



Santa Monica Daily Press

ONE HOT COUPLE
SEE PAGE 17

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE DIGGING DEEP ISSUE

PET HEALTH



TOTAL RECALL

Local pet stores busy ensuring animal food dangers are averted
STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 14

OFF THE SHELVES: Brian Brahm, owner of Got Pet Food on 14th Street, pulls his stock of wet dog and cat food from the shelves to return to the distributor. Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

OPCC helps Israel combat homelessness

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

TEL AVIV, Israel It had been more than two decades since Debby Maddis lived here, and from the look of it, the years hadn't been kind.

While there was evidence of progress and development, with large construction cranes dotting the skyline, on the streets below Maddis could see all the signs of poverty and despair.

There were women standing at street cor-

ners with musical instruments, begging for money in exchange for a song. Oftentimes, Maddis was approached by men looking for a handout. It was during these moments that Maddis, the associate director of OPCC in Santa Monica, realized that Tel Aviv was not the same city she remembered.

"It was surprising and very striking for me to see homeless individuals on the streets," Maddis said. "I had lived there 25 years ago at a time when the government took care of the social issues and there was a strong socialist movement. There was universal health care

and other programs, and they still do, but now there are signs of poverty everywhere, which I had not seen before."

For at least 900 Jews in Tel-Aviv, and others across the country, Israel is no longer the land of milk and honey, but rather a harsh place to exist as unemployment has risen along with the number of destitute immigrants. Although the image lingers, both at home and abroad, of a country with a strong socialist legacy, the state welfare apparatus has begun to strain and buckle, according to observers.

In 2003, one in six families lived in poverty, including 25 percent of all children, according to a report by the Knesset committee on social gaps.

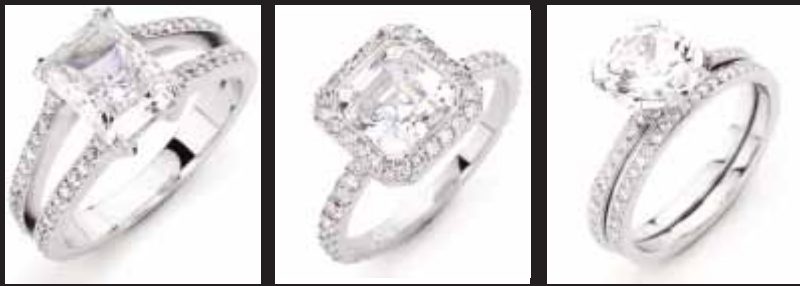
This poverty is what brought Maddis to Tel Aviv last month. An expert in breaking the cycle of homelessness, Maddis was included in a joint mission to Israel with the Tel Aviv/Los Angeles Partnership Task Force on Poverty, Food Insecurity and Employment.

SEE ISRAEL PAGE 12

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WESTSIDE**

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

**Healthy Aging seminar**

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

UCLA geriatrician Sonja Rosen, M.D., will discuss ways to maintain health and well-being while aging. The focus will be on preventative measures, health screenings and methods to retain independence.

Green living workshop

2811 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Each six-week Sustainable Works' course is designed to help residents learn about important environmental issues, save valuable resources, lower utility bills, and protect their health. Cost is \$25 for the full six weeks. To reserve a space, call Anna Cummins at (310) 458-8716.

Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre

1211 Fourth St., 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

For more information on this family-friendly theatre experience, call the Playhouse box office at (310) 394-9779, ext. 2 or visit www.SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com.**Write-Away**

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., noon — 3 p.m.

Inspiration, guidance and support for writers. Exercise writing skills. Visit www.writeawaywritinggroup.com for more information.**Wednesday, March 28, 2007****Cubiky CD Release Party**

7021 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, 7:30 p.m.

Latin alternative music group Cubiky will perform their electronic melodies on the Knitting Factory's main stage. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.knittingfactory.com.**Art Kunkin at Friends Meeting Hall**

1440 Harvard St., 7 p.m.

Art Kunkin, founding publisher and editor of the Los Angeles Free Press and longtime progressive activist will be the special guest-speaker at an Activist Support Circle gathering. The gatherings are free and there is free on-site parking. For further information, visit www.activistsupportcircle.org or call at (310) 399-1000.**The legal business of the film industry speaker series**

1527 Fourth St., 6:45 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Attorney Jay Dougherty will discuss the legal aspects of film-making. Admission fees are \$20 for general Admission, \$10 for CLA members, \$10 for Santa Monica residents and \$5 for Seniors (65+) and students with valid I.D. To register call California Lawyers for the Arts at (310) 998-5590 or send an e-mail, including contact info, to UserCLA@aol.com. For more information visit www.calawyersforthearts.org.**Green living workshops**

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

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

Kiwanis Club weekly meeting

1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.

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

Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre

1211 Fourth St., 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

For more information on this family-friendly theatre experience, call the Playhouse box office at (310) 394-9779, ext. 2 or visit www.SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com.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.

Market crash victims wait to be heard in civil case

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN, L.A. Victims of the deadly Farmers' Market crash will have to wait until October before they can have their day in court following a decisions last week by a Los Angeles Superior Court judge to delay trial once again because of an inability to interview the driver responsible, George Russell Weller.

Judge William A. MacLaughlin vacated the May 17 trial date and rescheduled a new date for Oct. 9, more than four years after Weller drove his 1992 Buick LeSabre through a crowded market, killing 10 and injuring more than 65 others.

MacLaughlin also set a status conferences for June 20 to determine, among other things, whether or not the case will proceed to trial without Weller's testimony. So far he has refused to give a deposition because he is appealing his criminal conviction. Weller, 90, was found guilty of 10 counts of vehicular manslaughter with gross negligence in October of 2006. He was sentenced to five years probation.

Attorneys for the victims had previously asked the prosecutor in the criminal case to grant Weller what is known as "use immunity" to allow him to testify in the civil case, however, that request was denied.

This is at least the third time a judge has postponed the trial because of Weller's refusal to give a deposition.

Among the first group of civil suits to be argued will be one regarding the wrongful death of Movsha Hoffman and for serious injuries sustained by his wife, Esther Hoffman. All of the civil suits involving more than 40 plaintiffs have been consolidated by the court under the lead case of Supino versus the City of Santa Monica and Bayside District Corp.

Plaintiffs claim City Hall and Bayside, a public-private partnership that helps local government manage and promote down-

SEE MARKET PAGE 13



ALL FOR THE CAUSE

Jennifer Morrison, right, who plays Dr. Allison Cameron on the award-winning Fox drama "House," accepts the Red Cross Spirit Award. Fellow cast member Hugh Laurie, center, came along to support Morrison at the American Red Cross of Santa Monica's "Red Tie Affair" on Saturday at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Got problems? Blame Cali

BY ANGIE WAGNER
AP National Writer

LAS VEGAS It's dead inside Favorites bar this afternoon, where the propped-open door spills a bit of light onto the ancient Elvis pin ball machine and the grumpy man puffing on a cigarette in front of the video poker machine.

There's no food here, unless you count the vending machine against the green wall. Owner Ray Medrano had to make a choice: Close the kitchen or ban smoking in the joint altogether. His customers love their smokes more than their food, so the kitchen lost.

For Medrano, there's only one despicable group of people to blame for Nevada passing a smoking ban that eliminates smoking in restaurants and bars that also serve food: Californians.

"California has a negative influence on our society," he said, glancing around as cigarette smoke fills the stuffy place. "They should keep their world in their world."

Oregonians first slapped "Don't Californicate Oregon" bumper stickers on their cars, but, like the song by the Red Hot Chili Peppers, "Californication" is still alive and well.

CALIFORNIA HAS A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON OUR SOCIETY. THEY SHOULD KEEP THEIR WORLD IN THEIR WORLD.

Ray Medrano, Las Vegas business owner

It's a popular refrain from many in the West. When Californians move in, it's always their fault when things change. They infect the rest of the region with their politics and questionable driving, and make housing prices soar.

Sure, it's been 30 years since

"I think it's just such a common desire to say things were really calm and great here and then these people came in," said Patty Limerick, history professor and faculty director of the University of Colorado's

SEE BLAME PAGE 14

Grand Opening



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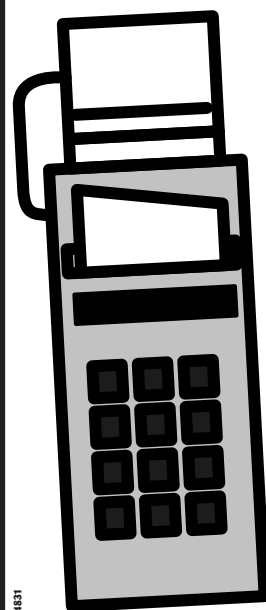
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stop creating commuter schools Editor:

As the SMMUSD contemplates severe budget issues, we must remind them what is not to be cut from the budget – a top quality education for all of our children. Santa Monica High School is populated by almost 20 percent of students from Los Angeles and Culver City. The high school is overcrowded. It is becoming a commuter school. In past years, it was easier to pass out non-resident permits than to accept the fact that smaller is better when it comes to schools. This artificial means of printing money through issuance of permits to keep enrollment high in our school district costs us dearly. If student enrollment is dropping, then so should staff, accordingly.

