.



I THINK EVEN FOR PURPOSES OF PRELIMINARY HEARING, I THINK THE EVIDENCE FALLS SHORT."

Mark McDonald, Defense attorney

"I think even for purposes of preliminary hearing, I think the evidence falls short," he told the judge.

Oyler's fiancée and cousin testified earlier Tuesday that the suspect had boasted about lighting fires in the area. Crystal Breazile, however, denied that her fiancé set the blaze that claimed the firefighters' lives last fall.

Breazile, who has a young daughter with Oyler, said she and Oyler were watching televised reports of an arson wildfire in late May when the auto mechanic told her he had started the blaze.

She threatened to leave him if he didn't stop setting fires, said Breazile, who prosecu-

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

"We were in an argument and I was going on and on about something and he sometimes does things to get a reaction out of me," Breazile said, holding back tears. "He said, 'Yeah, I did that, too.'"

Breazile said Oyler told her he used "a cigarette and matches" to start the fire in Moreno Valley, about 11 miles outside Riverside, in late May. Oyler is charged with

starting the fire.

Breazile also testified that on another occasion Oyler suggested setting a fire to get his pit bull out of an animal shelter in nearby Banning, where it had been impounded for attacking someone.

She said, however, he never set the fire because the dog was released Oct. 25, a day before the deadly blaze began in the Banning area.

"You admit as you sit here now that the defendant brought up setting a fire as one among many ideas?" Hestrin said.

"Yes, but it didn't happen," Breazile replied.

Crustaceans mussel way into waters

By The Associated Press

RIVERSIDE 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.

Information from: The Press-Enterprise, <http://www.pe.com>

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Senator mulls exit of US attorney in LA

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Sen. Dianne Feinstein said this week she wants answers about the departure of the former U.S. attorney in Los Angeles, who resigned last October months before the Justice Department's dismissal of eight other U.S. attorneys sparked controversy.

"I have questions about Debra Yang's departure and I can't answer those questions right at this time," Feinstein, D-Calif. and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, told reporters in response to a question. "Was she asked to resign, and if so, why? We have to ferret that out."

Debra Wong Yang, who went to work for a private law firm and has said she left of her own accord, did not immediately return a call for comment Tuesday. A Justice Department spokesman had no immediate comment.

Feinstein noted Tuesday that there are numerous names redacted in documents the Justice Department has released in recent days in response to the controversy. Feinstein did not specify what her concerns were about Yang, but she has complained repeatedly that six of the eight U.S. attorneys dismissed last year were in the midst of prosecuting public corruption cases, mostly focused on Republicans.

About five months before Yang's depar-

ture her office had opened an investigation into ties between Rep. Jerry Lewis, R-Calif., and a lobbyist. When Yang left her U.S. attorney's job she went to work for Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, the firm where Lewis' legal team works, but government rules required that she recuse herself from that case or any other she was involved with while a government prosecutor.

WAS SHE ASKED TO RESIGN, AND IF SO, WHY? WE HAVE TO FERRET THAT OUT."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein
D-Calif

The Lewis case is connected to the ongoing corruption investigation in San Diego that began with the 2005 conviction of former GOP Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, who is serving jail time for bribery. Former U.S. attorney Carol Lam in San Diego, who was among those dismissed last year, was prosecuting that case. Feinstein contends that Lam's dismissal had something to do with the her role in the Cunningham investigation, though the Justice Department denies it.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES Studies to track truancy at LA middle, high schools

Thousands of Los Angeles Unified School District students are skipping class routinely, with the problem rampant in a few low-performing schools, according to a new report. The report released this week shows that 3,533 of the district's nearly 386,000 middle and high school students had 10 or more unexcused absences in January.

The study is the first in what is intended as a series of monthly counts that will track truancy and absenteeism in all the district's middle and high schools in an effort to curb dropout rates.

Education officials said keeping tabs on truancy rates is critical because students typically begin skipping school sporadically before dropping out altogether.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVINE Relics of military life past uncovered amid base project

Crews are inventorying hundreds of military relics found on a closed Marine base being converted into a housing development.

During the demolition of the El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, which is expected to last for the next five years, workers have come across a painting of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima, faded photographs, street signs bearing the names of military battles such as Inchon and Midway and even pages of mess hall recipes.

"I was walking through a large office and found these recipes sitting there as if someone just had been working on them," said Carol Schroeder Wold, a spokeswoman for Lennar Corp., which is razing the base for private development.

The developer has approval to build 3,500 homes and about 5 million square feet of commercial and retail space. The planned Orange County Great Park will be at the center of the massive development.

The finds also include Civil Engineer Corps plaques, ornamental signs listing each commandant since 1943, boxes of old radio parts, and ladders used by ground crews to service A-6 Intruders.

AP

ONTARIO Knife found on flight headed for Portland

Officials questioned passengers and crew on a Horizon Air flight out of LA-Ontario International Airport because a passenger reported finding a knife after landing in Portland, Ore.

Investigators were trying to determine how the knife made it past security and onto the plane, Horizon Air spokeswoman Jen Boyer said Tuesday.

Boyer said a passenger on the Monday afternoon flight, who claimed he found the knife between the planes seats, handed it to a crew member.

A sweep of the plane found nothing else unusual on board, Transportation Security Administration spokeswoman Jennifer Peppin said.

AP

Kate Bransfield

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Between Wilshire & Montana	= \$ 1,685,000	\$ 922,243
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Full of hot air? Wind power has its limits

BY JOSEPH B. FRAZIER

Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. Wind energy will play a growing role in meeting the rising power needs of the Northwest, but it isn't controllable and it needs total backup by traditional sources such as hydroelectric dams, according to a report released Wednesday by energy specialists.

The six-month study looked at how to integrate wind power into the region's existing power system.

While wind energy sounds attractive, it can be fickle, the specialists said. Sometimes it blows, sometimes it doesn't. And while wind is free, they said getting its energy from a rural windfarm to an urban wall socket isn't.

The report said the existing grid can probably handle the predicted output of 6,000 mostly new megawatts of electricity from wind that are anticipated to be produced by 2024 or earlier. That's roughly the production of two nuclear plants.

"It could be more than that. That's all that we studied," said Steve Wright, administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration.

Preliminary estimates indicate the addition could raise a residential electric bill from between \$3 to \$7 monthly because of costs from integrating wind power into the regional energy network and the costs from balancing energy load and supply.

"The Northwest is a pretty windy place and wind power is no longer a curiosity," said Tom Karier, chairman of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council and co-chair of the 21-member committee that produced the Northwest Wind Integration Action Plan.

As of now Northwest wind power generates about 1,600 megawatts, 200 of which go to California.

Questions remain, he said, on costs and methods of integrating it into the regional power system and how those costs can be recovered.

He said wind power meets about two percent of regional needs now and could reach 5 percent by 2009.

"Wind by itself does not produce a reliable electric power system, Wright said.

He said, for example, that wind tends to blow less on the hottest and coldest days, when energy demand peaks.

Me so unhealthy: Chinese cuisine gets taken to task

BY LIBBY QAID

AP Food and Farm Writer

WASHINGTON — The typical Chinese restaurant menu is a sea of nutritional no-no's, a consumer group has found.

