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TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009
Volume 8 Issue 119

Santa Monica Daily Press



REVVED UP FOR LONG BEACH
SEE PAGE 6

We have you covered

THE WINDY CITY ISSUE



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

IT'S A COVER UP: **Traffic builds below 17th Street on the I-10 Freeway Monday afternoon. City officials are expected to study the possibility of creating a deck over the freeway, spanning about three blocks, where a park or public facilities could be built.**

City Hall considering building over freeway

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A three-block strip of Interstate 10 could one day double as both a freeway and public park.

Santa Monica city officials plan to request grant funding from the California Department of Transportation to pay for a study examining the feasibility of constructing a deck covering the freeway from 14th to 17th streets, creating more land.

As part of a consent calendar that includes a $43.1 million spending package, the City Council tonight will be asked to authorize City Manager Lamont Ewell to submit an application asking for $250,000 from Caltrans to study "capping" the interstate, which would create up to seven acres of additional land.

Such decks have been constructed over the air space of freeways across the country. The closest case locally would be the McClure Tunnel, said Francie Stefan, a community and strategic planning manager for City Hall.

The extra space could be used for various purposes, from a park to public facilities, she said.

The study was identified in the Land Use and Circulation Element's strategic framework, which recommends exploring the possibility of capping the freeway as part of the master plan for the Memorial Park area.

"The deck area would introduce a stronger connection between the park and areas south of the freeway," a city staff report stated.

MORE MONEY FOR SAVING LIVES

City Hall's payment for Los Angeles County lifeguards at Santa Monica State Beach is about to get significantly more expensive.

A new 10-year, $28 million contract for

SEE CONSENT PAGE 8

Number of affordable apartments in SM drops

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A decade after a controversial state law allowed rent-controlled units to be set at market rate once they were vacated, the rental housing market in Santa Monica has become more expensive.

That's according to a recently-released report by the Rent Control Board about the impact that vacancy decontrol, which was enacted in 1999, has had locally.

The study states that as of the end of 2008, about 15,340 rent-controlled units have been leased at market rate since the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act was put into place to combat strict housing provisions in cities like Santa Monica and Berkeley.

The figure represents about 56 percent of the total 27,296 units registered with City Hall, up from about 54 percent in 2007.

"While that seems like a lot, I believe the fact that 44 percent of the units are occupied by long-term tenants show quite a bit of stability in Santa Monica among tenants in rent-controlled apartments," said Tracy Condon, the administrator for the Rent Control Board.

The Rent Control Ordinance does not apply to buildings constructed after 1979 when the law was adopted, Condon said, adding that all rent-controlled tenants, whether they are long-term or paying market rate, have the same protections under the ordinance.

With vacancy decontrol, the study concluded that that the number of affordable units has gone down. About 81 percent of the 15,340 units that have been leased at market rate over the past 10 years were considered affordable to very low-income households before the rent increase. That number has dropped to 13 percent today.

SEE REPORT PAGE 9

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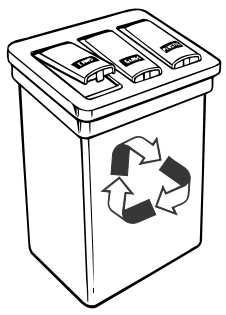
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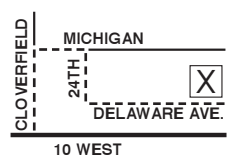


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OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



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Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St., 10 a.m. —11 a.m.
Join Mr. Jesse for some music, rhymes, stories and puppets. Registration is required. Cost Free. For more information, call (310) 392-3802

Meet Cornelia Funk
Every Picture Tells A Story Gallery
1311 #C Montana Ave., 3:30 — 6 p.m.
Join fans for a chance to meet best-selling author of "Inkheart," "Inkdeath," "The Thief Lord," "Dragon Rider," and "The Ghosthunters." Enjoy book readings, refreshments, and your chance to get your favorite Cornelia Funke book signed. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 451-2700

Free tasting
Zinc Lounge at Shade Hotel
Manhattan Beach, 6 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Zinc Lounge presents an hour of wine sharing and socializing on their heated terrace. Each week will boast a different vineyard for a sensorial adventure each and every Tuesday. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 546-4995

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Feel the energy
Kathmandu Boutique
1844 Lincoln Blvd., 5:30 a.m. — 7:30 a.m.
Master Choa Kok Sui has worked successfully with ailments ranging from asthma, arthritis, cancer to addictions, depression and phobias using his Pranic Healing technique. It is an effective no-touch, painless healing art that helps the body repair itself. For more information, call (310) 396-4036

2009 Sustainable Quality Awards
Sheraton Delfina Hotel
530 W. Pico Blvd., 11:30 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Santa Monica celebrates its eco-friendly businesses with an awards luncheon at the Sheraton Delfina. These businesses have undertaken voluntary actions to reduce waste and promote cleaner air and water and improve the quality of life for workers and residents. Tickets can be purchased at www.smchamber.com/events.

Green Living Workshop
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Be part of the solution. Educate and empower yourself with simple steps that save our environment and you money. This six-week workshop covers: water, energy, waste, chemicals, transportation & travel, and shopping & food. Cost free. For more information, visit www.sustainableworks.eventbrite.com.

Hot salsa on Main
Club Main
2941 Main St., 7:30 p.m.
Get down and shake off your troubles with hot fun salsa dancing. Isabelle's Salsa Nights offered every Wednesday. Dance for free after 9 p.m. until we drop. Drink specials from 7 p.m. —9:00 p.m. For more information, call (310) 392-3493

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Poetry and prose
Novel Cafe
212 Pier Ave., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Share your writing or your favorite wordsmith at Novel Cafe. Readers can select any kind of writing (poetry, fiction, non-fiction, etc.) up to 1,000 words. Come read, listen and enjoy! Call (310) 396-8566 for more information.

UCLA Festival of Preservation
UCLA Hammer Museum
10899 Wilshire Blvd., 7:30 p.m. — 9 p.m.
UCLA presents three oft forgotten films: "The Naked Eye," "The Bridge: A True Story of a Troubled Child" and "Wedlock." "The Naked Eye" highlights the art of photography and the evolution of the art and is the longest of the pieces. "The Bridge" is a short, dramatic film about an emotionally troubled boy and "Wedlock" is an experimental short. Tickets are $9. Call (310) 206-3456 for more information.

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



WINDY CITY

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

A couple from Belgium get blasted by the wind at the Santa Monica Pier on Sunday. Ferocious winds swept through Santa Monica Sunday and Monday, prompting officials to issue a wind advisory, which will be in effect until Tuesday morning. The wind is believed to be caused by strong offshore pressure gradients.

Sentencing delayed for med pot dispensary owner

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A judge on Monday postponed sentencing the owner of a Morro Bay medical marijuana dispensary convicted of five federal counts, including distributing drugs.

U.S. District Judge George H. Wu said he will hold off sentencing Charles Lynch, 47, until prosecutors provide a written clarification from the Justice Department on the Obama administration's newly revised position that federal agents target marijuana distributors only if they violate state and federal law.

California is one of 13 states that allows medical use of marijuana.

U.S. attorney's spokesman Thom Mrozek said his office was reviewing the judge's request, and declined further comment.

Wu rescheduled sentencing for April 30, contingent on a telephone status conference set for Friday, Mrozek said.

Lynch's case has become a high profile one for the medical marijuana community, with activists packing the courtroom Monday wearing green ribbons in support of Lynch.