One should ask: “If the permit system worked so well, then why are our schools not financially sound with current 1,700 permitted students?” This antiquated permit policy had failed and will continue to do so. It ruins the idea of “community schools” and creates “commuter schools.”

Dr. Lisette Bauersachs

Santa Monica

One big ‘dopeslap’ to the Big Blue Bus Editor:

Last summer, Big Blue committed one of the ultimate customer service offenses – they changed the schedule of the regular #3, but have not yet made the new schedule available to riders.

I commute to work by the Big Blue Bus and, until recently, was a big fan. In the morning, I take the Rapid #3. In the evening, if I miss the last Rapid at 7:15, I take the regular #3.

A few months ago, one chilly night at Aviation station – the last stop in the #3 route – I found myself waiting for a bus that was very, very late. Confused, I checked the schedule posted at the station and discovered that there was a new schedule ... and this “new” schedule, in fact, had been updated many months before.

I went home and checked the Big Blue Bus Web site, wanting to print out the new schedule, but only the old one was posted online. The next day, I checked the posted schedule at Fourth (Street) and Wilshire (Boulevard) – the first stop in the #3 route, but the outdated schedule was posted. Over the next few weeks, I checked the printed schedules on various buses. All of them were outdated. I e-mailed a complaint to the Big Blue Bus and got no response.

A few weeks later, I checked the buses and Web site – still no sign of the new schedule. I e-mailed another complaint to the Big Blue Bus and got no response. Soon after, however, I noticed that there were no #3 schedules on any of the buses. I was elated, thinking that they must have posted the new schedule online and were printing up copies for the buses. But no, the outdated schedule was still online.

Ironically, while I'm still trying to find a copy of the “new” schedule, they mail me an invite to public meetings so they can learn how I feel about their plans and service.

(Insert dopeslap here.)

If they won't pay attention to the basics, then public meetings are just a sleazy marketing ploy.

Elissa Royal

Santa Monica



What's the Point?

David Pissarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sheep – they're not just for dinner table

THE DESERTS OF NEVADA ARE KNOWN for strange things. Aside from being the rumored best location to dump a dead body, or see a little green man, or catch a ride on the U.S. Government's latest top-secret aircraft, the Nevada desert now has created a new spectacle to delight or revolt you, depending on your views of life.

Scientists at the University of Nevada have upped the ante again in the global fight for survival of the human race. They have taken a sheep fetus and injected human stem cells into it so that, as it develops, it contains 15 percent human cells and 85 percent sheep cells.

The goal of this bit of bio-engineering is to create a supply of donor organs to be transplanted into humans. Eventually, a person would be able to have a flock of sheep that could be used to swap out a mal-functioning liver, heart or lungs.

This latest scientific breakthrough heralds huge potential for alleviating suffering across the globe for those patients who are desperately in need of a new heart or liver. Given the relatively quick gestational period of a sheep, a person would theoretically be able to have a new liver in about two months.

There are several ethical questions that arise for me, however, at this new type of medical care and bio-engineering. For example, at what point does the sheep have enough human genetic material to become sufficiently human to warrant his own donor? And what about the carcass of a “donor” post donation? If that is roasted and barbecued with mint sauce, does it become cannibalism? These are, on the one hand, absurd questions, because in any sufficiently advanced society we recognize that the lower order of animals have no rights, particularly if they are specifically bred for a purpose, and on the other hand, they are questions that must be answered.

It is said that God created man in his image, and that man returned the favor. Now it seems that we are not stopping at God, but soon we'll have the ability to create the whole zoological rainbow, with a just a bit of Uncle Harry in it for our private zoos and medical needs.

I understand the need for scientists to continue to press the boundaries of what they can accomplish to save lives. It is their sworn duty, and unlike a certain Attorney General, they are actually able to do their duty. But at some point, shouldn't we be asking the question of how far is too far? I don't know if this Frankensheep is too far or not, but I do know that I am uneasy with the possibilities that these new genetic erector sets can create.

There are many unanswered questions, such as what are the medical protocols to prevent the transference of silent virii? If you look at the diseases that man's interaction with the animal kingdom has created, we have HIV and syphilis for starters.

Currently, there are approximately more than 94,000 people waiting for a transplanted organ, commonly called “the gift of life.” Today, about 77 people receive organ transplants daily, with 19 people dying each day

waiting for transplants that can't take place because of the shortage of donated organs.

The Frankensheep is supposed to eventually reduce that number and alleviate suffering. I have very mixed feelings about this. On the one hand, I can see that if it was me, I would certainly want a new heart to continue living. On the other hand, nature works the way it does for a reason. Part of that reason is to weed out the weak, to prevent them from replicating their weakness and passing it on to other generations.

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MEDICAL NEEDS.**

For anyone fighting for their life, this is a no-brainer, they want the franken-sheep, and I have a hard time saying they shouldn't have it, but I can't help but wonder if we aren't losing a bit of our humanity, the more we try to save humans in this manner.

It seems to me that we would have a better situation if we just made organ donation an “opt-out” situation. By that I mean, if a person dies and their organs can be harvested to provide a new lease on life to someone else, they should be. If you have a strong religious objection to this, you could “opt-out” of the program. This is what is being done in Europe and, frankly, it makes a great deal of sense ... far more sense to me than taking a sheep and making it an organ donor.

I understand that modifying sheep in this way is really no different than special breeding programs to create a “more flavorful” or “juicier” type of sheep.

It still creeps me out.

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Guest Commentary

Lee H. Hamilton

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Members of Congress need to follow hearts

AROUND THE TIME CONGRESS CONVENED this year, a Republican member of the House reflected to a newspaper reporter that there was a silver lining to the party's new minority status. "You're freer to vote your conscience," the legislator explained.

It was a revealing comment — not about being a Republican, but because it offered a glimpse into the fact that members of Congress often feel unable to vote the way they'd really like.

Decision-making on Capitol Hill is a perpetual wrestling match, with members' own instincts, analysis and judgment pitted against a daunting array of other claimants to their vote.

This is especially true when they're in the majority, and so feel some responsibility to help their leadership govern, or when they share a party label with the President and want to help him look in control. Sometimes their inclinations run in tandem, but sometimes they don't, which explains why some Republicans are feeling a sudden sense of liberation these days, while some Democrats feel more constrained than they did a year ago.

Republicans and Democrats alike also listen to important campaign contributors; to community leaders whom they rely on for guidance; and, of course, to their constituents, who more than anyone else have a claim to their representatives' attention.

All of these, as worthwhile as their views may be, can stand in the way of voting one's conscience.

There are some people who go to Congress precisely because they want to be loyal party members or support their president or vote as a dyed-in-the-wool liberal or conservative. For them, there's nothing especially complicated about deciding how to cast their votes.

But I would venture that the majority of Senators and House members find voting to be a sometimes agonizing effort at sifting through competing demands, including the demands of their own inner compass.

Imagine, for example, being a Republican House member faced with the non-binding resolution condemning the President's handling of the war in Iraq. Many of them were deeply torn, miserably unhappy with the war but equally unhappy at the prospect of voting against the White House and their party leadership. However they voted, it was not an easy decision.

Legislators often resolve these conflicts by acting as they deem the occasion warrants — sometimes as an agent of their constituents' will, sometimes as party leaders demand, sometimes in consultation with residents of their district but exercising their own judgment, and sometimes according to the dictates of their own conscience.

This last approach is exactly the one that the British statesman Edmund Burke took up in his famous "Speech to the Electors of Bristol" in 1774. An elected representative, he argued, owes his constituents "his unbiased opinion, his mature judgment, his enlightened conscience," and ought not sacrifice them "to any man, or to any set of men living." Indeed, Burke went on, "Your representative owes you, not his industry only, but his judgment; and he betrays, instead of serving you, if he sacrifices it to your opinion."

Most members of Congress, I think, would agree with Burke. Their jobs, after all, consist — or, at least, ought to consist — of studying the issues before them, weighing the alternatives, and thinking through the consequences of each. And I know, from my own experience and that of others, that at the end of a career on Capitol Hill, a member feels proudest of those votes, speeches, and times he or she has acted according to conscience and done the right thing in the face of countervailing pressures.

There is a message in this, one that I think the Founders would endorse: that a representative democracy works best when representatives act according to their best judgment. Anything else constrains the Congress from giving full consideration to the collective wisdom and experience of its members. Shakespeare, I think, said it best in Hamlet:

*This above all: to thine own self be true,
and it must follow, as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.*

That's good advice for living, and splendid advice for anyone hoping to do the best job he or she can in Congress. It might even give us better government.