A plate of General Tso's chicken, for example, is loaded with about 40 percent more sodium and more than half the calories an average adult needs for an entire day.

The battered, fried chicken dish with vegetables has 1,300 calories, 3,200 milligrams of sodium and 11 grams of saturated fat.

That's before the rice (200 calories a cup). And after the egg rolls (200 calories and 400 milligrams of sodium).

"I don't want to put all the blame on Chinese food," said Bonnie Liebman, nutrition director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, which did a report released Tuesday.

"Across the board, American restaurants need to cut back on calories and salt, and in the meantime, people should think of each meal as not one, but two, and bring home half for tomorrow," Liebman said.

The average adult needs around 2,000 calories a day and 2,300 milligrams of salt, which is about one teaspoon of salt, according to government guidelines.

In some ways, Liebman said, Italian and Mexican restaurants are worse for your health, because their food is higher in saturated fat, which can increase the risk of heart disease.

While Chinese restaurant food is bad for your waistline and blood pressure — sodium contributes to hypertension — it does offer vegetable-rich dishes and the kind of fat that's not bad for the heart.

However — and this is a big however — the veggies aren't off the hook. A plate of stir-fried greens has 900 calories and 2,200 milligrams of sodium. And eggplant in garlic sauce has 1,000 calories and 2,000 milligrams of sodium.

"We were shocked. We assumed the veg-

etables were all low in calories," Liebman said.

Also surprising were some appetizers: An order of six steamed pork dumplings has 500 calories, and there's not much difference, about 10 calories per dumpling, if they're pan-fried.

The group found that not much has changed since it examined Chinese food 15 years ago. That's not all bad, Liebman said.

PEOPLE SHOULD THINK OF EACH MEAL AS NOT ONE, BUT TWO, AND BRING HOME HALF FOR TOMORROW."

Bonnie Liebman

nutrition director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest

"We were glad not to find anything different," she said. "Some restaurant food has gotten a lot worse. Companies seem to pile on. Instead of just cheesecake, you get coconut chocolate chip cheesecake with a layer of chocolate cake, and lasagna with meatballs."

The group says there is no safe harbor from sodium on the Chinese restaurant menu, but it offers several tips for making a meal healthier:

■ Look for dishes that feature vegetables instead of meat or noodles. Ask for extra broccoli, snow peas or other veggies.

■ Steer clear of deep-fried meat, seafood or tofu. Order it stir-fried or braised.

■ Hold the sauce, and eat with a fork or chopsticks to leave more sauce behind.

■ Avoid salt, which means steering clear of the duck sauce, hot mustard, hoisin sauce and soy sauce.

Period piece

Dinosaur display gets makeover reflecting all the latest findings

BY BOB MOEN

Associated Press Writer

CHEYENNE, Wyo. In a makeover of extraordinary proportions, scientists have dismantled a 75-foot-long sauropod dinosaur that roamed Wyoming 150 million years ago and will rebuild it to reflect the latest paleontological research findings.

The fossil display of the plant-eating Apatosaurus that had dominated the University of Wyoming Geological Museum in Laramie for about 45 years will be worked on for a year and then returned to the museum in 2008, according to Brent Breithaupt, director of the UW museum.

"It's basically like extreme home makeover, only this is extreme dinosaur makeover," Breithaupt said Wednesday. "Everything from the tip of its nose to the tip of its tail."

The Apatosaurus fossil is one of only six on display in the world, he said.

The UW fossil display is about 60 percent actual bone, which were unearthed in the early 1900s 70 miles north of Laramie, with the rest of the display cast from molds. The display was assembled in 1960 by UW professor Samuel H. Knight, who died in 1975.

"We will be able to add some of the dinosaur's bones that professor Knight didn't have at the time to improve the display's looks, such as posing it with its tail in the air instead of dragging on the ground," Breithaupt said.

Most of the fossil was dismantled this month by experts from Treibold Paleontology Inc., a firm from Woodland Park, Colo., with expertise in casting skeletons and fossil mounting.

However, the skeleton's large hip bones, which weigh about a ton, were not dismantled because they are too heavy to lower from their 15-foot perches, Breithaupt said. Those bones will be left in place and worked on in the museum.

"Lowering a ton of bone would be very, very difficult," he said.

Treibold will make a cast of the fossil that will be available for other museums to use for displays, Breithaupt said.

In addition, Treibold will make the pieces cast from molds more bonelike in appearance and lighter and easier to manipulate for display.

While the skeleton is dismantled, the fossils will be available to researchers worldwide, Breithaupt said.

While the Apatosaurus is gone, new displays featuring duckbill dinosaurs and a sea reptile on loan from Treibold will be displayed.

ON THE NET

■ UW Geological Museum
www.uwyo.edu/geomuseum

Watch your step: Canyon crew gets perilous peek at landmark

BY CHRIS KAHN

Associated Press Writer

HUALAPAI INDIAN RESERVATION, Ariz. Walking gingerly across the translucent surface, visitors hear the glass layers creak. Far below, directly underfoot, they see the Colorado River as a pea-green ribbon.

"It felt wonderful; not exactly like floating on air," said former astronaut Buzz Aldrin, who once traipsed the surface of the moon and on Tuesday became one of the first to stroll onto the Grand Canyon Skywalk, a massive glass-bottom observation deck perched 4,000 feet above the canyon's floor.

The Hualapai Indian tribe invited Aldrin, fellow former astronaut John Herrington, and others to the unveiling of the horseshoe-shaped deck Tuesday in advance of a public opening planned for March 28.

Tour packages with deck access will range in price from \$49.95 to \$199. The deck, which juts 70 feet beyond the canyon's edge, will accommodate up to 120 guests at a time and offer a bone-chilling vantage point more than twice as high as the world's tallest buildings.

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 Hualapai (pronounced WALL-uh-pie) allowed Las Vegas developer David Jin

to build the Skywalk, which took two years to construct. Jin fronted the money to build the \$30 million structure and will give it to the Hualapai in exchange for a cut of the profits, the tribe said.

"The terms are confidential, but David will profit for the next 25 years from the Skywalk," said Steve Beattie, chief financial officer of the Grand Canyon Resort Corp., which oversees the tribe's tourist businesses.

The tribe expects Skywalk to become the centerpiece of a budding tourism industry that includes helicopter tours, river rafting, a cowboy town and a museum of Indian replica homes.

The tribe hopes tourism will end years of severe poverty endured by many Hualapai.

"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. "This is going to be our bread and butter."

The Skywalk has sparked debate on and off the reservation. Many Hualapai worry about disturbing nearby burial sites, and environmentalists have blamed the tribe for transforming the majestic canyon into a tourist trap.

Tribal elder Dolores Honga, 71, said she remembers riding horses in the area when it was a remote patch of grassland. Her grandparents once herded cattle here.

"I still don't agree with what's going on here," she said. "There's so many memories here. This was my playground."