The dispensary owner was convicted in August of distributing more than 100 kilograms of marijuana. Federal prosecutors said he should have known his employees sold marijuana outside his store.

"It's kind of absurd," said federal public defender Reuven Cohen, Lynch's attorney, on Monday. "No one wants to put Charlie in prison."

Last week, freshly appointed U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced the departure from the Bush administration's policy, in which cultivating, using and selling pot for medical purposes was allowed by states but outlawed by the federal government. The federal Drug Enforcement Administration has raided at least 80 dispensaries in California over the past 2 1/2 years.

"I will be surprised if the Obama, Holder administration continues with this case if they're provided with full and accurate information. And that's a very big if. ... They're getting bad information from the locals," Cohen said.

Celebrating sustainable businesses

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce will host the Sustainable Quality Awards luncheon on Wednesday to celebrate businesses who are taking steps to be more environmentally friendly.

City Hall announced the 2009 award winners last week, doling out four SQA grand prize winners and six winners in the Excellence category.

"Now more than ever it is clear that the future of the city is going to be based on environmental, social and economic viability," said Laurel Rosen, president and CEO of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Grand prize winners included Bryan Cave LLP, a business and litigation firm, Saint John's Health Center, Taxi! Taxi! and Whole Foods Market. These businesses pioneered best practices that improved their environmental footprint and efficiency, Rosen said.

Bryan Cave LLP adopted the sustainability policy touted by the American Bar Association-EPA Law Office Climate Challenge that encourages offices to adopt best practices and cut water and paper waste and cut electricity use. The company also partners with local non-profits and gives employees paid hours to volunteer.

Saint John's Health Center uses a cogeneration facility to produce both heat and power to produce 95 percent of power for the Chan Soon-Shiong Center for Life Sciences building. It saves 300,000 gallons of water daily by recycling wastewater from their heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system and recycles more than 150 tons of paper and 96 tons of cardboard annually.

Taxi! Taxi! pioneered the Hybrid cab fleet in 2007 and remains the leader of the L.A. market with 10 hybrids on the road. These cars save 700 tons of toxic greenhouse gas emissions and 60,000 gallons of gasoline per year. The company is owned and operated in Santa Monica and supports local nonprofits.

Though Whole Foods Market operates on a national level, it has local policies that earned it an SQA grand prize. Whole foods buys local organic foods and fair trade products and banned the use of plastic bags

SEE SQA PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Future decline

Editor:

What is really going on in our schools besides selling pot ("Middle schoolers busted with pot," page 1, March 20)? My son went to Lincoln Middle School in the mid '80s, but it wasn't until years later that he told me how some of the "preppie" students would snort coke in the back of the classroom, pretending they were using nose spray. I was shocked.

The current crop of teachers have been schooled in non-confrontive techniques to build up a child's self esteem. They are terrified of using discipline for fear the child will report them for child abuse, or worse (especially at a school like Lincoln where Thomas Beltran molested five students). The complex nature of American society requires that teachers develop a variety of skills to regulate student behavior and establish a healthy environment for learning.

Video games and television programs that students were obsessed with in the '80s are child's play compared to what is available today. Then they only bullied younger kids by taking their lunch money, Halloween candy and other forms of torment, such as spraying them with shaving cream. Some of the kids they bullied grew up to do even worse.

I believed my son when he was arrested for "accidentally" hitting a police car with a roman candle on the 4th of July. His best friend was arrested for detonating a bomb in a Venice Beach public toilet that he made from M-500 firecrackers they smuggled in my truck on a surfing trip to Mexico. He was careful to make sure the restroom was empty; not so in these post Columbine days.

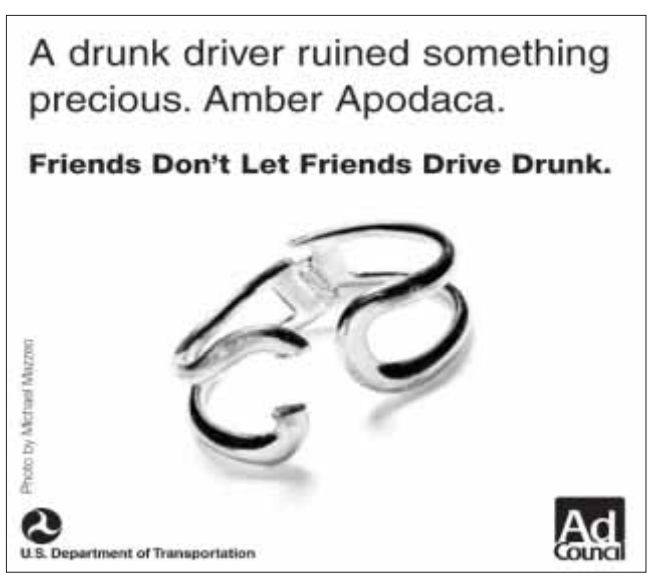
The current ADHD generation is so jaded by the prevalence of violence and sex found in all forms of media that their aberrant behavior has reached new heights. It takes teachers and parents who are fully involved, or a truly exceptional child, to resist the powerful pull of peer pressure. Parents are the last to suspect their own children of bad behavior.

These kids are just a symptom of a materialistic decadent society, well on the way to social and economic meltdown. Many of those who come from affluent homes lack motivation and are accustomed to being indulged. They don't have a clue what they will face when their parents can no longer enable their behavior. The "Real World" will be far more frightening than the one on MTV.

What we are witnessing is the decline and fall of Western Civilization. These abandoned and coddled kids are not prepared for "reality." I shudder to think what will happen when overly medicated kids hit the job market and find out they have to start at the bottom, if they can even get a job. What will they do when their parents, who have supported them all their lives, have lost their home?

There is a very thin veneer of civilization that separates humans from the lower primates. As society breaks down and the economic crisis deepens, what will these degenerate offspring do? Think of it as evolution in action, or de-evolution.

Jon Mann
Santa Monica





What's the Point?

David Pisarra — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Death is the ultimate reminder to enjoy life

THE LAVENDER, SPOTTED FLOWERS OF my orchid are dying and falling from their stalk. They lie around the base of the pot they were raised in, looking tired and spent. It is an odd reminder to me that spring has sprung.

This orchid was a gift from a friend of a friend for my dog. Two years ago I threw a party for my dog's birthday, which is really more a tribute to my wackiness and sociability, than it is about his annual growth. I, obviously, don't need much of a reason to open my home to others. Any excuse will do.

It's a family thing. My brother once held a birthday party for Michelangelo, and had people help paint a fresco. If you're going to throw a birthday party, using a guy who was born almost 600 years ago pretty much guarantees that you will not have to share the gifts that people bring.

My other brother has been known to have three different parties in three days, for as varied reasons as, "we bought a new sculpture," "it's the bridge club's annual blahdy blah," and "it's Sunday." The social aspect of having a home and having people over just seems like the natural thing for us to do.

This past Sunday I had a house full of people, most of whom I did not know. My friend Kelly Hayes-Raitt was in town for a brief stay before she hits the road again. She's been traveling the world and wanted to have a get-together with her friends to share some stories.

But to say that she is traveling the world is an understatement. It's been more like experiencing the world. She's made trips to Syria, Iraq, the Philippines, Lebanon. These are not just your typical two week, guided bus tours. She goes with various peace and reconciliation groups to meet people and have conversations that most people don't experience. She spends her time researching what life is like for the people in those countries that are war-torn. People invite her to their homes, to show her their lives so that she can share their stories.