LEE HAMILTON is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



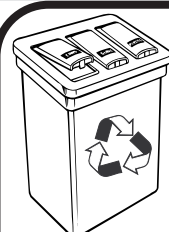
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The Q-Line

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What is in a question?

We rack our brains here at the Daily Press to dream up our weekly Q-Line questions. Sometimes a story we cover provides an easy choice. Other times, letters from our readers give us fuel for the fire.

This week's Q-Line question asks:

If you were on the DP's staff, what question would you just love to pose to the citizens of our fiine city? Keep in mind that your answers should include both a question and your reason for wanting it asked.

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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Subprime loans not very sublime

BY ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES A divorce led Daniel Peart to refinance his four-bedroom home with a subprime loan.

Like many borrowers with spotty credit, the self-employed handyman said he agreed to a relatively high interest rate in exchange for two years of low, fixed payments.

In less than a year, however, the payments jumped beyond his budget, forcing him to seek bankruptcy protection while trying to sell the home he bought 19 years ago, he said.

"I put the majority of the blame on the broker, for not being upfront, telling me what the charges were all going to be, and rapid-signing all the paperwork," said Peart, 53, whose home is located in the San Diego suburb of Poway.

Peart is not alone in his claims. Many bankrupt homebuyers are now pointing the finger at subprime lenders, claiming they approved mortgages for people who couldn't afford them to keep loan volumes high as the housing market slowed.

Some analysts cite those tactics for the subprime meltdown that has seen several

lenders seek bankruptcy protection amid rising default rates.

"Both lenders and brokers had a string of incentives to keep their volumes up, even as market conditions tightened, and the way that they could do that is by lowering their qualification standards," said Paul Leonard, director of the California office of the Center for Responsible Lending.

"There's plenty of blame to go around," he said.

Doug Duncan, chief economist for the Mortgage Bankers Association in Washington, D.C., acknowledged that, in some cases,

aggressive lenders obscured facts and made loans that borrowers couldn't afford.

"Most of those companies are closing their doors," Duncan said, adding that so far this year, 27 companies have gone out of business because they made bad loans.

Still, experts say borrowers could share some of the responsibility. Many jumped too quickly at the lure of low initial mortgage payments without fully considering the impact of higher interest rates and account balances in the years ahead. It was their responsibility to fully understand the terms of their loans, according to their lender.

Dueling L.A. immigration rallies mark anniversary of march

BY ANA BEATRIZ CHOLO
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Dueling immigration rallies Sunday marked the one-year anniversary of a massive pro-immigrant demonstration that jammed downtown streets with a half-million protesters and framed new debate in Washington.

Sunday's rallies didn't come close to bringing the crowds of the event they commemorated.

Several hundred immigrant rights activists marched to downtown's Federal Building from the city's historical center to protest immigration raids and demand reform. The pro-immigrant crowd was too thin to encircle the Federal Building as planned, police said.

Blocks away, a group of anti-illegal immigration demonstrators demanded stiffer enforcement of U.S. borders and verbally clashed with pro-immigration forces on the streets.

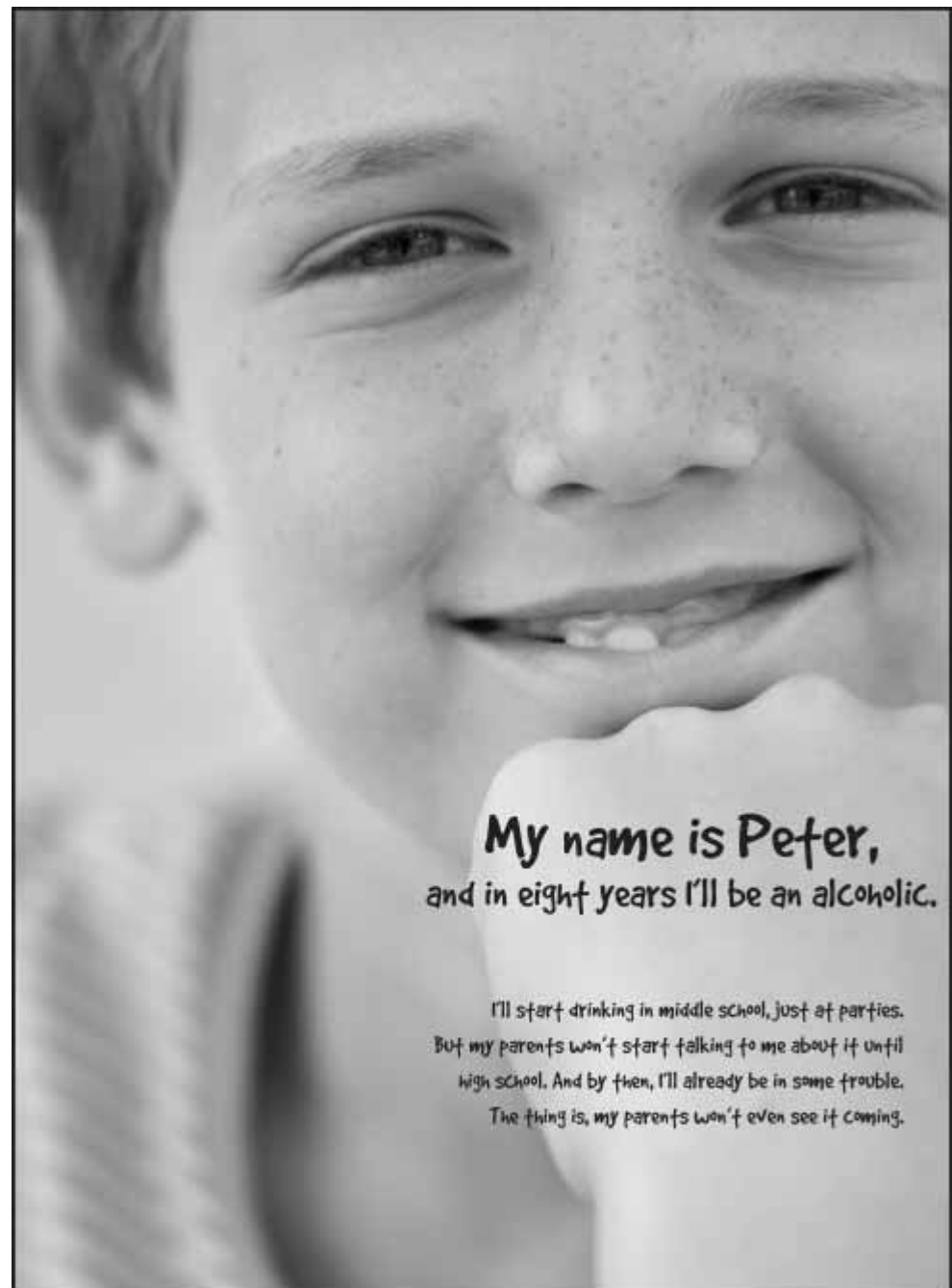
Hundreds attended an earlier pro-immigrant rally at the Los Angeles Sports Arena that featured speeches from Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles and mariachi music.

Despite the lower than anticipated turnout, rally organizer Marta Rojas, an immigrant from Colombia, said last year's event launched an important movement.

"The government is starting to listen," she

said as she prepared signs for the march. "They are starting to see the strength of the immigrants. Legal and not-legal people are coming out."

The 2006 march followed legislation passed by the U.S. House of Representatives that would make it a felony to enter the U.S. illegally. In Northern California, thousands marched for immigrant rights amid waving flags and beating drums in downtown Santa Rosa.



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Sen. Feinstein wants Gonzales to quit post

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Sen. Dianne Feinstein called Sunday for Attorney General Alberto Gonzales to resign over the firings of eight U.S. attorneys, saying he'd lost her confidence and hadn't told her the truth.

Feinstein, D-Calif. and a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, had held off on calling for Gonzales to step down even as many leading Democrats and some Republicans did so in recent weeks.

"I believe he should step down. And I don't like saying this. This is not my natural personality at all," Feinstein said on Fox News Sunday. "But I think the nation is not well served by this. I think we need to get at the bottom of why these resignations were made, who ordered them, and what the strategy was."

Justice Department documents released Friday show that despite contending he was not involved in any discussions about the impending dismissals of federal prosecutors, Gonzales participated in a meeting where such plans were discussed.

Feinstein said that after seeing those documents she concluded Gonzales no longer should keep his job.

"Attorney General Gonzales has the view that he serves two masters, that he serves the president and that he serves as the chief law enforcement officer," said Feinstein. "He serves one master, and that's the people of this country."

Feinstein is particularly concerned over the dismissal of former U.S. Attorney Carol Lam in San Diego who was fired while prosecuting a corruption case stemming from the conviction of jailed ex-GOP Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham.

Feinstein suspects a connection and highlighted her concerns about that and other aspects of the situation in a speech on the Senate floor in January. She also introduced legislation to undo a change in the Patriot Act allowing the administration to appoint U.S. attorneys without Senate confirmation. After that she got a call from Gonzales.