ON THE NET

■ Skywalk
www.grandcanyonsskywalk.com

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File photo

CURB APPEAL: A woman warily makes her way across Ocean Park Boulevard at 18th Street, an intersection merchants have long felt to be dangerous. Residents are calling for improved safety.

Residents treading carefully

City's transportation division unveils several options for making Sunset Park streets safer

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK Residents and business owners who have had their fill of seeing pedestrians get struck and the countless near-misses while crossing Ocean Park Boulevard over the years vented their continual frustrations with the city here Tuesday.

While the city's Transportation Management staff presented a series of options to make Ocean Park Boulevard safer, several residents and business owners just shook their heads and dismissed the proposals, throwing their hands up in frustration.

Some even hissed.

Still, the majority seemed pleased that city officials at least reported back to the neighborhood with suggestions on how to improve a deadly stretch of the thoroughfare, specifically between 14th and 18th streets, where several pedestrians have been struck over the past few years, including a couple in 2004.

It is on this stretch of Ocean Park Boulevard where students from John Adams Middle School and Will Rogers Elementary School cross to get to class every morning and where mothers often walk with their young children to preschool.

The community meeting was part of a \$75,000 city study to identify potential improvements for the corridor. Parking — a problem in Sunset Park, where residents compete with Santa Monica College students for a limited number of spots — was also addressed.

The study was funded in 2005 and a community outreach meeting held in May 2006.

"It was a relief to finally see some concrete proposals," said Sunset Park resident Zina Josephs.

The biggest topic of the day was whether or not the city would consider placing traffic signals on 16th and 18th streets, where many of the accidents seem to occur.

"It doesn't look and smell like the kind of intersection

where a traffic signal would improve safety," said Transportation Planning Manager Lucy Dyke.

Both 16th and 18th streets are too close to 17th Street, where there is a traffic signal, she said. The only part of the city where there are traffic signals at almost every block is in Downtown Santa Monica.

The frequency of traffic signals might actually increase local traffic, according to Dyke. For instance, a signal on 16th Street might encourage more vehicular traffic onto 16th Street.



**IT WAS A RELIEF TO
FINALLY SEE SOME
CONCRETE PROPOSALS."**

Zina Joseph

Sunset Park resident

She showed photos of intersections where engineers felt a traffic light or some sort of improvement was needed, including Santa Monica Boulevard and Berkeley Street, and Washington Avenue and 26th Street, where a roundabout was constructed.

"Some people like it and some people don't like it," Dyke said of the roundabout. "It makes it easier for people to cross 26th Street and has not induced a higher volume (of traffic) on Washington."

Transportation Planning Associate Michelle Glickert presented four different options to improve Ocean Park Boulevard on the stretch near the John Adams Middle School playing field. In each, the corridor is transformed to include only one westbound and one eastbound lane, with a turning lane in the center. There are currently two lanes in either direction and no turning lane on Ocean Park Boulevard.

Each option offers a different configuration: Concept No. 1 includes angled parking on the south side of Ocean Park Boulevard across from John Adams; No. 2 includes a grassy median, but no angled parking; No. 3 would add angled parking on both sides of the street around John Adams, but no median; and No. 4 would not have a median, but would add 10 inches of brick sidewalk, which would move the existing parallel parking on the street outward.

Traffic studies have shown that medians slow traffic down, Glickert said.

Some residents seemed opposed to the idea of angled parking, which currently exists on Main Street near City Hall. One resident said that angled parking would be dangerous if a car is parked next to a large vehicle that is obstructing the driver's view of traffic.

Backing out of the parking spots at City Hall is always a challenge, according to Josephs, whose car has a wide blind spot that prevents her from seeing oncoming traffic. However, several members of the Friends of Sunset Park do favor angled parking, said Josephs, who is president of the neighborhood association.

With parking being a touchy subject all across the city, Transportation Planner Beth Rolandson presented several suggestions to alleviate concerns in Sunset Park, including adding metered parking in the business district and creating more spaces in areas like city-owned alleyways.

Several alleys in Sunset Park are 30 feet wide, which should be enough to accommodate traffic and parking spaces, Rolandson said.

"We can accommodate the needs of the users, specifically of Ocean Park Boulevard — that's the residents and the businesses," Rolandson said.

melodyh@smdp.com

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Meals volunteers taking it to streets

FROM MEALS PAGE 3

Amid the chaos, volunteers were handing out bunches of yellow flowers to city officials who would be responsible for presenting a flower to each Meals on Wheels client in honor of the Vernal Equinox. Other volunteers were busy loading the trays of meals onto the backseat of their cars.

The police chief and Estrada zoomed away in her small green car packed with meals and a microwave for their first stop — Muchlinski.

The former Santa Monica hairstylist has received the meals for the past few years after suffering a heart attack and being hospitalized at Saint John's. It was there that a nurse suggested Muchlinski look into Meals on Wheels.

His small apartment on Santa Monica Boulevard is decorated religiously, with a photo of the pope looking on. A daytime television show blasted in the background as Estrada instructed Muchlinski on how to use the microwave.

"I don't need to worry about cooking meals," Muchlinski replied when asked how Meals on Wheels has improved his life.

The Meals on Wheels duo continued their trip, covering Euclid Street

and areas north of Wilshire Boulevard. Aside from delivering the meals, Estrada assists with the little things, helping one elderly man put on a jacket and another woman with her pills.

The freelancer who is currently working on an animation project with Disney has delivered meals since July and decided to volunteer after her parents, both long-time Meals on Wheels volunteers in San Diego, passed away.

Suffering from arthritis and vision problems and missing a right hand, Swain decided to subscribe for the meals service after finding it difficult to cook herself.

"I don't have time to stand by and peel the potatoes," she said. "I just can't do it."

Meals on Wheels Executive Director Rosemary Regalbuto hopes that the campaign on Wednesday will help raise



I DON'T HAVE TIME TO STAND BY AND PEEL THE POTATOES."

Helga Swain, Meals on Wheels client

"I'd rather donate my time than donate money," said Estrada, who works her recording sessions around her Wednesday Meals on Wheels schedule.

Carrying an armful of trays, Estrada and Jackman stopped by Helga Swain's apartment on 14th Street.

"In celebration of the first day of spring," Jackman said, as he handed Swain a yellow flower.

The 87-year-old Santa Monica resident has received the Meals on Wheels service for about four months.

awareness for the program, not only to bring in more volunteers but also clients.

"People don't know we're here because we don't have a big advertising budget," Regalbuto said. "We try and make sure they know about us."

"If they need the service, we're here to serve."

melodyh@smdp.com

☒ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Brothers out to protect, serve

FROM VALVE PAGE 3

industry. We have expertise in various fields and with that combination, we couldn't be better situated to do this work. It's like it was meant to be."

Following the Northridge earthquake in 1994, many insurance companies and municipalities began mandating the installation of gas shut-off valves to protect against gas leaks. The city of Los Angeles was one of the first to enact a gas shut-off valve ordinance in 1998.

The Padilla brothers saw an opportunity to help more people.

"The Safe-T-Valve provides peace of mind for homeowners," Fabian Padilla said. "If an earthquake hits, your family's safety is your top priority, not turning off the gas. We're working hard to make earthquake-prone communities safer."