She has this manner that attracts small children. They are drawn to her open demeanor and ready smile, which are disarming, and consequently she gets the parents to share with her the truth of their lives. It's a truth that they would likely prefer to forget, but cannot.

Writing truth can be a lonely, emotionally taxing project. Writing about war, death and lives turned upside down, more so. But out of it can come moments of intense beauty, connection and compassion. At this party on Sunday she shared a couple of the chapters.

As she read her work, riding her words like a magic carpet, a roomful of 20 Americans had the chance to travel halfway around the world to a bombed out bomb shelter. People sought safety in this room, and it became their death chamber. With her descriptions, and our fertile imaginations, she painted the walls red with blood and death, and in doing so, made the costs of war come home.

WRITING TRUTH CAN BE A LONELY, EMOTIONALLY TAXING PROJECT. WRITING ABOUT WAR, DEATH AND LIVES TURNED UPSIDE DOWN, MORE SO. BUT OUT OF IT CAN COME MOMENTS OF INTENSE BEAUTY, CONNECTION AND COMPASSION.

This was not a depressing event. Out of her stories of death and destruction, of lives constrained by politics, came hope and understanding. They illuminated the struggle of the human spirit to continue to want better for their families.

The horrors that she writes of, are much like the frame of a picture, and the picture is the humanity that is shared in living rooms and kitchens, by people from two divergent cultures, who might not even speak the same tongue, but use the language of the heart to convey meaning.

The people who died in a bomb shelter, people I did not meet, can remind me to do more for cultural understanding and peace. But more importantly to hold those I love closer, and to remember to tell them how much they mean to me.

In my living room, with a dying orchid to remind me that spring is here, came a renewal, and a reminder, of the human spirit. It is why I have such an open home. Because it is through others that we see ourselves. It is in the sharing of our lives and loves, that meaning is created.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

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The Libertarian Perspective

Anthony Gregory

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Protecting the public by releasing inmates

CALIFORNIA HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO do the right thing. A three-judge panel has heard a case concerning the possible release of 52,000 state prisoners. Plaintiffs argue that the system provides inadequate medical and psychiatric care for its inmates. This is cruel and unusual, a violation of the Eighth Amendment, they say.

Taxpayers rightly resent the price tag of prison programs. But if the prisons cannot afford to care for their prisoners, we obviously have far too many. Governor Schwarzenegger once vowed to reduce the prison population, and he ought to. Now is a good time to seriously reassess the whole system.

There were virtually no prisons in this country when it was founded. The modern criminal justice system grew out of the institution of slavery. Prisons exploded in their growth in the 20th century. The Progressive Era, whose leaders dreamed of re-creating society and redeeming mankind through an active and expansionist state, accelerated the development of today's system. It grew steadily.

Before Ronald Reagan's presidency, half a million Americans were in prison and jail, and fewer than 1.5 million on parole or probation. Now there are more than 2 million behind bars and 7 million total in the correctional system. In California, the prison population grew by 500 percent from 1982 to 2000.

This is madness. And it's expensive.

Some worry about the strain on social infrastructure if prisoners were mass-released, but they could not possibly cost the state more than they do now. They would also at least have the chance to create wealth as workers and consumers in the market, rather than just being a drain in the public sector.

Each prisoner costs taxpayers $35,000 per year. Victims are not made whole but instead are forced to foot the bill to house their perpetrators.

The state used to have some restitution centers through which white-collar convicts could work and pay back their victims as well as some of their detention costs, but these centers were closed down earlier this year. State officials said the program was too expensive. Only government could lose money making people work.

Most offenders never get the opportunity to pay restitution but are simply jammed into obscenely overcrowded cages. California's system is designed to hold about 100,000 prisoners but instead houses 171,000.

Judges used to have wide discretion in sentencing, which minimized overcrowding. In 1977, Gov. Jerry Brown stripped judges of this authority. "Over the next decade, California's legislature, dominated by Democrats, passed more than 1,000 laws increasing mandatory prison sentences," according to the Washington Post.

Brutal violence is all too common in prisons. Human Rights Watch estimates that nationwide, one out of 15 male inmates is raped. Many prisoners are effectively the slaves of their cellmates. Gang violence is endemic. The institution has become a totalitarian hell for those inside.

What's worse, most people incarcerated should not be. A quarter of the inmates are locked up for nonviolent drug offenses. They committed no act of violence against anyone's person or property, and their imprisonment is part of a destructive drug policy that has increased crime, trashed civil liberties, uprooted the social order, and corrupted the whole legal system. Many others are in prison for other nonviolent offenses against the state — unapproved gun ownership, tax evasion, and so forth.

Many petty criminals do not deserve anything like today's prisons, and their incarceration helps no one. Most prisoners can and should be released. The number of those who actually must be isolated from society would not lead to overcrowding or be an ungainly financial burden.

California's recidivism rate is the highest in America. The system does not work. Indeed, offenders go in as small-time thieves and come out far worse. They go in as drug users and come out desensitized to savage violence. They go in as burglars and come out as rapists. In short, prisons increase crime.

Conservatives talk about the good old days when there was more civility, more freedom, lower taxes, and less crime. There were also far fewer prisons. Until the modern system is rethought through a libertarian perspective, we can never restore the liberty and social peace we once had.

ANTHONY GREGORY is a contributing author to the Libertarian Perspective, a research analyst at the Independent Institute in Oakland, Calif., and the author of a forthcoming book on habeas corpus, detention policy, and individual liberty. His Web site is AnthonyGregory.com.

The Q Line

Keeping it local

City Hall and the Bayside District Corp. have recently joined forces to launch the "Buy Local" program, which aims to keep dollars in Santa Monica.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Are you inclined to spend locally to help the ailing economy, and why?

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


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Ask George

George Valverde

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Checking the status

Q: HOW CAN I CHECK TO SEE THE CURRENT license status of businesses licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles?

A: The DMV has license status information for the following business categories available online:

- ATV Schools
- Dismantlers
- Distributors
- Driving Schools
- Lessor-Retailers
- Manufacturers
- Mature Driver Programs
- Registration Services
- Remanufacturers
- Traffic Violator Schools
- Transporters
- Vehicle Dealers (including Auto brokers)
- Vessel Agents

Please visit the DMV's Web site at https://mv.dmv.ca.gov/olinq2/welcome.do to begin your search.

Q: I lost my title and can't find the seller who sold me the vehicle. Can I do a lien sale?

A: No. You cannot conduct a lien sale on a vehicle in which you have a monetary interest. You must contact the prior seller to obtain a bill of sale. The Application for Duplicate Title (REG 227) can also be used by the registered owner as a releasing document when the original title has been lost, stolen or mutilated. To download this form, please visit www.dmv.ca.gov and click on the Forms tab.

Q: Where do I sign my vehicle title transfer? I find the form a little confusing.

A: The registered owner of a vehicle releases the title by signing and dating line 1 on the face of the title. The DMV's Web site now has a video available that walks you through signing your vehicle transfer, step by step. To view the video, please visit www.dmv.ca.gov, and click on Vehicle Registration, Buying and Selling and finally on Video: Title Transfer – Where Do We Sign. This video is not only convenient, but ensures that your vehicle title is filled out accurately and completely. To save time, go online at www.dmv.ca.gov.