"You have to understand, he called me when I began to become involved in this," Feinstein said.

STATE BRIEFS

Los Angeles

New case management system delayed in courts

County courts are lagging behind other jurisdictions in rolling out a new statewide case management system it helped design.

San Diego, Orange and Ventura County courts, which also participated in the system's creation, intend to have the technology in place to handle all cases by the end of the year, officials from those counties said.

But Los Angeles officials said it will have only small-claims cases on the system by March 2008, and only in one court, Alhambra.

The county would need 12 more full-time information technology staff members – with salaries of \$100,000 each – to begin to implement the system, which it cannot afford, said John A. Clarke, the executive officer and clerk of the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Implementation is also being delayed to give staff time to make sure the system would work at all the county's courts, officials said.

The county has already invested heavily in the system and intends to have it in place eventually, Clarke said. Between 2002 and 2006, county officials spent \$1 million on staff to work on the project and \$1 million on equipment, he said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ontario

City picks up home painting, landscaping charges

Two more neighborhoods are getting a turn at a city program that pays for the houses of low- and moderate-income families to be painted and landscaped.

Residents of the Jay Littleton and Centennial neighborhoods will soon be getting invitations to apply to have their homes spruced up, city officials said.

Up to \$7,000 is available per house, depending on how much work is needed, housing and neighborhood revitalization director Brent Schultz said.

Since creating the program in 1998, the city has spent more than \$10.6 million on the houses of nearly 2,700 families.

The program aims to make older-looking areas of the city more appealing to residents and businesses, City Manager Greg Devereaux said.

AP

Los Angeles

Experts raise bumper crop of rare butterfly's larvae

Insect experts have raised a bumper crop of Palos Verdes blue butterfly larvae, which they hope may give the country's rarest variety of butterfly a renewed shot at survival.

Slightly more than 200 Palos Verdes blues remain in the wild, virtually all of them on a 330-acre military fuel depot uphill from the Port of Los Angeles.

But conservation biologists have generated 720 pupae, raising hopes that the program may produce enough butterflies to establish colonies elsewhere on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, which is seen as necessary for the insects survival.

The butterfly vanished in the 1980s, prompting experts to declare it extinct. Biologists estimated that only 60 or so butterflies remained when the species resurfaced at the fuel depot in 1994.

Its numbers have fluctuated wildly ever since, rising, dropping to less than 50 in 2003 and rebounding again.

AP

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South of Wilshire	= \$ 966,667	\$ 666,640
Sunset Park	= \$ 1,291,545	\$ 661,895
Ocean Park	= \$ 1,483,143	\$ 1,086,000
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Pebbles passes away

A local symbol of pet food recall dies of kidney failure

BY SOLVEJ SCHOU
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Pebbles, a doe-eyed Yorkshire terrier that became a symbol of the national pet food scare, has died while being treated for kidney failure that developed after she ate some of the suspect food.

The 7-year-old pooch died early Thursday, her owner Jeff Kerner said Friday.

The dog had been treated with intravenous fluids at Sylmar's Collett Veterinary Clinic for a week.

"Although my family loves me, no one ever loved me like that dog," Kerner, 48, said tearfully over the phone. "Every Web site I go to I see my dog. She was so cute."

Officials in New York said Friday that the toxin aminopterin — used to kill rats in some countries — was found in the wet food suspected of causing an outbreak of kidney failure that has killed cats and dogs, but they still don't know how the poison got there.

The deaths led to a recall of 60 million cans and pouches of food made by Menu Foods.

Pebbles became ill with kidney failure after being fed Nutro foil pouches — a Menu Foods-manufactured product — that was subsequently recalled, Kerner said.

The dog's appetite returned a bit by Wednesday, but her kidney levels were far from normal.

A qualified clinic staffer took Pebbles home with her that night and the dog died in bed there, Kerner said.

firmed at least 16 cases of kidney failure in dogs and cats exposed to the recalled food, and at least five of those have died, said Jonathan Fielding, county director of public health.

Seventy-five more cases are being investigated, he said.

Kerner, who has been approached on the street by strangers offering condolences, expressed both anger and sadness at the circumstances of Pebbles' death.

Following multiple calls and e-mails to

Snowmobiles' return to park not welcomed

BY MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press Writer

BILLINGS, Mont. Seven former National Park Service directors said in a letter released Monday that allowing the return of more snowmobiles to Yellowstone National Park would "undercut the park's resurgent natural conditions," and reverse air-quality improvements.

Yellowstone administrators are set to release on Tuesday their latest plan for snowmobiles in the nation's original national park. The issue of snowmobile use fueled years of legal wrangling. Pressure to allow more snowmobiles in the park has come from snowmobilers, nearby communities eager for winter tourists and the advocates' allies in Congress.

The intense debate reflects a broader struggle between those who want national parks preserved in a near-wild state, and those against restrictions on taxpayer-supported lands.

A draft version of the park's latest winter-use plan recommended allowing up to 720 snowmobiles a day.

“ALTHOUGH MY FAMILY LOVES ME, NO ONE EVER LOVED ME LIKE THAT DOG. EVERY WEB SITE I GO TO I SEE MY DOG. SHE WAS SO CUTE.”

Jeff Kerner,owner of diseased owner

Nutro, he has only received a form e-mail from the company.

Kerner said he was contacting an attorney, but was mostly interested in preventing another pet tragedy.

"Before they put this stuff in the bags, there should be some kind of test," he said. "I can't just let it go. Even if they just change the law."

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On the farm

Ham, bacon and egg auction feeds future students tradition

BY TIM HUBER
Associated Press Writer

CHARLESTON, W.Va. West Virginia may not be among the nation's top farm states, but it's likely the only place where anyone would pay \$10,000 for a dozen eggs.

Or, for that matter, nearly \$12,000 for an old-style, dry-cured ham or \$800 a pound for a meaty slab of well-marbled bacon. Such windfalls have become common at the West Virginia's Future Farmers of America's annual Ham, Bacon and Egg Show.

Successful bidders at the auction win a hearty meal or two in most cases or donate the winnings to charity. The student farmers receive recognition and money to apply for college.

The ham-and-bacon program started in the 1940s as a way for students who lived on farms to make some extra money. Organizers say the 64-year-old show has outlived similar events in Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and North Carolina.

West Virginia officials say participation in the annual auction is growing, the result of adding commercial quality processing facilities at 20 schools over the past five years.

Without the upgrades, students wouldn't be able to sell their wares, which are inspected and meet state and federal food rules. All they lack are nutrition labels.

Since 2000, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture has helped high schools upgrade their processing facilities to commercial standards at a cost of \$100,000 or more in many cases. The upgrades enable the hams and bacons to be sold — and teach students about the process, says Gene Walker, a special assistant to the agriculture commissioner.

"You're building something that's going to be there for generations."

Participants agree that the program is about more than money.

Tyler Consolidate High senior Katlyn Hendershot says her four years in the program helped her prepare for getting an agriculture education degree at West Virginia University. She hopes to teach FFA students one day.

"I have learned life skills, record keeping skills," Hendershot says. "It's made me a well-rounded person."

Cameron High School sophomore Kim Riley feels much the same. Riley's dozen eggs were judged the grand champion of this year's show — and they sold for a record \$10,000 to Cincinnati-based Kroger Co.

YOU'RE BUILDING SOMETHING THAT'S GOING TO BE THERE FOR GENERATIONS."

Gene Walker

a special assistant to the agriculture commissioner

The nation's largest traditional grocery chain spent more than \$23,000 in total for an assortment of hams, bacon and eggs that Mid-Atlantic Region President Pete Williams says are destined for display in the company's stores, then donation to charity.

Though the price was set in a spirited auction, Riley's eggs were judged the best by professional standards.

"We grade them out pretty much the same as we grade them when we go in the grocery stores," says Herma Johnson, director of the state Agriculture Department's Division of Regulatory and Environmental Affairs. The eggs are graded as AA, A or B, then the shells are examined for dirt, calcium deposits, thin spots and other factors.

"All her eggs were double A's," Johnson says.

Making Ironwood easier to visit tops fed's list of priorities

By the Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. Federal officials are considering several alternatives for future management of a national monument northwest of Tucson, from leaving it a semi-isolated wilderness to allowing more public access and recreational uses.

The Bureau of Land Management plans to hold five public hearings on four proposed alternative management plans for the Ironwood Forest National Monument, which was created in 2000 by President Clinton.

The 127,000-acre monument is home to rich stands of ironwood trees and saguaro forests and endangered bighorn sheep and includes archaeological and cultural sites dating back 5,000 years. It also includes the Silver Bell, Waterman and Sawtooth mountain ranges.

The four proposed alternatives range from leaving access and resource uses at the monument at the current restrictions to allowing the increased access. This includes new roads into areas currently inaccessible

by motor and recreational vehicle riders.