The valve can be installed in 20 minutes by a professional, and they are easy to use. All one has to do is push a button and a spring-loaded plug blocks any gas from leaking. Gas can be turned back on simply by turning a lever. No tools are needed. It is the only earthquake-activated gas



Courtesy photo

STEADY AS HE GOES: A Safe-T-Valve system is installed on a building's gas meter.

shut-off valve on the market that does not require leveling or bracing during installation, making the Safe-T-Valve easy to install and less vulnerable to false trips.

It also does not require any additional pipe fittings in most cases, saving the installer time and money, Fabian

Padilla said.

"Homeowners will never have to worry about a gas company shut-off or the need for a wrench to shut the gas off," he said. "If we can save just one life, we have done our jobs."

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State Funds \$1.3 Billion In Freeway Projects

Construction of a northbound carpool lane on the I-405 through the Sepulveda Pass, widening the I-5 from the I-605 to the Orange County Line, building carpool lanes on the I-5 through Glendale and Burbank and improving the I-605/I-10 interchange in Baldwin Park have been recommended for \$1.3 billion in state funds.

Better Connection, More Service For Line 220

Metro Local Line 220 on Robertson Boulevard has improved its service to run every 40 minutes between West Hollywood and Culver City, where it connects with Culver City's Line 7 to Fisherman's Village in Marina del Rey. Find its timetable at metro.net.

Sign Up For Bike To Work Day

Win biking accessories and other prizes by pledging to join Bike To Work Day on Thursday, May 17. Besides prizes, you and your bike ride free on Metro Bus and Metro Rail that day. To register or learn more about Bike To Work Day, visit metro.net.

Help Plan Your Metro Service

Make a difference in the transit service in your community. Attend Metro's Westside/Central Governance Council meeting on Wednesday, April 11 at 5pm at La Cienega Tennis Center, 325 S. La Cienega Boulevard, Beverly Hills. For information, search "Metro Westside/Central" at metro.net.



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Building green is getting cheaper, bu

FROM BUILDING GREEN PAGE 1

"This is another exciting step we are taking to advance the environmental agenda in Santa Monica," said Mayor Richard Bloom, just before the council voted unanimously Tuesday night in favor of the expansion. "We push the ball forward, perhaps a little more than we think we should or can sometimes ... that is the kind of action that has made us a worldwide leader on environmental issues."

In addition to the expansion, the council also asked staff to look into requiring all buildings over 10,000 square feet to be LEED-certified by 2010. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Buildings that earn LEED certification are some of the most high performing. Santa Monica has the highest concentration of LEED buildings, including the new Main Library, than any other city its size.

David Hertz, an architect and member of the city's task force on the environment, urged the council to consider changes to the green building program and other ordinances dealing with demolition and construction waste given the short length of time to meet goals of the sustainable city plan.

"Modifying standards will certainly help in achieving those goals," Hertz said.

Those who are thinking of adding on another story or perhaps building a few condos may look at the proposed expansion and think higher costs, and they would be correct. However, industry experts said prices for recycled building materials and appliances are dropping annually, so much so

that for a typical remodel using green materials, the cost is only 2 percent or so more than if one used traditional building materials, and that's not including money saved by lower electric and water bills.

Susan Munves, City Hall's energy and green buildings program manager, said cost was a factor when considering the expansion, however, after researching the market, city staff found little to no financial hardship would be created by the mandates.

"There are many choices in the marketplace with products that are competitively priced and easily available at Home Depot and other big stores," Munves said. "We were sure that cost would be an issue, but when we looked around, the products are just so off the shelf that there is nothing onerous about this whatsoever."

ARE WE THERE YET?

Not everyone is brandishing a green grin. There are those who are concerned that housing prices may rise, as will the cost of providing affordable housing.

So what if a building has a green roof if those who need it most can't afford it?

"We see more and more jurisdictions who want to build green, and what we are encouraging is an incentive-based program instead of a mandate," said Terra Donlon, vice president of external affairs for the Building Industry Association, greater Los Angeles and Ventura chapter.

"I think five or 10 years down the line, building green will be the norm, but how do we get there is the question," Donlon said. "An incentive-based program would be best



Courtesy photo

so we can see what is working, what the market can bare and what people want and go from there.

"We don't want to create an affordability issue."

The council is expected to debate the issue extensively in the coming weeks, and is sure to discuss whether or not to exempt affordable housing projects, Munves said.

Santa Monica Community Corp., the largest developer of affordable housing in the city, has been incorporating energy-saving technology and recycled materials in projects whenever possible and has only noticed a slight increase in cost. Much of the increase is paid for in savings from lower utility bills.

"Natural linoleum is more expensive than vinyl, but it lasts longer," said Joan Ling, executive director of Community Corp. "Typically, it all evens out in the end."

kevinh@smdp.com



FEELING FLUSHED: Shelby Ho (above) straightens in green buildings. Another aspect of environmental

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t some don't dig it



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

s up the Green Building Resource Center on Wednesday. The walls are lined with innovative ideas used
illy minded building can be seen atop Chicago's City Hall (top left), on which sits a rooftop garden.



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Market Matters
 Brian Hepp
 Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It's not all business when retirement looms

IF YOU'RE A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER, you may think of the business itself as your most important tool for building wealth. And to some degree, that's probably true — you put a significant amount of money into the business to help it grow, and when you're ready to retire you may be able to sell the business and get your investment back, along with any appreciation in value.

But while it may seem like you have it made, don't be fooled into thinking you can rely on just this one source for your retirement nest egg. You need to consider building wealth outside of your business as well.

There are certainly rewards that come with owning a business, but it also comes with plenty of risks. Sometimes circumstances beyond your control can have detrimental effects to the value of your business. Additionally, your business could change dramatically between now and the time you retire. As a result, it's important to have a backup plan in place in the event things don't quite work out as you had hoped.

One of the first places business owners should start is with a good retirement plan. If you're not already doing so, consider contributing to a traditional or Roth IRA to enjoy the benefits of tax-deferred or tax-free growth on your retirement savings. If your business doesn't have a qualified retirement plan — and as long as your wife is not covered by a qualified plan through her employer either — you can take a deduction on your income taxes of up to \$4,000 (\$5,000 if you're 50 or older) in traditional IRA contributions for 2006. Those amounts will stay the same for 2007 as well. (If your business has a retirement plan, your contributions may or may not be deductible, depending on your income; Roth IRA contributions are never deductible.)

While that's a good start to retirement savings, a qualified plan for your business will let you save much more. There is a wide variety of available plan options, and some can be established with minimal expenses. Just to give you an idea, plan types include: SIMPLE IRAs, SEP IRAs, 401(k) plans, owner-only 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans (for tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations) and defined benefit (traditional pension) plans. The best plan for your business will depend on several factors, including the objectives you want to achieve.

One thing to keep in mind is that even if you contribute the maximum to an IRA or retirement plan each year, it may not be enough by itself to provide you with a financially secure retirement. To help you in your goal of preparing for retirement, you should probably have other savings as well. Once you've sized up your retirement savings options, you may choose to invest in an IRA, a qualified plan, a taxable account or maybe even some combination of the above.