Remember to also report the sale online or complete a Release of Liability (Reg 138) as well to notify the department you have sold the vehicle and protect you against any liability for its use after the sale.

GEORGE VALVERDE is the director of the California Department of Motor Vehicles.





Tornante

Steve Parker

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Getting revved up for the Grand Prix

COMING NEXT MONTH, APRIL 16 through 19, the 36th Annual Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach takes to its street course under the auspices of IndyCar, which now combines the Champ Car and Indy Racing League series for the first time in a dozen years.

The race is the biggest-single sporting event in California, drawing several hundred thousand fans during its four-day run. In American auto racing, only the Indy 500 draws more fans and has more TV viewers for an "open-wheel" event (the race cars, unlike stock cars, have no fenders, hence the term open-wheel).

I've attended every Long Beach Grand Prix since its first running in 1975. Brian Redman won that race, which was open to Formula 5000 cars, a truly crazy, whacked-out race series using 5-liter American-made engine blocks and the most outrageous aerodynamics ever seen on any race car, from huge wings and engine air intakes to cars with something of a working vacuum-cleaner under them to keep them stuck to the ground.

After that first event, the promoter turned to Formula 1, the world's most-expensive racing series, and stuck with that format from 1976 through 1983. In those years, I noted Beatle George Harrison and Rod and Alana Stewart in the pits; perhaps not what you'd see at California Speedway in Fontana, about 75 miles east.

In those early days, the race used Ocean Boulevard for the main straight and the pit area. Two short connector roads, each highly-inclined, got the drivers up to Ocean, then back down to the Shoreline Drive area. When the cars went up to Ocean, they almost always went airborne, then on the down side, more than one driver lost control under the hard braking and the "Bang!" felt as their suspension bottomed-out at the bottom of the hill. It made for great photos!

For me, the most emotional win in the F1 era at Long Beach came in 1977, when Mario Andretti became the first American driver to win an F1 race in this country. In 1978, Andretti took the F1 world championship.

Long Beach was a far different place in those days, and I still remember the Grand Prix people covering the marquee of the Mitchell Bros. porno theater on Ocean with black tarp so visitors wouldn't be shocked. Parts of the old Long Beach Pike amusement park were still in use, and the dive bars and low-end tattoo shops which had served generations of sailors welcomed the business brought by the race.

Today's downtown Long Beach is a showcase of high-rises, classy condos, the Long Beach Convention Center and nearby aquarium. Pine Avenue, the street F1 drivers used to get up to Ocean, is now full of expensive restaurants and clubs, and Long Beach hotels are often full with conventioneers.

Since 1984, the feature race at Long Beach has been with open-wheel American race series, first with Championship Auto Racing Teams (CART) and then with Champ Car, an off-shoot of CART and now with IndyCar.

Mario Andretti, Alex Zanardi, Al Unser, Jr. and Michael Andretti were all winners at Long Beach, as well as Bobby Rahal, Danny Sullivan, Paul Tracy and Nigel Mansell.

There are several other fun events, on-track and off, during Long Beach's four-day run, including the popular Celebrity Race, Firestone Indy Lights (a step-up training series for IndyCar), the American LeMans Series endurance cars, the Speed GT Challenge and drifting.

Ticket prices are all over the map, from $20 for a three-day garage pass to $795 for the full hospitality treatment. Reserved parking is a must.

Bring your hats, sunshade and cold beverages, and for more information visit www.LBGP.com.

STEVE PARKER has covered the world's auto industry for over 35 years. He's a two-time Emmy Award-winner who reported on cars for almost a decade at both KTLA/TV5 and KCBS/TV2. He is a consultant to the NBC-TV show Whipnotic and the show's companion website, www.Whipnotic.com. He created, writes and moderates the only all-automotive blog on The Huffington Post at www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-parker. Contact Steve through his own automotive issues Web site at www.SteveParker.com.





The Quackers

Phyllis Chavez
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The calming effect of compost

Editor's Note: The Quackers are three awesome ducks from the canals of Venice who are on a mission to educate the community about the dangers of global warming and the importance of practicing sustainability, all while surfing the most gnarly waves possible.

RUSTY HAS BEEN IN A TERRIBLE STATE the past few weeks. He has been reduced to a vibrating bundle of nerves as he waits for the call that will send him winging his way north for the Mavericks surf contest.

Surfing Mavericks has been Rusty's lifelong dream. This year his dream came true. He won a spot in the famous big wave surf contest at Half Moon Bay. The start of the contest depends on Mother Nature creating the perfect conditions that will send giant swells rolling in from far across the Pacific Ocean into Half Moon Bay.

This could happen anytime from December to March. When that time comes, Rusty will have only 24 hours to arrive and be ready to rip.

We love surfing too but Rusty is definitely the duck for this contest. He is fearless. He says the unpredictable conditions, shallow reefs, strong currents and bone chilling water add to the excitement. When Richard and I think of facing all that and 50 -foot waves, the emotion we feel is not excitement and our knees knock together like tambourines.

We wish we had the courage to be out there, in the water, right beside him. However, we know when Rusty comes sliding down the face of a 50-foot wave, our view will be from the sidelines looking through the tiny spaces in our wings, which we will be using to cover our eyes.

In the beginning, Rusty was fine with the waiting, even casual.

That all changed one day in mid-February when he left his cell phone at home. After he calmed down from the panic attack that followed that event, he literally flew out the door to buy a Bluetooth. He has since had that thing in his ear 24/7. I am hoping surgical removal will not be necessary after the contest.

While Rusty waits for Mother Nature to "bring it on," his nerves are stretched to a pinging tautness. He is overflowing with nervous energy. Long surfing sessions twice a day seemed to add to it rather than deplete it. Meditating with Richard has helped, but not enough.

He heard simple tasks could be calming, zen-like. To our great surprise he took on all the household chores. Still, he has more energy. We should be happy but instead we are worried.

Quite by accident Richard found the fix. He asked Rusty to help him set out some tomatoes. That took Rusty all of 15 minutes. Next, Richard sent him for newspaper and kitchen scraps for the compost. Back in a flash, Rusty tossed everything in.

He mixed and spread and finally turned the compost exposing a mass of wiggling earthworms. Transfixed, he stared in fascination.

Richard swears that Rusty's observation of the complexities of the microcosm in the compost bin took Rusty to a different plane. I think Rusty just likes worms. At any rate, he became calm.

There were so many other interesting things going on in that bin, but all Rusty wanted to know about were the worms. Sounding like a professor, Richard answered his questions.

He told him how during the last ice age, about 11,000 years ago, a massive glacier receded and wiped out nearly all the earthworms in the United States.

We were essentially earthworm free until European settlers arrived bringing with them nonnative earthworm species. Those worms repopulated the U.S. He told Rusty how valuable they were to food production. He said, "Worms mix and aerate the soil making it easier for plants to grow. They also tunnel in the soil creating pathways for the roots to follow. They have voracious appetites and can eat up to 1/3 of their weight a day and their waste enriches the soil. In my opinion they are the ultimate recyclers!"

As he completed that last sentence, Rusty, who had never stopped staring at the worms, gobbled a bunch, slurping them up like spaghetti. Licking his lips he said, "Mmm, and they taste good too!" Eyes wide with surprise and then anger, Richard shouted, "Hey! Stop that! This is a compost bin, not a cafeteria!"