BLM officials who oversee the monument favor the proposal that would allow the continuation of grazing and recreation on areas of the monument away from protected wildlife and resource areas.

Agency officials will take comments from the public for consideration and possible inclusion in a final management plan that will probably be adopted early next year.

The agency has received few comments on the proposals but BLM spokesman Mark Lambert said the agency will receive many more once the public becomes more familiar with the proposed alternatives. The comment period will be open until May 30.

Conservationists are wary of changes in management of the monument, fearing that expanded public access, grazing or other uses would damage the fragile desert and mountain landscapes.

"We are concerned that the BLM needs to be managing these lands as the national treasures they are, instead of as resources," said Greta Anderson of the Tucson-based Center for Biological Diversity.

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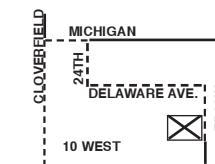
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Dear Dorie

Dorie Meek

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Anger is not passed down to next of kin

Dear Dorie,

I consider myself a good parent to my three little children but I do have a temper. I am very afraid that when I get angry, I am teaching them to lose their temper too. I have steps that I take to control my anger and I definitely don't hit them, but my voice can get pretty loud and scary. With an infant, a toddler and a kindergartner, just how much should I be explaining to them about anger and how to manage it?

Mad Mom

Dear Mom,

Congratulations for having the strength to admit that you can "lose it" with your kids and still be a good mom. As a parent with three children under the age of five, you are already performing at super-hero status if they are fed, clothed and relatively happy. Parents are role models however, even when we don't want the responsibility.

As far as demonstrating anger management to your young children, the key is communicating the message that parents will get angry BUT the world will not fall apart as a result. The best way to do this is to talk to your children and tell them the truth. Apologize right away whenever you do or say something you come to regret. Adjust the complexity of the apology to the age of the child. Tell them something like,

"I'm sorry. I was feeling cranky." Just make sure that what you tell them is the truth.

The need for you to recognize what sets you off is the most important thing to keep in mind. If grocery day is a usual trigger, than mentally prepare for the day and attempt to make it through without yelling. Allow yourself plenty of alone time on a regular basis in order to reflect on what is causing the temper outburst in the first place. Build a village of support with people who have similar parenting styles — take one of our parenting classes! — to help balance your emotional needs with the needs of your beloved children.

Sooner or later your kindergartner will begin to call you out on your temper, if he or she hasn't already. Children as young as five-years-old are able to deduce whether their parent is a pessimist or an optimist. They also start noticing significant behavior differences in parents. Use this as an incentive to take care of yourself. Let them know that parents are only human, and they can change. That's a great lesson. Good luck.

Dorie

DORIE MEEK is director of the Infant & Family Support Program, provided by Saint John's Health Center in partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Submit your questions to meek@smmusd.org.

Guest Commentary

Linda Milo

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Discipline should be varied

PARENTING: THE FIRST 32 YEARS WAS the hardest! Yup, learning the in's and out's of parenting seems to take a very long time. Knowing how to communicate, using discipline and working well with your child are always the right steps to enjoyable parenting.

There are many methods of discipline that help your child cope with each day. There are those that make your child afraid of you and there are others that effectively teach your child appropriate behaviors and help them grow up independently and with socially acceptable behavior.

Parents that use punishment as a means to discipline unruly children often find out that they haven't changed a thing. Their child still misbehaves and has a hard time with self-control. Parents should know that there are many other types of discipline that can assist your child in handling feelings of helplessness. When your child is taught how to handle these feelings, it can better cope without having temper tantrums.

A mom, Susan, called me the other day and told me that when she left Lisa, her daughter who's a second-grader, at her classroom door every morning, her daughter would immediately start to sob. Heavy tears and gulping sobs. Her daughter did this every single morning. Lisa didn't want her mom to leave. Susan felt terrible and didn't know what to do. I told Susan to try this:

Before entering the school, speak to Lisa about how sad you feel each day when Lisa starts to cry.

Susan did as I advised and couldn't thank me enough. For the first time since school started, Lisa shed two lone tears, grasped a photo of her mom and marched with her head high into her classroom. Susan can now leave Lisa at school with feelings that are nurturing and bonding with no resentment or misunderstandings. When you talk about feelings with your child, you are demonstrating to your child that you have feelings and they need to be respected.

Discipline builds self-reliant feelings within your child. When you teach your child how to tie his shoes, dress himself, brush his teeth, and comb his hair — you are also teaching him self-confidence and self-responsibility.

Discipline is also connected to good work habits. A sense of orderliness is a discipline that will serve your child well their whole lives. Respecting other's property, privacy, feelings, and differences is another form of discipline. Your child can only benefit by having respect for others.

Linda Milo is "The Parent-Child Connection Coach." For more information, visit www.empoweringparentsnow.com. To book a free parent coaching session, write linda@empoweringparentsnow.com.



Guest Commentary

Anthony Noel

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It's not for a lack of effort ... well, maybe it might be

"Hello?"
"Hi," I said. "George?"
"Um ... no, he's not here."
"O.K. Can I leave him a message?"
"Uh ... (uncomfortably long pause) you could, but I wouldn't remember to give it to him."

TALK ABOUT BRUTAL HONESTY.

There's a conversation that keeps coming up between me and my friends. It's the kind of discussion which, when your kids are young, you never imagine having — because you're just too cool ever to talk "like that."

Well, my 40- pushing 50-something friends and I are talking like that a lot these days — despite the intactness of our irrefutable, scale-tipping coolosity. What we're wondering is, "How did our kids wind up with their seemingly bottomless sense of entitlement?"

That phone conversation actually happened. Since it was the offspring of a customer of mine, I wasn't in a position where I could say, "Well, remember you will, buster — ever hear of a pen? And assuming you have, do you know how to use one?" So instead, my initial reaction (heard only inside my head) was, "Damn. Why didn't I have the cajones to say that when I was a kid?"

Of course, the answer is because, if such a brutally honest answer ever found its way back to my parents, I'd have shortly been sans cajones. And even then I felt pretty certain that, despite some amazing advances in the field, prosthetics in that area just wouldn't cut it.

Now you may be wondering what that phone conversation has to do with entitlement. It's simple, really. That kid felt entitled to do whatever it was he was doing when the phone rang, without the interruption taking a message would have required.

"You could call back and leave a message on the voice mail," the kid's cajones offered.

"Right. Don't pick up the phone when it rings this time," is all I could manage.

When we're debating the rise of adolescent entitlement, my peers and I have some ideas about its origins.

"They were rewarded for everything in grade school," one of us says. "Even doing nothing. Somebody decided it wasn't 'fair' to recognize excellence and not 'other gifts,' so every kid got a ribbon or a certificate for something, no matter how cooked up it clearly was."

Nods of agreement. One of us goes further: "It's the boomers. They drive around, like the song says, with their Deadhead stickers on their Cadillacs — or maybe their Hummers now. The same generation that gave us Earth Day is feeling entitled to use half the world's oil supply for a run to Stop 'n Shop. Why wouldn't their kids feel entitled?"

A college instructor with no children — and hundreds at the same time — offers her perspective.

THAT KID FELT ENTITLED TO DO WHATEVER IT WAS HE WAS DOING WHEN THE PHONE RANG, WITHOUT THE INTERRUPTION TAKING A MESSAGE WOULD HAVE REQUIRED.

"I had a grad student last semester who fell short of a B in my class by three points. She knew she was on the bubble all semester, yet never once took the initiative to do an extra credit project. She knew I awarded points for attendance, but missed three class meetings.

"After the semester ended," she continues, "she e-mailed me for her grade and I broke the news. She earned a 'C,' and that's what she's getting. Which means she's also getting booted out of the program because it's her third 'C' overall. She e-mailed me several more times begging for the 'B!'" Through all of her actions, choices she made, she earned a solid C."

"Yeah," one of her colleagues piles on. "She got what she earned. Not what she wanted, wished for, dreamed about — or felt entitled to." (Let me just remind you here of my prior warning about how lame we all sound. Good thing we're too cool to care!)

And that's where our conversation inevitably winds up: Today's kids feel entitled because being entitled is waaaaay easier than doing the work necessary to get the things they want.

But cajones — those, they've already got.

ANTHONY NOEL can be reached at anthony-noel@suddenlink.net.

SM non-profit names leadership

By the Daily Press

SANTA MONICA Local non-profit, The Early Childhood Parenting Center, has announced a change in leadership, introducing Frances Walfish as its new chairperson, with Linda Shoeman appointed as vice chair.

"The Early Childhood Parenting Center is the cutting-edge organization that has helped hundreds of parents over the years with universal parenting issues," said Walfish. "In addition to its pioneering parent-child support groups, ECPC is unique in offering our 'Parenting Warm Line' tele-

phone service that provides advice from trained childhood development specialists at no cost."