Be aware that the returns on your marketable investments may be less than what you're used to earning in your business, but that may actually work to your advantage. These investments may come with less risk and greater liquidity. They also provide diversification, which is one of the keys to any successful investing strategy.

Your business is definitely one of your most important assets, but it doesn't have to be your one and only. Plan ahead and invest in your retirement as a whole, using a combination of other assets to complement your investment in your business.

BRIAN HEPP is a financial consultant for A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. He can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com.

Dung diggity: More farmers turning to manure as fertilizer

BY JAMES HANNAH
 Associated Press Writer

NEPTUNE, Ohio A growing number of farmers and entrepreneurs are turning dung into dollars.

Manure sales are up, as more grain and vegetable farmers turn to animal waste as an alternative to higher-priced commercial fertilizer, say state agriculture regulators. The market also has grown because of the emergence of large livestock farms which generate an abundant supply of manure.

"Back in the late '80s, I was told you'd never sell manure," said Kevin Elder of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. "Today, there are a large number of farms that broker it, that sell it to grain farmers."

In 2003, only one person in Ohio was licensed to buy and sell large amounts of manure. Today, there are 30 — with 48 more in the process of getting permits.

In neighboring Illinois, 12 companies have sought permits to haul manure since certification began in 2002.

In Iowa, with its many livestock operations, manure hauling businesses flourish.

The number of certified commercial haulers there increased from 1,385 in 2005 to 1,447 last year.

Ben Puck, who has operated a hauling business in Iowa for 28 years, said sales for his services have increased as much as 15 percent in the past year, primarily because of large livestock farms.

The skyrocketing price of commercial fertilizer is making manure more attractive. The price of nitrogen fertilizer, for example, has more than doubled in the past four years, in part because of the rising cost of natural gas needed to make it.

Manure generally costs about \$50 less an acre than commercial fertilizer, said Gene Tinker, animal feeding operations coordinator for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Actual savings would depend on the type of commercial fertilizer a farmer had been using.

Stricter environmental regulations have nudged some livestock farmers into the manure market. Runoff from large livestock operations can harm water quality and aquatic life in the vicinity.

BASEBALL

Dodgers extend Little's contract

By The Associated Press

VERO BEACH, Fla. Manager Grady Little got what amounted to a one-year contract extension when the Los Angeles Dodgers exercised his 2008 option Tuesday and added a 2009 team option to his deal.

“He’s met every expectation I’ve had and our staff has had,” Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti said before the team faced the St. Louis Cardinals in an exhibition game Tuesday night. “To have him for a while longer is great.”

The 57-year-old Little guided the Dodgers to an 88-74 record last season in his first year as their manager. Los Angeles won the NL wild card, then lost three straight to the New York Mets.

Little managed the Boston Red Sox in 2002-03, going 188-136. His career winning percentage of .568 is the best among current big league managers, and the second-best among all managers who have managed 400 games since 1970, trailing only Baltimore’s Earl Weaver (.583).

“It’s quite an honor for me to be a part of this team trying to reach that ultimate goal,” Little said. “There is no doubt in my mind we will be better this year than we were last year and we will be better next year than we will this year.”

Little is about to begin the second season of a two-year contract he signed on Dec. 6, 2005, when Colletti, who also is in his second year with the Dodgers, hired him as the 25th manager in franchise history.

Colletti said the contract extension was in the works for a few months, but the important thing for him was to get it taken care of before the season began.

“It is a more comfortable feeling, but it doesn’t effect the job I would do on the field whichever way it was,” Little said. “I’m just fortunate and honored to be where I am.”

“IT’S QUITE AN HONOR FOR ME TO BE A PART OF THIS TEAM TRYING TO REACH THAT ULTIMATE GOAL.”

Grady Little
Los Angeles Dodgers Manager

Little finished fourth in the NL Manager of the Year voting.

Dodgers owner Frank McCourt said now that ownership, general manager and manager are on the same page with a year together in the organization, the team “will raise the bar a little bit more.”

“Grady’s done a great job, and I think we are going to be in even a better place because he’s had the blue on now for a year and we have a club that I think suits him,” McCourt said.

FOOTBALL

NFL player-turned-Marine heads off to serve in Iraq

By The Associated Press

HONOLULU A former NFL player who left the sport to join the Marines and was motivated by college roommate Pat Tillman, who died in Afghanistan, was heading for the war in Iraq Tuesday night.

Lance Cpl. Jeremy Staat, a former defensive lineman for the Pittsburgh Steelers and the St. Louis Rams who had been playing Arena football, was one of 300 Marines in the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment being deployed from Kaneohe Bay. The unit is expected to be in Iraq for seven months.

“The way I look at it, we’re spreading freedom, and you have to support the troops and you have to support the war,” Staat, 29, told KITV in Honolulu on Tuesday as he prepared to leave from Hawaii. “You can’t just tell some Marine who just lost his buddy that we supported you but not the war, because in that case you’re basically saying that Marine, his buddy, just died for nothing. We’re one team.”

Tillman, who played defensive back for the Arizona Cardinals, was killed by friendly fire near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in April 2004. The Defense Department is investigating allegations of a cover-up, including the Army’s failure to tell Tillman’s family for several weeks that he had been

killed by gunfire from his fellow Army Rangers, not by enemy fire as they initially were told.

Tillman gave up a \$1.2 million NFL contract to join the Army Rangers.

Staat said he felt compelled to join the military after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, but Tillman, who was his roommate at Arizona State, advised him to stay with professional football until he qualified for retirement benefits.

“I felt there is more to life than just a game,” Staat said, adding that Tillman’s death helped motivate him to enlist.

Staat played for the Steelers from 1998 to 2000, and played two games with the Rams in 2003. He was playing for the Los Angeles Avengers of the Arena Football League before being put on the league’s suspended list.

He graduated from the San Diego Marine Corps Recruit Depot in March 2006.

To enlist, the 6-foot-5 player said last year that he dropped from 310 to 260 pounds. He said three months of boot camp training gave him a deeper appreciation for team camaraderie.

“The Marine Corps is completely different ... it’s more of a marathon than a sprint,” he said Tuesday.