I don't want to say I told you so, but I told you so. Due to the calming effect it had on Rusty, Richard has agreed to let him help with the compost bin but only under his supervision and only until he gets the call. Rusty teases Richard by referring to the compost bin as his personal worm collection and by calling the worms "Earth Spaghetti." When will that Bluetooth ring?

PHYLLIS and the quackers can be reached at phyllis@phyllischavez.com

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New radios for fire dispatch

FROM **CONSENT** PAGE 1

year-round lifeguard service will require City Hall to increase its reimbursement for Los Angeles County Fire Department operating expenses from 30-40 percent to 100 percent.

The Los Angeles County Fire Department has been working on a month-to-month basis since its contract expired in December 2006. The new contract includes other changes including a 6 percent increase in the first year's annual payment to the county and a CPI adjustment, all of which means that City Hall will have to appropriate an additional $66,806 to fund the remaining months this fiscal year.

DISPATCH CENTER PROGRESSING

As part of its move back to the Communications Center in the Public Safety Facility, the Santa Monica Fire Department is hoping to upgrade some out-of-date equipment.

The department is planning on spending more than $472,000 for 122 new radios that are compatible with its current system.

The SMFD is in the process of reactivating the Communications Center, which sat dormant for more than two years while dispatch services went regionally through the Los Angeles Fire Department.

Officials estimated in January that the move would take about nine months.

GeoComm, a consultant which recommended the switch back to the Communications Center, is also slated to receive an extra $51,000 to its contract to see through the transition period.

The department experienced several problems with the Regional Dispatch Center, including confusion caused by emergency calls that came from addresses that existed both in Santa Monica and Los Angeles. The center also dealt with problems experiencing overwhelming call volumes, which would lead to periods of time every day when the system would be saturated, leaving 911 lines ringing longer than the department would have preferred.

The council decided earlier this year that dispatch services should be brought back in house.

HELP WITH EXPO

With the construction of the Exposition Light Rail expected to commence in the next two years, bringing the long-awaited electric train from Culver City to Downtown Santa Monica, city officials are looking for an extra set of helping hands.

Both The Odermatt Group and Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates are expected to receive contracts to provide planning assistance related to the Exposition Light Rail and the Land Use and Circulation Element — a planning document in which the electric train will play a crucial role.

The Odermatt Group is slated to receive a $235,000 contract while Nelson/Nygaard, which has worked with City Hall numerous times on the LUCE in the past, could receive a $210,000 deal. Both will deal with transportation and urban planning issues related to Expo and the LUCE.

NEW ELECTRIC BUSES TO BE ADDED

The Big Blue Bus is planning on purchasing a fleet of new gasoline/electric hybrid buses using approximately $8 million in federal stimulus package money.

The price tag includes 10 new buses, staff training, spare parts and a contingency fund. The new vehicles will replace an equal number of 30-foot-long Thomas buses that officials said have exceeded their useful life.

"The quieter engines in the new buses will reduce the amount of noise generated by 20 percent in neighborhoods," a staff report stated.

FURNISHING BEACH HOUSE

Just one month left before the Annenberg Community Beach House opens, City Hall is putting the finishing touches on the newest public facility.

One of those last pieces includes furnishing.

City officials are planning on buying about $36,000 more in outdoor furniture from JANUS et Cie for the pool area.

The beach house was once the site of the Marion Davies Estate.

CHARNOCK WELL UPDATE

City Hall is planning on expanding a contract with Veatch Construction, which is working on a project to restore the local drinking water supply, to purchase new treatment equipment and demolish structures near the existing plant.

The Charnock Well Field Restoration Project aims to bring local sources back into the public drinking water system.

It was about a dozen years ago that five wells in the Charnock Field were taken out of commission after officials discovered an MTBE contamination from leaking underground gasoline storage tanks owned by several oil companies, including Shell, Chevron and Exxon Mobil. Several settlements resulted over the next decade, including $120 million from the oil companies in 2003 and another $131 million in 2006.

About 75 percent of the local supply comes from the Metropolitan Water District.

The new equipment and demolition are necessary to meet the project's schedule, the staff report stated.

LIFE INSURANCE AND LEGAL SERVICES

The City Council will be asked to approve annual premiums to City Hall employees' Group Benefit Plan in the amount of $1.2 million.

The benefits package includes group term life insurance, accidental death and dismemberment and long-term disability coverage.

The council is also expected to approve a $250,000 contract with Kane, Ballmer & Berkman to provide legal services for City Hall, the Redevelopment Agency and Parking Authority.

melodyh@smdp.com





Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

GOING, GOING, GONE: **Rental signs adorn an apartment building located at 2002 Fourth St. A recent report by the Rent Control Board found that vacancy decontrol has resulted in more units being priced at market rate, leading to a loss of affordable housing.**

Report: More than half of rent control units at market rate

FROM **REPORT** PAGE 1

The number of rent-controlled units being shifted to market rate for the first time has gradually gone down over the past few years. The study also found that units affected by vacancy decontrol are more likely to be rented multiple times.

"There's much less incentive to stay in place once you're paying market rate," Condon said. "If you moved into a unit on Sixth and Wilshire for $1,500 and look down the street and see a similar unit for rent at $1,400, there's much less incentive to stay in place."

Carl Lambert, the president of the Action Apartment Association, said that while rent control itself is a failed proposition, the addition of vacancy decontrol has allowed landlords to improve the quality of life for their tenants by having more money to maintain and paint their buildings.

"Since the imposition of rent control in 1979, the rent controlled-units were being rented by wealthy cardiologists and were not going to the students and the needy," he said. "What rent control should do is apply a means test for the rent-controlled units and to determine if any of the tenants are needy.

"I would say most of them aren't."

With the economic downturn, Condon said that rent is starting to finally level off. But the number of units affordable is continuing to drop.

The study found that affordable units at every income level for every bedroom size has dropped over the past 10 years.

The more than 15,000 units that have been shifted to market rate would have been considered affordable to a household whose income was 60 percent of the adjusted county median before the rent increase.

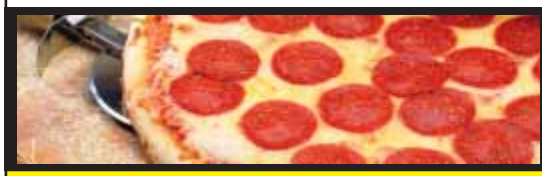
After the fact, only studio apartments are close to being affordable to those earning 120 percent of median income, the study stated.

"The sad thing is that as the report shows, new tenants need to have much higher income to be able to afford the market rate units so that suggests that either higher income people are moving in to town or people are moving in together into apartments so they can afford these much higher rents," Condon said. "The bottom line is after 10 years of vacancy decontrol, we have lost a lot of units that were once affordable to very low income people and now the vast majority of those units are affordable to people making 100 to 120 percent of AMI."