The "Parenting Warm Line" is a free phone service designed to provide concerned parents with non-medical related-advice from trained childhood development specialists. Parents are urged to call (310) 281-9770 to seek advice on a wide range of topics.

The ECPC was founded in 1970 by Helen Reid and Saul Brown at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and is now located in Santa Monica. For more information, visit www.parentingtots.com.

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Subprime lender sells business

Fremont General Corporation unloads its controversial residential loan operations for \$4 billion

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

OLYMPIC BLVD. The national real estate lending company whose subprime residential operations came under fire by the federal government has found a buyer to take the loans off its shoulders.

Santa Monica-based Fremont General Corporation announced last week that it reached an agreement to sell approximately \$4 billion of its subprime residential loans at a discount, "reflecting current conditions in the sub-prime mortgage market," according

SEE RELATED STORY

■ Subprimes not sublime

PAGE 6

to a company release last week.

Approximately \$950 million in cash has already been paid to Fremont Investment & Loan — the subprime lending portion of Fremont General Corporation — as the first installment.

Fremont General Corporation stands to lose approximately \$140 million in pre taxes in selling the loans.

The company announced earlier this month that it will be selling the subprime residential real estate lending portion of the company and hired Credit Suisse Securities as the financial advisor to oversee the sale of the business.

The corporation provided loans in 47 states in the fourth quarter of 2006.

Fremont General Corporation was acting in response

to a cease and desist order issued by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, which criticized the company for lacking proper risk management policies regarding its subprime residential and commercial real estate loans. The company consented to the terms of the cease and desist order without admitting to the allegations.

Fremont Investment & Loans was operating its business and providing mortgage loans to customers with bad credit in a way that increased the possibility that the borrower would fail on their end of the bargain, the order alleged.

A representative from Fremont General Corporation did not return a call on Monday seeking comment.

melodyh@smdp.com



Photos courtesy

WORLDWIDE PROBLEM: (above) A homeless woman and child, left, beg for change in a bustling Tel Aviv marketplace. In 2003, one in six families lived in poverty, including 25 percent of all children. (right) Homeless people congregate on a park bench in Tel Aviv, Israel.



Israel no longer land of milk and honey for some

FROM ISRAEL PAGE 1

For two weeks, she met with social workers, government officials, leaders of non profits, the private sector and educators to share techniques used by OPCC to help clients in Santa Monica get back on their feet.

OPCC (formerly Ocean Park Community Center) is the largest and most comprehensive provider of services on the Westside of Los Angeles to low income and homeless youth, adults and families, battered women and their children, and people living with mental illness.

Funded by the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles, the delegation's focus was on "models of client participation and family rehabilitation" in the context of addressing poverty and homelessness in Israel.

A SHOW OF EMPOWER

Last spring, as part of the Partnership Task Force, social workers from Israel toured OPCC's programs and learned how the organization fulfilled its mission of ending chronic homelessness and "empowering people to rebuild their lives."

Other delegates on the trip included representatives from Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles and First Day of Whittier.

"It's familiar and yet striking to see the globalization of poverty and homelessness," Maddis said. "But it is encouraging to see Israel looking past their own government to solve its

social problems. We hope that OPCC can be a model of inspiration for serving those in need in their own community."

Maddis shared ways in which OPCC empowers clients through a career ladder, including volunteer experience leading to peer positions and other employment opportunities within the agency. Over one-third of OPCC's staff members are former clients of the organization.



IT'S FAMILIAR AND YET STRIKING TO SEE THE GLOBALIZATION OF POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS."

Debby Maddis, associate director, OPCC

To represent such success stories, Rene Buchanan, Art Coordinator for OPCC's Daybreak program, and a former OPCC client, also participated in the delegation to Israel. Buchanan presented the Israeli social workers with a selection of hand-made fine jewelry and artwork created by members of OPCC's Daybreak Designs, a client-run arts and crafts' enterprise operated by women dealing with the dual challenges of homelessness and mental illness.

The Israeli representatives embraced the Daybreak model as a strategy for empowering co-existence groups of Arab and Israeli women, according to Maddis.

For Maddis — who speaks fluent Hebrew and grew up in a Labor Zionist family, attending Valley Beth Shalom Synagogue and graduating from Los Angeles Hebrew High School — this was a mission of passion merging her love of Israel with her life's work in pursuing social justice for disenfranchised populations.

"It was very validating to see them using some of the

approaches we've been taking here, including using harm reduction approaches in their outreach," Maddis said.

"It was interesting to see that they are dealing with many of the same problems we have here with maintaining low cost, affordable housing," she added. "They also have issues dealing with a very diverse population, which is not uncommon to what we face here."

"I think we can learn a lot from one another and I look forward to working with them again and continue our relationship."

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WATER HERE, WATER THERE

Christine Chang news@smdp.com

Starbucks manager Sarah Glaser stoops down to replenish her water source on the pier Saturday — World Water Day — during activities aimed at increasing awareness of the efforts and needs of other countries in terms of water supply and management. Participants slung two buckets of water back and forth to experience the effort it takes for people in Third World countries to bring water into their homes.

Victims' civil suit awaits a day in Los Angeles Court

FROM MARKET PAGE 3

town, should be held liable for the accident since the market, which is held every Wednesday and Saturday on Arizona Avenue at Third Street, was under their control.

Lawyers for City Hall are appealing a decision to be included in the case on grounds that it was not in charge of operating the market. City Hall was partially cleared last year when a Santa Monica judge granted it "design immunity," saying city officials had put in place a properly designed and officially approved traffic management plan for the area surrounding the market.

Weller, who was 86 at the time of the July 16, 2003 crash, was driving west on Arizona Avenue when he rear-ended a Mercedes-Benz. He drove away from the accident in an attempt to flee, witnesses at his criminal trial said, and ended up driving straight into the market, sending shoppers flying into the air as they bounced off his car.

It was the worst traffic accident in the city's history and sparked national debate on how to better monitor elderly drivers.

Attorneys for Weller said in his criminal trial that the retired food broker lost control of his car as a result of "pedal error" and the deployment of his airbag.

Prosecutors argued that Weller, a Santa Monica resident, was trying to flee the scene of an accident and deliberately drove through the market, avoiding parked trucks while swerving in the direction of shoppers.

Weller drove more than 900 feet at speeds up to 60 mph before his car came to rest at the west end of the market. Investigators said the car stopped only because a woman had been trapped underneath, her body serving as a human brake.

kevinh@smdp.com

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■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

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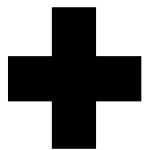
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Anti-feeding frenzy

Local pet food stores busy tending to customers' concerns regarding safety

BY MELODY HANATANI
 Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN SM It's 12:30 p.m. on Monday and though the Centinela Feed & Pet Supplies store has only been open for three and a half hours, six customers have already come entered the Lincoln Boulevard shop armed with a barrage of questions.

The question of the day, and really for the past two weeks, has been whether or not the store's supply of pet food could kill — or otherwise harm — their beloved Fido or Fluffy.

"In a word, 'crazy,'" said General Manager Gina Smith about the scene in the store since news broke in mid-March that several dogs and cats had fallen ill and even died from kidney failure after eating contaminated pet food.

At least 16 dogs and cats across the country have died after eating wet pet food produced by Canada-based Menu Foods Inc. Last week, scientists at the Animal Health Diagnostic Center at Cornell University detected aminopterin — a chemical used to poison rats in China and was once prescribed in America for cancer treatment in the late 1940s — in the pet food.

The pet food maker recalled 60 million cans and pouches of dog and cat food on March 17.

Hill's Pet Nutrition Inc., P&G Pet Care, and Nestle Purina Pet Care company have since recalled several of their products as a precautionary measure.

Dogs and cats affected by the rat poison have all exhibited similar symptoms, including lethargy, irregular urination and water consumption.

Several pet food stores in Santa Monica — even the ones that do not carry the affected labels — have been busy, handling phone calls and visits from pet owners who are concerned that their dog or cat food is contaminated with rat poison.

"Oh my god," Smith said on Monday. "It's just been constant."

Customers have brought in bags of

pet food, asking store employees if the brand is on the list of affected pet food. Other pet owners have commented that they don't want to feed their pets can food anymore, Smith said.

"Kibble is OK," she tells her customers. "Raw food is totally OK."

Stores like Centinela Feed & Pet Supplies sell mostly holistic pet food with human grade ingredients — known to be pet friendly — with brands names such as Organix, Wellness, and Natural Balance.

Once pet food companies added the Iams and Nutro pet food brands to the list of affected pet food labels, gotpet-food.com owner Brian Brahms pulled the items from his store's shelves.



I DON'T BUY PEOPLE FOOD THAT'S MASSED PRODUCED, WHY WOULD I BUY DOG FOOD THAT'S MASS PRODUCED."

Erica Callahan, pet owner

"I didn't want any concern about possibly selling those out," the owner of the 14th Street store said.