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**
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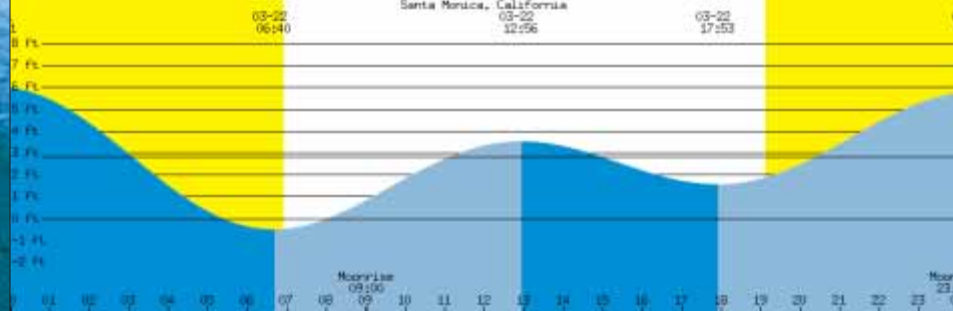
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Nap and then decide, Gemini

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)

★★ New beginnings become possible, though you will have your share of obstacles to hop over. You can do it! Creativity takes you in a new direction. Investigate rather than lose your temper with others. You change your tune. Tonight: Ever lively.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Your possessive side emerges with possibility after possibility. At the same time you hit obstacle after obstacle. The chips might appear to be down, but don't think you cannot hurdle over any problem. Tonight: Talk up a storm.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★ Step back and take your time. You don't need to give anyone any answers. Communication could be stalled for now, but not for long. Keep opinions to yourself. The unexpected does happen. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Others find great ways of spending money and moving a project along. Know that you could feel uncomfortable with what comes up. You certainly don't have all the answer. Friends seem to run the show. Tonight: A vanishing act works.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Others continue to look to you for answers and direction. You might not feel good about what comes up. Know when to pull back. Others seem aggravated by your dedication. You might have to deal with domestic problems as a result. Tonight: Feeling pressure, and quite justly so.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Though you might have the best intentions and want to see a situation more completely, you cannot. You are inspired and nurtured by someone you care about. Think in terms of gains. You have a way and style that make a big difference. Tonight: Relax to music, if you can.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ A partner or other close associate – business or personal – could be testing his or her limits, perhaps not consciously. A risk, friendship and/or romance could be tested to the max. Your best bet is to pull back and do little. Tonight: A close encounter.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision, though you might not be able to buck someone else's ideas. You open up to new possibilities. You could be overwhelmed by a family member who is on the warpath. Tonight: Go along for the ride.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You might be worried about getting the job done. The good news is that you don't need to worry, because others will be as messed up as you. Arguments could start if someone plays holier-than-thou. Don't worry. Tonight: Do only what you must.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Creativity demands your attention. Your perspective might change substantially if you take in information. Once more, be very careful with spending. Someone might disappoint you on a promise or a matter you feel strongly about. Tonight: Let your imagination kick in.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ You might be on the warpath far more than you realize. What you do to change directions or make a decision could mark this period as significant. Walk away from negativity and say hello to positive actions. Tonight: Stay close to home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You could be challenged to say something you would prefer not to. Your words really don't fall on receptive people. You visualize and create. Touch base with feelings that might be a touch explosive. Tonight: Have a clear mind before you start talking.

Born Today

Actress Lena Olin (1955)
musician George Benson (1943)
pantomimist Marcel Marceau (1923)

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

Pressure builds this year. You need to have a way or method of dealing with enormous tension and/or fried nerves. Learn to walk away from problems and sometimes spoil yourself in order to recharge your batteries. Remember, you are a good cause and an excellent investment. Do for yourself more often. Let go of futile challenges, separating what is worthwhile and what isn't. If you are single, you have much more to offer than you are aware. People want to become much closer to you. If you are attached, spend more time relaxing with your sweetie. Don't play Don Quixote, fighting windmills.

Feed your lifestyle. Right here. Right now.



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iRocket Man

Elton making 400 tracks available for downloading

ELTON JOHN says he will make his back catalog of more than 30 albums available for digital download later this month.

The tracks, more than 400 in all, will be available through Apple Inc.'s iTunes service from March 26 through April 30, and then will be made available on

other download services.

The newly digitized albums include John's 1969 debut, "Empty Sky," and perennial favorites such as "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" and "Captain Fantastic and the Brown Dirt Cowboy."

The move coincides with John's 60th birthday

Sunday and the release of a new compilation album, "Rocket Man," on March 29.

"I've wanted my music to be available for digital download worldwide for some time, but I knew that the entire catalog _ not just the hits _ needed care and attention to be released in this way," the singer said in

a statement Wednesday.

"Now that it's happening, I'm pleased for the fans' sake. The world has certainly changed since Philips Records issued my first single on 7-inch vinyl _ 39 years ago this month," he said.

John said he would also release some of his singles

as cell phone ringtones.

Several of his best-known video clips _ including the duet "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" with Kiki Dee _ will be available through digital music services.

John's back catalog is owned by Vivendi SA's Universal Music Group.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GRILLING CONTESTANTS



Boxing great, ordained minister and grilling guru **GEORGE FOREMAN** has added another job to his resume: reality TV judge.

Foreman, 58, will be one of four judges on ABC's "American Inventor" when it begins its second season June 6, FremantleMedia North America Inc. announced Tuesday.

He will be joined by former NBA executive Pat Croce, British businessman Peter Jones and undergarments entrepreneur Sara Blakely, creator of Spanx. The show's new host is Nick Smith.

"American Inventor" features inventors from around the country competing for a chance to mass-produce their product and win a \$1 million prize.

AP

'Knickers' are no longer in a twist for opera diva following suit win

Opera diva **DAME KIRI TE KANAWA** prevailed Wednesday in a lawsuit that sought damages from her because she had canceled appearances with an Australian pop singer after learning women threw their underwear at him on stage.

The New South Wales state Supreme Court dismissed the lawsuit, which sought up to \$1.5 million in damages. Te Kanawa was sued by concert promotion company Leading Edge after the planned concerts in 2005 with singer John

Farnham fell through.

Judge Patricia Bergin found there was no binding contract between Te Kanawa at Leading Edge at the time she pulled out of plans for the concerts in Australia and her native New Zealand.

While Bergin dismissed the breach of contract claim, she ordered Te Kanawa's company, Mittane, to pay \$102,000 to Leading Edge for costs. Bergin said Mittane was not truthful to Leading Edge about her reasons for with-

drawing.

The trial made headlines when the 63-year-old soprano testified she watched a Farnham concert DVD and was disturbed by what she saw.

"I was concerned about the knickers or underpants ... being thrown at him and him collecting it and ... holding it in his hands as some sort of trophy," said the singer, whose international performances included the 1981 wedding of Britain's Prince Charles and Diana Spencer.

"How could I, in my classical form, perform in this way?" she told the court in February.

While Te Kanawa had reservations about the underwear, the judge found that they were not the main reason she pulled out.

Bergin said Te Kanawa had become "extremely resentful" that Farnham failed to attend a planning meeting with her. Farnham, 57, has enjoyed a 30-plus year career in Australia, where he is known as "The Voice."

AP

'Dog' and wife have their day in Hawaii

Hawaii lawmakers honored TV bounty hunter **DUANE "DOG" CHAPMAN** and his wife, Beth, for getting crooks off the street.

The state House of Representatives on Tuesday passed a resolution honoring the couple for their work at capturing criminals.

Duane Chapman is the star of the Hawaii-based

A&E reality series "Dog the Bounty Hunter," which follows his exploits in apprehending people who have avoided arrest.

"I hate to say this, but for felons and ex-cons, I'm their president. What I do, they shall follow," Chapman said after receiving a commendation at the state Capitol. "I'm the poster child for rehabilitation in

America."

The commendation comes as Mexico seeks the extradition of Chapman and two colleagues on charges that they made an illegal arrest in the country in 2003. A separate resolution before the Legislature urges Mexico to drop its efforts.