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Businesses get A-grade on environmental report card

FROM SQA PAGE 3

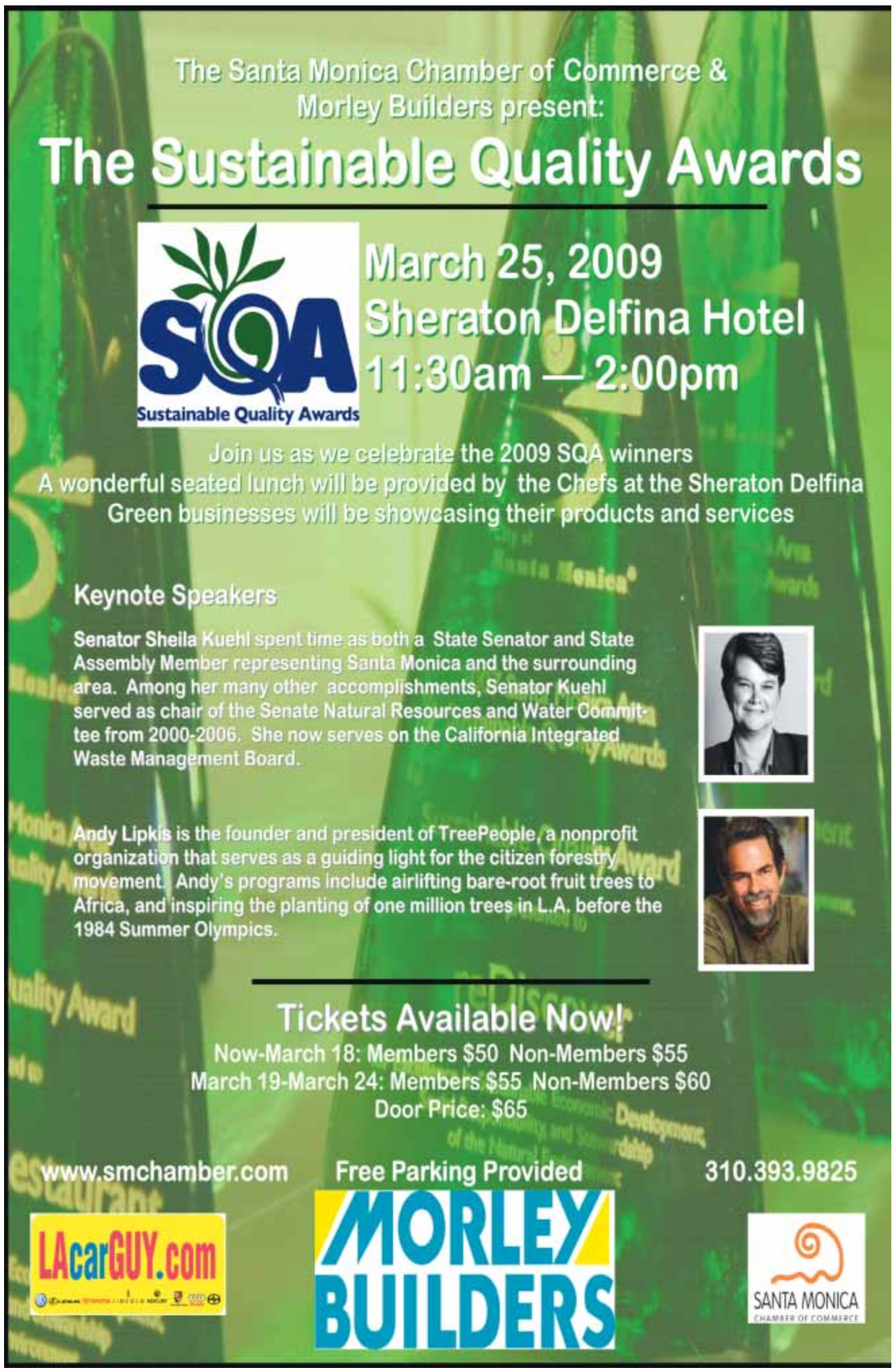
nationwide. It also offers college tuition reimbursement and scholarship programs to its workers. The company boasts 80 percent waste diversion and donates 5 percent of store revenue to a local nonprofit.

Other winners were Blair Graphics, Business.com, Community Corporation of Santa Monica, Pluralistic School #1, Santa Monica College and the Studio of Environmental Architecture. These businesses and organizations support environmentally responsible practices and give back to Santa Monica in terms of housing, transportation services and supporting local charities.

The winners will receive their accolades at the Sustainable Quality Awards luncheon on Wednesday. Keynote speakers include former California State Sen. Sheila Kuehl and Andy Lipkis, founder and president of Tree People.

Tickets can be purchased from the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Web site.

news@smdp.com



Administration moves against bad bank assets

BY TOM RAUM
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The Obama administration aimed squarely at the crisis clogging the nation's credit system Monday with a plan to take over up to $1 trillion in sour mortgage securities with the help of private investors. For once, Wall Street cheered.

The announcement, closely stage-managed throughout the day, filled in crucial blanks in the administration's financial rescue package and formed what President Barack Obama called "one more critical element in our recovery."

The coordinated effort by the Treasury Department, the Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. relies on a mix of government and private money — mostly from institutional investors such as hedge funds — to help banks rid their balance sheets of real-estate related securities that are now extremely difficult to value.

The goal, said Obama, is to get banks lending again, so "families can get basic consumer loans, auto loans, student loans, (and so) that small businesses are able to finance themselves, and we can start getting this economy moving again."

It was a huge gambit and one that came like a tonic to Wall Street, which had panned an earlier outline of the program that lacked detail.

Stocks soared, the Dow Jones industrial average shooting up nearly 500 points, thanks to the bank-assets plan and a report showing an unexpected jump in home sales.

The introduction of the plan was closely choreographed so that the president — rather than Geithner — would be the first administration official to appear on camera at midday to discuss it. Geithner met earlier in the day, before markets opened, with a group of reporters at the Treasury Department to go over specifics. But cameras and broadcast-quality audio recorders were barred.

It was the reverse of what happened Feb. 10. Then, after Obama had helped raise expectations toward Geithner and the plan, the treasury secretary went before cameras and bombed. The Dow plunged about 300 points amid investor confusion about details.

The fleshed-out plan is designed to help fix a value on damaged mortgage loans and other toxic securities.

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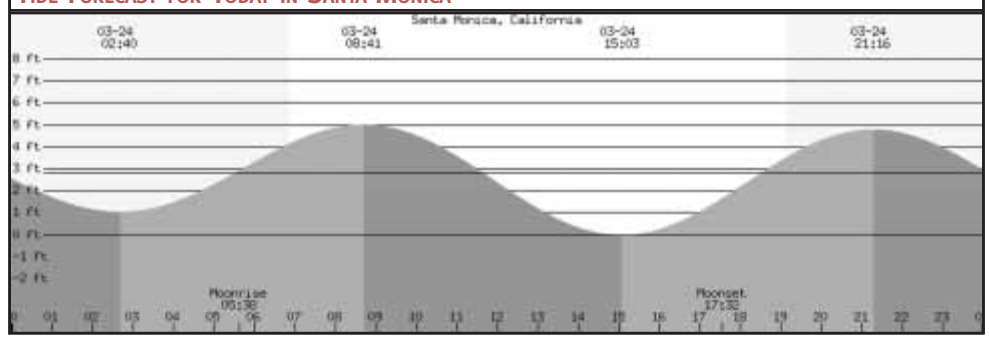
Swell Forecast (3-4 FT)

Tuesday the 24th the wind swell should decline to chest high around west facing breaks. A smidgen of southern hemi is expected to help south facing breaks get some knee to waist high waves.