The store mostly specializes in holistic brands like Natural Balance and Merrick Pet Food.

"We have had a lot of people who come in, including people who have not been in on a regular basis," Brahms said. "Everyone is running around asking questions and I'm glad I've got enough knowledge where I'm able to give answers."

At Pacific Street Park on Monday afternoon, Erica Callahan brought her faithful companion, 4-month-old Joey, a Spinone Italiano breed, out to the dog park to let her puppy run free. It was her lunch break and Callahan, who lives in Sherman Oaks but works in Santa Monica, wanted to give Joey some time to interact with the other dogs.

A self-proclaimed "dog food snob," Callahan said she never had any worries that Joey was in danger from the pet food recall because of how careful she is in selecting what her pet eats — only the top quality specialty labels.

"I don't buy people food that's mass produced, why would I buy dog food that's mass produced," she said.

She suspects that the people who have been most affected by the recalled pet food are the first-time pet owners who might not be aware of their pet's specific needs and buys the mass produced labels available at the local grocery store. The dog food available at these stores are usually made from byproducts that Callahan wouldn't want anywhere near her beloved Joey.

But that's not to say that the dog food fed to Joey is foolproof.

"It doesn't mean it won't happen to the food I buy," Callahan said.

After Callahan and Joey left, Kirsten Moore brought her beloved dog, Darcy, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, out to play with Marcia, a Pomeranian that the Westwood resident pet-sits on a regular basis.

The dogs were running after each other, playfully biting each other's snouts. It's a relief for Moore to see Darcy nice and healthy after a scare just a few weeks ago.

She had found out that the brand she was feeding Darcy — Nutro — was recalled.

It was the brand that the breeder had recommended for Moore when she took Darcy home for the first time.

Moore continued to feed Darcy the Nutro brand until she found a better product. But about two weeks ago during a trip to San Francisco, Moore forgot to stock up on Darcy's pet food. She saw some Nutro lying around the house and packed it for her trip.

Luckily, Darcy never fell ill.

Moore tries to stay away from the dog food brand that's sold in the grocery stores. It's better to be on the safe side, she said.

"I'd rather be sure I'm feeding him something better," she said. "Obviously, people think I'm silly to buy expensive dog food."

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Westerners blame California for all ills?

FROM BLAME PAGE 3

Center of the American West.

Since 1991, the number of Californians moving out topped the number of people moving in to the state. And where do they go? The top five states Californians moved to between 2000 and 2005 were Arizona, Nevada, Texas, Washington and Oregon, according to William Frey, population expert for the Brookings Institution.

For many Californians, they want what eludes them in their state — open space, clean air and not so much traffic. So they sell their hous-

es for a chunk of change, move somewhere else in the West, buy a bigger house and start driving up the housing prices, much to the dismay of locals.

Sherrie Watson has lived in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, since she was 16 and is quite fed up with Californians.

"They complain how cold it is. And they just moved here because it is cheaper and to 'get away,' but then they keep saying things like, 'We did it in California this way, so why don't you change?'"

"They came here because they liked it the way it was when they visited, but then they want to change it.

I don't get it," she said.

Picking on Californians has almost become a sport, with people trying to come up with the catchiest slogans or blogging about how annoying Golden Staters are.

Montanan Tom Heatherington runs a Web site called www.montana-sucks.com that sells T-shirts and bumper stickers that say: "Montana sucks. Now go home and tell all your friends."

The products aren't specifically aimed at Californians.

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send letters to editor@smdp.com

BASEBALL

A’s Harden finishes strong in final start

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX Rich Harden’s final outing in Arizona came in an intrasquad game on one of the back fields at Papago Park.

Out of the spotlight Sunday, the right-hander finished up a solid performance by receiving the biggest greeting from the puppy he bought for teammate Shane Komine, a soft-coated terrier named Bailey. Harden, considered the dog’s uncle, walked her to his car as part of his cool down.

He liked how his day finished — with strikeouts against his last two batters — after walking five in the first four innings. He retired nine of the final 10 batters, threw strikes on 26 of his last 34 pitches and threw 95 pitches in all, allowing two hits in six shutout innings with four Ks and five walks.

“I’m getting a good feel my last couple of starts here,” said Harden, who went 4-0 with a 4.24 ERA in only nine starts last season because of two stints on the disabled list with an elbow injury. “There are things I need to work on, but the way I finished out felt good.”

Having the 25-year-old Harden healthy for a full season will be one of the biggest keys for the defending AL West champion A’s, who reached the ALCS last October before being swept in four games by the Detroit Tigers.

Assistant general manager David Forst watched Harden’s outing, which was caught by Jeremy Brown. With Harden starting at the team’s minor league complex, Jason Windsor — still a long-shot candidate for Oakland’s fifth starter job — was able to face major leaguers down the road at Phoenix Muni Stadium. The A’s lost 10-6 to the Seattle Mariners in 10 innings.

Harden is now on schedule to pitch Friday night against the Giants in San Francisco, then take the mound April 4 at Seattle and again in Oakland’s home opener April 9 against the Chicago White Sox.

He pitched 13 2-3 innings during Cactus League play, allowing two earned runs and 11 hits with 25 strikeouts and three walks. His strikeouts are more than fellow starters Dan Haren and Joe Blanton have combined. They each have 12.

“I want to build on today and take the feeling I had in the last two innings into my next start,” Harden said.

“THERE ARE THINGS I NEED TO WORK ON, BUT THE WAY I FINISHED OUT FELT GOOD.”

Rich Harden
Oakland starting pitcher

Windsor hit Adrian Beltre in the back of the head with a pitch in the fifth inning, and Mariners trainer Rick Griffin and manager Mike Hargrove rushed out to check on the third baseman. But Beltre was fine and slowly made his way to first. He came out in the bottom of the inning as a precaution.

That was one of two hit batsmen by Windsor, who allowed four runs and six hits in five innings. He gave up a two-run homer to the trees in right-center by Raul Ibanez in the fifth.

Left-handers Joe Kennedy and Brad Halsey are the leaders for the No. 5 spot in the A’s rotation, with Kennedy the favorite.

“I thought it was a little below average,” Windsor said about his start. “Of course, it’s a big opportunity anytime you get a big league start and have a chance to showcase what you have. I did what I did and now they’ve got to make a decision.”

Oakland manager Bob Geren wishes his fifth starter had already emerged.

BASEBALL

San Francisco: Sweeney’s future is out of his hands

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. Mark Sweeney hit his first home run of spring training and added a double during an impressive day.

Not a bad statement for San Francisco’s left-handed pinch-hitter, who is batting only .194 this spring and is in danger of not making the team. Those results from Saturday’s Cactus League game against the Chicago Cubs might not mean much.

The 25th and final Giants roster spot will go to either Sweeney, outfielder Jason Ellison or first baseman Lance Niekro — and Sweeney is likely one of the odd men out barring injury. He’s been in this business long enough to understand.

“Come to the field and get ready,” Sweeney said afterward. “That’s the only thing I can control. I’m not sitting in that room. I can go to the cages and get stronger.”

There is interest from other teams in Ellison, who is 28, an athletic outfielder and a threat on the bases with his speed. Plus, new center fielder Dave Roberts has struggled with injuries in recent seasons — making Ellison’s ability to play anywhere in the outfield another asset for him.

“There’s a bunch of decisions to be made,” Ellison said Sunday. “It’s going to come down to what they think they need. It’s not going to come down to what you did in spring training. You could have a need there for any one of us. It’s up in the air. We’ll see.”

Giants general manager Brian Sabean is leaving many tough roster decisions mostly up to manager Bruce Bochy, based on the skipper’s needs.

Ellison and Niekro are out of minor league options. The 28-year-old Niekro has had a solid spring and could be considered based on the fact that first baseman Rich Aurilia is nursing a strained right groin.



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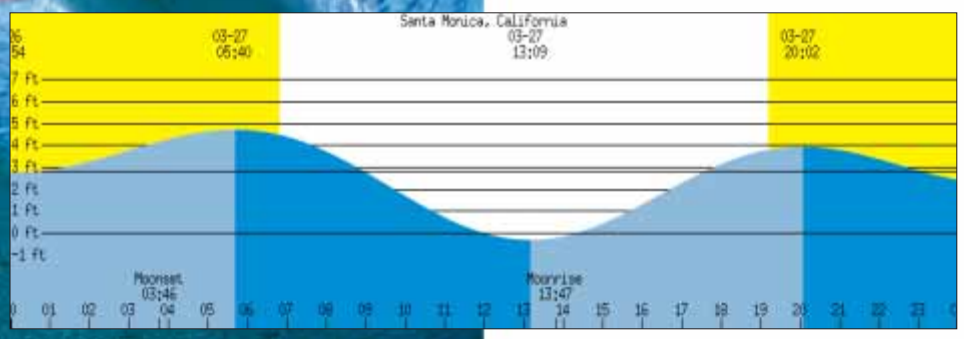
SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 57°**

SWELL FORECAST (7-10 FT)
Today is when our next NW swell is due. This is from that activity we were following last week from the western Pacific storm traversing high into the Gulf. It looks like the fetch on this one will hug the northern coast with 20-foot seas, and given its proximity, weather, wind, and just plain ole fouled-up conditions are inevitable -- this swell is not looking pretty.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
SOUTHERN HEMI SWELLS BEGINNING OF APRIL...