Before he hunted fugitives, Chapman was a mem-

ber of a biker gang and was convicted in 1977 of being an accessory to murder. He was sentenced to five years in prison.

"Duane 'Dog' Chapman is part preacher, part father figure to many fugitives he captures and then prays with," said Rep. Gene Ward, a Republican who presented the resolution honoring the Chapmans.

AP

Jolie jets from Vietnam, newly adopted son in tow

ANGELINA JOLIE and her newly adopted 3-year-old son left Vietnam in a private jet on Wednesday, en route to the boy's new home in the United States.

The superstar adopted Pax Thien Jolie in Ho Chi Minh City last week, but they later came to the capital city of Hanoi to pick up a visa allowing him to enter the United States.

Jolie left a pack of disappointed paparazzi in her wake, fleeing from them before boarding the awaiting Gulfstream jet at Noi Bai Airport.

During her week in Vietnam, Jolie spent her time cooped up in luxury hotels, shielding Pax from the photographers that trailed them everywhere.

On the few occasions they came out to do adoption paper-

work, they traveled in cars with darkened windows and only emerged after parking in basement garages that were sealed off from the media horde.

Jolie and her partner, Brad Pitt, made a surprise trip to Vietnam last November, when they visited the Tam Binh orphanage on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City. Pax had been living at the orphanage since

he was abandoned as an infant.

Jolie filed adoption papers as a single parent because she and Pitt are not married.

They have three other children: 5-year-old Maddox, adopted from Cambodia, 2-year-old Zahara, adopted from Ethiopia, and another daughter, Shiloh, born to the couple last year.

AP

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THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS IS CURRENTLY **LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTORS AND INTERNS** TO HELP US AUGMENT OUR **ENTERTAINMENT COVERAGE**. EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD IS GREAT, BUT WE'LL TALK TO ANYONE WITH **A FRESH VOICE AND A WILLINGNESS TO WRITE** ORIGINAL AND, AHM, ENTERTAINING COPY. GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

CONTACT ASSOCIATE EDITOR **DANIEL ARCHULETA** AT DANIELA@SMDP.COM.



MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Contact theatre for information.

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

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

MAN'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

More information email news@smdp.com

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
BRONZE

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

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

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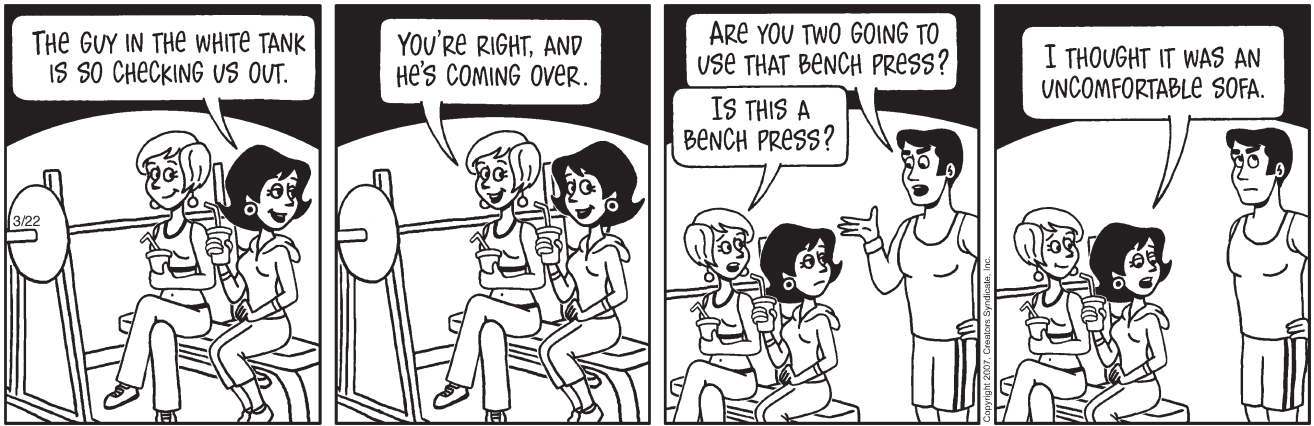
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



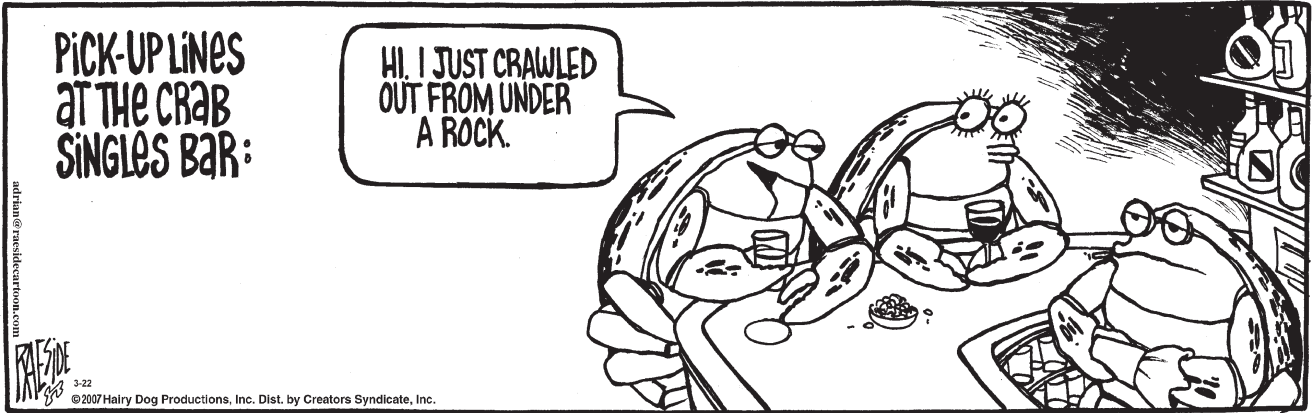
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



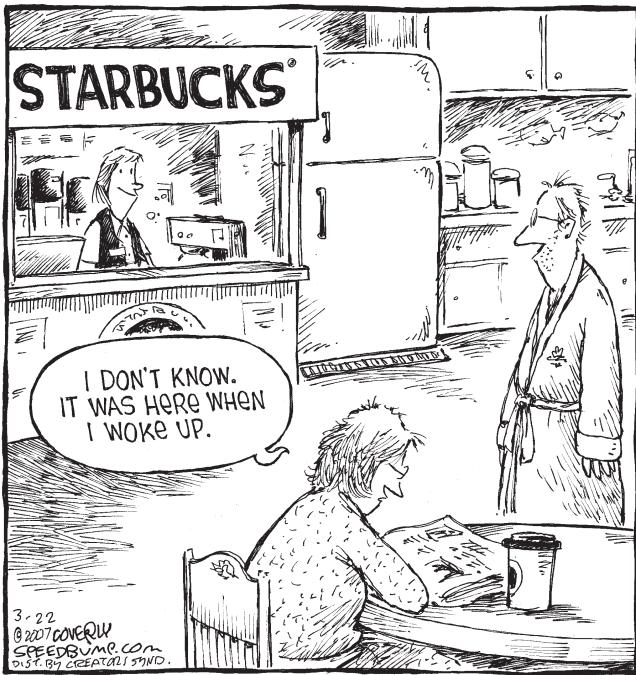
Natural Selection

By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Mystery Photo

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Canal feature
- 5 Plane place
- 11 Infamous czar
- 12 Beethoven symphony
- 13 Greek cheese
- 14 Charm
- 15 Film that goes places
- 17 Detective Archer
- 18 Speedy
- 22 Came up
- 24 Condition
- 25 Icarus, to Daedalus
- 26 Almond
- 27 Wields
- 30 Some tests
- 32 Bias
- 33 Barrister's topper
- 34 End-of-field pole
- 38 Party heartily
- 41 As soon as
- 42 De-creased
- 43 Decree
- 44 Salad base
- 45 Cab cost