Long Range Synopsis

Wednesday the 25th the wind swell should back off to knee to waist. Some southerly swell from 190 degrees should help south facing breaks with some waist high waves.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

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

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

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A	B
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	B
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	F	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	B	F
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	C	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	F	D
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (paint zero)	A+	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	D
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	F
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	B
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	F
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	B	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	F
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	F
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	D

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Confessions of a Shopaholic (PG) 1hr 52min
4:00, 9:25

Fuel (NR) 1hr 55min
1:40, 4:25, 7:05, 9:50

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

Gran Torino (R) 1hr 56min
1:30, 6:45

Miss March (R) 1hr 30min
4:35, 9:45

Super Capers (PG) 1hr 30min
2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 9:00

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

Coraline 3d (PG) 1hr 40min
1:50, 4:15, 7:10, 9:35

Duplicity (PG-13)
1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 10:00

Sunshine Cleaning (R) 1hr 42min
2:00, 2:40, 4:25, 5:10, 6:50, 7:40, 9:20, 10:05

The Last House on the Left (R) 1hr 49min
1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:45

Race to Witch Mountain
1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 9:55

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Taken (PG-13) 1hr 33min
12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:40, 10:00

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

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

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

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

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

Cancer, some Tupac perhaps?

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Take your time working through an important decision. Internalizing anger and frustration is not good. Change your MO, and do things differently. Don't internalize another's judgment. Tonight: Try a walk to relax.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ What is going on with a circle of friends or an agreement? Certainly, different opinions are being tossed into the limelight. Just which idea is the right one? Make this decision. Tonight: Where the action is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Many survey your opinion before they make a decision. On the other hand, you could be racing around so much that you are unstoppable. Be careful with a family member whose feelings are easily hurt. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Read between the lines when dealing with others. To be most effective, you will need to detach and gain a new understanding. When you come to a conclusion, you will need to carefully determine how to express your opinion. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Honor a partner by going along with his or her thinking. Financial matters could be tipping precariously in one direction. Listen to news with a touch of cynicism, though you might not want others to know your perspective. The less said the better. Tonight: Into the thick of things.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Defer to others. Just don't worry so much, as you are not in control. Others will gain understanding if given the space to lead. In the long run, understanding can be achieved more easily. Go off and do what you want for a change. Tonight: Avoid negativity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Easy works if you don't get too frantic trying to cover your bases. Listen to what is going on with an associate or a co-worker. You can be insightful and energetic, but if you're not careful, also accident-prone. Tonight: Put your feet up.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You keep getting distracted. Know that perhaps today will not be business as usual. Let your creativity flow; add that energy to different life aspects. You might not have all the answers yet. Tonight: Ever playful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ How you handle a changing personal situation could be reflected in everything you do. On some level, you might feel pulled betwixt two different goals. Think positively about what you can accomplish. Tonight: Dealing with a boss or older family member.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Keep communication flowing. The end result could be very positive and upbeat. Gather information; schedule meetings. Don't be upset if you feel as if you are not getting the whole picture. Tonight: Catch up on a pal's news.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Finances play a larger role in what goes down than you might like. You could see a situation very differently if money wasn't a factor. Listen to another person's offer knowing your limits and potential, and then decide. Tonight: Kiss negativity goodbye.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You are all smiles and have a very different way of handling problems than many others. In fact, a partner or loved one could be extremely negative at the same set of facts. You can only role-model. Criticism will get you nowhere. Tonight: Out and about.

Happy birthday

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

This year, you'll make waves if you listen to your inner voice. Sometimes you find the routine tiring, going nowhere. Look within for answers. You might opt to change your direction or field. You could spend a lot of time alone, studying, reading and thinking. Some of you might decide to do more volunteer work. Others might experiment with some spiritual studies. If you are single, check out anyone you meet with care. Someone might not be what he or she seems. Take at least a year to get to know this person before committing. If you are attached, the two of you benefit from weekends away together. Add more romance. PISCES reads you cold.

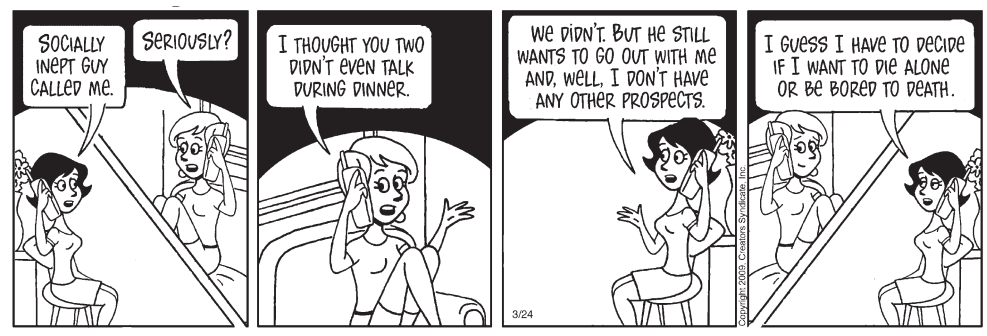
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



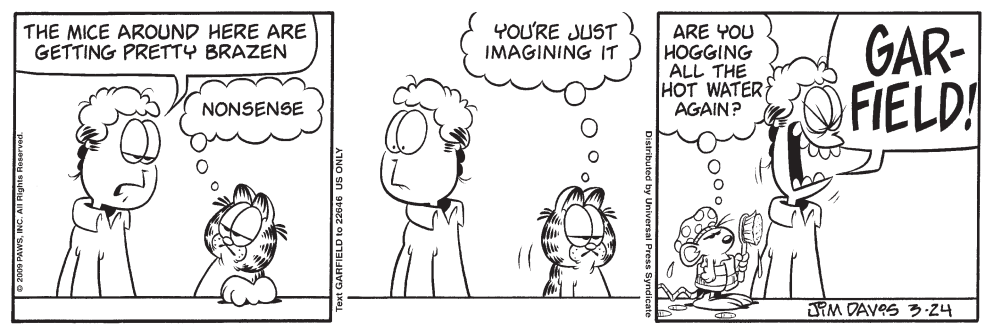
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



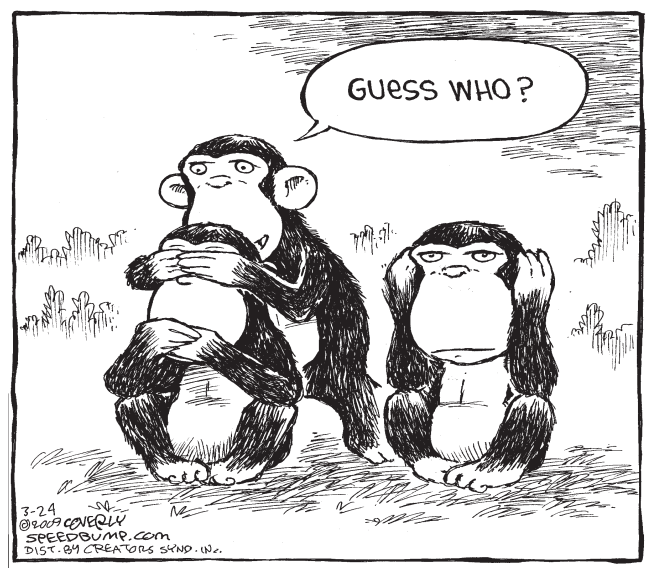
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Soraya Danesh news@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 Salad-bar item
7 Assist
11 Willing to consider
12 Leave out
13 Steely Dan song
15 Annoyed
16 Velocity
18 Prom dress
21 Cotton bundle
22 Kayaks' cousins
24 Bustle
25 Galloped
26 Guide-book feature
27 Ballerina, for one
29 Painter Cassatt
30 Bona fide
31 Without
32 Bravery
34 Neil Simon play
40 Smell
41 Nap
42 Mark as deleted
43 Bureau