DOWN

- 1 Boost
- 2 Finished
- 3 Region of Spain
- 4 Scoundrels
- 5 Get better
- 6 Protects, in a way
- 7 Chewy candy
- 8 Jazz composer Evans
- 9 Great service
- 10 Scoundrel
- 16 Farm female
- 19 Region of South America

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

Yesterday's answer

- 20 Tilted type: Abbr.
- 21 Retreats
- 22 Egyptian serpents
- 23 Bakery buy
- 28 Car part
- 29 Hot
- 30 Hogwarts messenger
- 31 Swindle
- 35 Throws in
- 36 Surgery souvenir
- 37 Head, to Henri
- 38 Jazz job
- 39 Bruins legend
- 40 Calamity

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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			

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLION
7 21 46 49 55
Meganumber: 15
Jackpot: \$48M

Super LOTTO
10 15 23 30 38
Meganumber: 3
Jackpot: \$7M

Fantasy 5 16 18 23 34 38

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 4 7 3
EVENING: 2 7 7

DAILY DERRY
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1.45.81

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The local government's tourist information center in Swindon, England, told author Mark Sutton that his World War I-themed book, "Tell Them of Us," could not be sold in its bookstore unless Sutton demonstrated that he had liability insurance, not for potentially libelous passages but in case readers, for example, suffered paper cuts turning the pages. Said Swindon Borough Council spokesman Richard Freeman, "We have to cover every eventuality."

■ At least a few parents with pronounced genetic abnormalities (e.g., deaf people, dwarfs) have in recent years sought specialized in-vitro fertilization that would improve their chances for a child with the same abnormalities, according to a December Associated Press report (citing a September survey by a Johns Hopkins University research facility). One adult female dwarf told the AP reporter defiantly, "You cannot tell me that I cannot have a child who's going to look like me." Slate.com, extrapolating from the survey, posited that at least eight fertility clinics have provided the service, though many other clinics say they would decline.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1621** The Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony sign a peace treaty with Massasoit of the Wampanoags.
- 1638** Anne Hutchinson is expelled from Massachusetts Bay Colony for religious dissent.
- 1784** The Emerald Buddha was moved with great ceremony to its current place in Wat Phra Kaew, Thailand.
- 1871** In North Carolina, William Woods Holden becomes the first governor of a U.S. state to be removed from office by impeachment.
- 1894** The first playoff game for the Stanley Cup starts.
- 1895** First display (a private screening) of motion pictures by Auguste and Louis Lumière.
- 1933** President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signs into law a bill legalizing the sale of beer and wine.
- 1941** Washington's Grand Coulee Dam begins to generate electricity.
- 1960** Arthur Leonard Schawlow & Charles Townes receive the first patent for a laser.
- 1963** Please Please Me, the first Beatles album, is released in the UK.

WORD UP!

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You know the "new" Honda of Santa Monica, don't you? Oh, they're still right where they've been for over 35 years, 1720 Santa Monica Boulevard. The great service and selection is still there too. What's new you ask? Well, that would be General Manager, Dan Rowand. We could tell you how great Dan is but you just have to meet him to understand how car oriented and community driven he really is. If you do, you'll understand what we mean when we say that more and more savvy car shoppers are learning the difference between merely wanting a pleasant car buying experience and truly craving it! Which brings us to the all-new 2007 Honda CR-V. Without a doubt, the 2007 Honda CR-V is more stylish, comfortable and powerful than any previous incarnation. In the market for a compact SUV but tired of the same old, same old? Face it, you crave change, and Honda of Santa Monica can deliver just that.

The all-new CR-V boasts a sleek, new exterior as well as an amenity-rich interior. And performance? Nothing in its class even comes close to the CR-V in the area of performance. For example, the CR-V's new suspension system delivers an unprecedented ride with improved handling and response, its iVTEC engine utilizes variable intake valve timing to optimize both torque and horsepower, and its revolutionary Real Time 4WD system is just what's needed to navigate any terrain with confidence. But let's cut to a most serious topic, shall we? Safety.

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You can feel it starting, can't you? The craving. Well, that's good. Crave all you want, just visit Honda of Santa Monica today--your community Honda store--and experience the all-new 2007 CR-V firsthand, then in that moment, ask yourself... What do I crave?

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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 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 inter-

Notices

ested 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 grant-ing of the petition, you should ap-pear 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 per-son 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 ap-praisal 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
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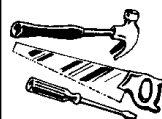
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'02 BMW 325i SEDAN Auto, air, power group, leather, CD player, moonroof, alloys (P1554/J18113) \$16,892	'04 MERCEDES BENZ C230 SPORT COUPE Auto, air, power group, leather, cassette, moonroof, alloys (I6774A/604435) \$17,992	'03 INFINITI I35 SEDAN Auto, air, power group, leather, multi-CD player, dual power seats, alloys (I6757A/109336) \$17,992	'03 INFINITI G35 SEDAN Auto, air, leather, power group, multi-CD player, moonroof, alloys (P1520A/020785) \$22,991	'04 INFINITI G35 SEDAN Auto, air, power group, leather, multi-CD plyr, moonroof, alloys (P1562/603384) \$23,992	'05 INFINITI G35 COUPE Air, power group, leather, Navigation, multi-CD player, moonroof, alloys (I6300A/408333) \$28,992
'03 INFINITI FX45 AWD Auto, air, power group, cassette, leather, multi-CD player, premium wheels (P1547/402959) \$28,994	'06 CHRYSLER 300C SEDAN V8 Hemi, auto, air, power group, leather, moonroof, premium wheels, used (P1549/163595) \$29,992	'05 INFINITI G35 COUPE Auto, air, power group, leather, multi-CD player, moonroof, alloys (P1535/400135) \$29,994	'04 INFINITI FX35 Auto, air, leather, power group, Navigation, multi-CD player, oversized wheels (P1528/106874) \$29,994	'04 INFINITI G35 COUPE Auto, air, leather, power group, multi-CD player, moonroof, alloys (P1555A/822448) \$30,991	'05 MERCEDES BENZ ML500 4X4 Auto, air, power group, Navigation, integrated phone, leather, moonroof, alloys (P1544/537695) \$33,953

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