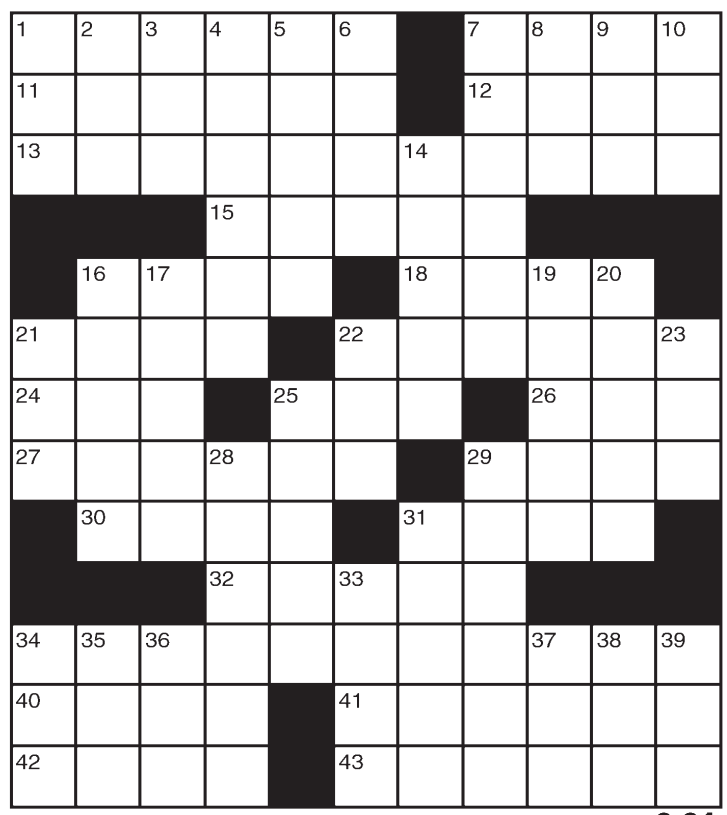
DOWN

1 Curtain holder
2 Clumsy fellow
3 "Traffic" grp.
4 Spur on
5 Emporium
6 Goose sound
7 "Wait a minute!"
8 Earth-bound bird
9 Fiction
10 Score-board abbr.
14 Kicked off
16 Airport device
17 Unaided
19 Shower attendee, usually
20 Ap-proaches
21 Misbehav-ing
22 Train unit
23 Secret agent
25 Take it easy
28 Frolic
29 Matlin of movies
31 Edna Ferber book
33 Maggie and Bart's sister
34 Crate
35 Groom's answer
36 Singer Rawls
37 SEALS org.
38 List abbr.
39 Pro-nounce

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



3-24

DAILY LOTTERY

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SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 7 28 34 38 45 Meganumber: 6 Jackpot: $28M

FANTASY 5: 11 20 25 32 34

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 2 0 EVENING: 6 9 3

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1.48.40

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A 25-year-old man was arrested in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., in February after an apparent suicide attempt. According to police, the man tried to gas himself inside his car in a closed garage, but apparently did not have a garage himself, and was arrested for trespass when he drove into a stranger's garage for the attempt, causing about $1,000 damage.

■ Total nudity is prohibited during Brazil's annual Carnival, as immoral and, especially, artistically tacky, but samba dancer Dani Sperle appeared in the street parade in Rio de Janeiro in February wearing a headdress, necklace, matching armbands and nothing else except a patch three centimeters long (1.2 inches) covering an intimate area.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1882 German scientist Robert Koch announced in Berlin that he had discovered the bacillus responsible for tuberculosis.

1909 Irish author and playwright J.M. Synge died in Dublin at age 37.

1934 President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill granting future independence to the Philippines.

1944 in occupied Rome, the Nazis executed more than 300 civilians in reprisal for an attack by Italian partisans the day before that had killed 32 German soldiers.

1955 the Tennessee Williams play "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" opened on Broadway.

1958 Elvis Presley was inducted into the Army in Memphis, Tenn.

1976 the president of Argentina, Isabel Peron, was deposed by her country's military.

1980 one of El Salvador's most respected Roman Catholic church leaders, Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, was shot to death by gunmen as he celebrated Mass in San Salvador.

1995 after 20 years, British soldiers stopped routine patrols in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

WORD UP!

spoonerism \SPOO-nuh-riz-uhm\, *noun*:
The transposition of usually initial sounds in a pair of words.

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501 N. Venice unit 10 single, $1100/mo $300 off move-in stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

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

833 5TH St. SM upper unit 206 single $1425 stove, carpet, blinds, swimming pool, laundry, granite countertops, wood/tile floors, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. $500 off move-in (310)393-2547 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA: 11932 Courtleigh Dr. unit 10, $1150/mo. 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, granite countertop, wood/tile floors, utilities include, intercom entry, laundry, gated, parking, no pets. $400 off move-in (310) 737-7933 jkwproperties.com

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MAR VISTA 12610 CASWELL ave.unit 7, 1bdrm/1ba $1125/mo. stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, parking,laundry, no pets.$300 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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

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SANTA MONICA $1250.00 1 bdrm, 1 bath, NO pets, stove, refrigerator, parking 2535 Kansas Ave, #103 Open daily for viewing 9am-7pm. Additional info in unit manager in unit # 101

Santa Monica $1895.00 2 Bdrms, 1Bath NO pets, stove, refrigerator, parking 1935 Cloverfield Blvd., #15 Open daily for viewing 9am-7pm. Additional info in unit manager in unit #19

Santa Monica $1895.00 2 Bdrms, 2 Bath , NO pets, stove, refrigerator, parking 2535 Kansas Ave., #205 Open daily for viewing 9am-7pm. Additional info in unit manager in unit #101

SANTA MONICA 2bdrm/2 bath balcony, garage, completely remodeled, no pets $1995 $500 off move-in (310)829-4179

SM 733 Hill St #2 3+2 walk to beach newly renovated, wood/tile floor washer/dryer in unit 2 car covered parking $2650 310-569-4200

Venice 608 Santa Clara 2+ 1 1/2 bath townhouse style, newly remodeled, bamboo/marble floors, washer/dryer, stove, refrigerator, granite countertops, blinds, parking, pets OK $2250 (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

WESTCHESTER 6707 W. 86th place B, 2+ 2 upper, bright unit, newly remodeled hardwood floors, tile, carpet d/w microwave,blinds, laundry, tandem gated parking no pets $1600 (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: $5.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 410 Broadway, Suite B, Santa Monica. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20090311807 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as DOQ'S PROVISIONARY SERVICES, 578 WASHINGTON BLVD, SUITE 118, MARINA DEL REY, CA 90292, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : DONALD DARRYL BIGGLES, 224 1/2 WEST 118TH PLACE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90061 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: DONALD DARRYL BIGGLES
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/5/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 3/10/2009, 3/17/2009, 3/24/2009, 3/31/2009

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BF:	boyfriend
OLL:	online love
POS:	parent over shoulder
WTGP:	want to go private?
LMIRL:	let's meet in real life
HDOP:	help delete online predators

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720 17th Street
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From 2:00 to 5:00 pm



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North of Montana	$3,130,000	$1,198,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,995,000	$779,000
South of Wilshire	$899,500	$759,000
Sunset Park	$1,161,500	$699,000
Ocean Park	$1,282,000	$836,500

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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