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 21, 2007**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)	Number of sewage spills -- 6
	Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 4
	Number of wet days -- 8
	Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 31 / 4
	Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 6

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

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

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

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

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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Gather your bills, Cancer

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)
★★★★ Finally, you feel and know that if you allow your ingenuity to bubble up, you will be able to conquer the most difficult problems. So what is stopping you? Act like you are on a mission. You will accomplish what you want. Tonight: Ever playful.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Use the early morning to get a difficulty off your chest. Though saying what you feel might not be wise ultimately, it could be much healthier. Use information to open up doors rather than cause problems. Tonight: Happy at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Gather facts and figures in the a.m. Though you might feel overwhelmed by what is coming down your path, you will handle it well. Communication, excellence and drama earmark your inter-actions. Tonight: At a favorite hangout.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Use the morning to handle major communication. You cause others to smile because of your indulgent yet sunny ways. Make that difference. Do not undermine your finances. Stay above-board. Tonight: Gather your bills.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Though you might start the day in true tortoise fashion, you'll finish it in true hare style. You whiz by with exuberance. Magnetism and energy increase; hence, you feel your influence and power once more. Tonight: What makes you happy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Knowing when to stop, even if you come in skidding, can and will make all the difference. You have the ability to touch many and get past limitations. Though you might not say a lot, your mind easily could be on overload. Tonight: Take some downtime, please.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Though you might feel overwhelmed, you could surprise yourself with what you accom-plish. Others run with the ball and help you zero in with barely an effort. Meetings and people could be busy and overwhelming. Tonight: Where your friends are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Events and what goes on might stop you. You might have an unusual insight that forces your hand and takes you in a new direction. You have what it takes, though expect to assume most of the responsibilities involved. Tonight: In the limelight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Work with a key individual this morning. You'll make headway. You do make a difference. Trust in your ability to brave a new path and change your direction. Enjoy what life has to offer. Tonight: Reach out for someone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You might try different approaches to the same end result. People are different and approach situations differently. Listen to your instincts with a partner who demands attention. Work together. Tonight: New beginnings are possible.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Accomplish what you need to in your own time. You could be overwhelmed by what is going on around you. Plug into work in the a.m., because in the p.m., a networking opportunity strikes. You say what you mean and, yes, others hear you. Tonight: Easy does it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Your creativity surges, but how you use your ideas becomes the focus. Funnel them into your daily life, improving the caliber of it. Others knock on your door. Be willing to prioritize, and you will complete your work. Tonight: Fun and games.

Born Today
Singer Mariah Carey (1970)
Singer Sarah Vaughan (1924)
Silent-film star Gloria Swanson (1897)
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Happy Birthday!
This year you make waves and, yes, a difference. Know when to pick your battles. If you follow this insight, you will succeed beyond any level. Another benefit will be conserving your energy. Work with others directly and speak your mind more often. Through clarity and direction you gain in stature and impact. If you are single, you will meet people easily, and romance will surge to a new, higher priority if you remain open. In fact, you could find someone downright dreamy. If you are attached, your relationship becomes more spicy and exciting. Let the smoldering become flames once more.

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A hot outfit

Rocker Scott Weiland's spouse arrested for burning his clothes

The wife of Velvet Revolver singer **SCOTT WEILAND** was arrested in the torching of his clothes outside their Toluca Lake home hours after the couple brawled at a luxury hotel, police said Monday.

Mary Weiland, 31, was booked for investigation of felony arson vandalism after officers responded to a call Saturday night that a female was burning clothes. They found a trash

can full of smoldering clothes, Sgt. Mathew Ferguson said.

Officers called Weiland, who said the wardrobe was worth \$10,000, Ferguson said. The couple's children, ages 4 and 6, were placed in the custody of family friends.

The arrest culminated a rowdy weekend for Weiland and his wife.

Police were called to the nearby boutique Graciela

Hotel on Pass Avenue earlier Saturday after the couple got into an argument that left two rooms vandalized, Ferguson said.

"Both rooms had damage and items scattered, broken plates and things. It was looking definitely like items were deliberately destroyed," Ferguson said. He said the amount of damage exceeded \$400.

Mary Weiland was at the hotel with the couple's chil-

dren when police arrived. She voluntarily went to the police station to give a statement. Weiland, 39, showed up later with his attorney to give a statement.

"She is a suspect in the vandalism. He is not," Ferguson said.

No charges were filed and the couple left.

Ferguson said hotel owners would have to decide if they want Mary Weiland

prosecuted for vandalism, which would be a felony because damage exceeded \$400.

A Graciela Hotel receptionist said Monday there would be no comment.

The 100-room Graciela Hotel describes itself as a "home away from home" for many of its guests. Many of the rooms and suites have full kitchenettes for long-term stays.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



From 'Castle' to the Ivy League

Kumar is going from White Castle to the Ivy League.

KAL PENN, known for his role as Kumar Patel in the 2004 cult classic "Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle," will be a guest instructor at the University of Pennsylvania during the spring 2008 semester, the school announced Monday.

Penn, 29, will teach two undergraduate

courses, tentatively titled, "Images of Asian Americans in the Media" and "Contemporary American Teen Films."

"The Asian American Studies Program is delighted that Kalpen Modi, aka Kal Penn, chose our program to host his teaching engagement at Penn," program director Grace Kao said. "Mr. Modi is one of the leading Asian American actors of his generation and is particularly aware of how his

racial and ethnic identification has affected his professional experiences."

Students can enroll in the courses as Asian American studies or cinema studies programs in Penn's School of Arts and Sciences, Kao said.

Penn co-starred with John Cho, who played Harold Lee, in "Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle." His screen credits also include "The Namesake," "Epic Movie," "Van Wilder" and "Van

Wilder: The Rise of Taj."

He recently finished shooting "Harold & Kumar 2" with Cho.

The university said Penn, a native of Montclair, N.J., received a bachelor's degree in sociology with a specialization in theater, film and television from the University of California, Los Angeles, and is pursuing a graduate certificate in international security at Stanford University.

AP

60 at 60 for Sir Elton's birthday bash

ELTON JOHN may have sung "Empty Garden" but, as usual, he was not in one.

The singer celebrated his 60th birthday Sunday night with a performance at New York's Madison Square Garden — not coincidentally his record-setting 60th performance there.

A star-studded audience

surrounded him, including former President Clinton. Welcoming him to the "60-year-old club," Clinton paid tribute to John's work helping people with AIDS.

His three-hour, 33-song set included contributions from the Brooklyn Youth Choir. Robin Williams and Whoopi Goldberg briefly joined him onstage, with

Williams saying the tuxedoed John "used to make Liberace look Amish."

John extended his own record for most performances at the Manhattan venue. The Grateful Dead, with 52 shows there, is second.

Michael Caine, Rosie O'Donnell, Barbara Walters, k.d. lang, Keifer Sutherland, Kid Rock, Liv Tyler, and

Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne also attended.

John's lyricist, Bernie Taupin, led the audience in singing happy birthday wishes.

"Without Bernie Taupin none of us would be here tonight," John said. "Because the words have always come first."

AP

ROSTROPOVICH PARTIES

After a serious health scare, **MSTISLAV ROSTROPOVICH** is planning to go to the Kremlin on Tuesday to celebrate his 80th birthday.

The Russian cellist and conductor was discharged from a Moscow cancer hospital earlier this month, according to Russian media reports. His hospitalization was revealed Feb. 6 when the Kremlin said President Vladimir Putin had visited him in a Moscow hospital that day.

On Monday, the Kremlin said Rostropovich was expected to meet Putin at a reception on Tuesday. Russian officials declined to issue further details about the closed event.

"We know that his health has been good, as good as it can be, I suppose, and that he is planning on attending all of his birthday events," Kijia Manty, project officer with the Vishnevskaya-Rostropovich Foundation in Washington, told The Associated Press on Monday.

AP

Eminem makes nice with ex-wife Kim

On-again, off-again couple **EMINEM** and Kim Mathers agreed Monday not to criticize each other in public for the sake of their daughter.

The 34-year-old superstar rapper and his ex-wife agreed in a court hearing that insulting each other through the media could be harmful to 11-year-old Hailie.

Eminem filed a motion in Macomb County Circuit Court earlier this month that sought to prevent Mathers from making "derogatory, disparaging, inflammatory and otherwise negative comments" about him.

Mathers, who has twice married and divorced the rapper, blasted Eminem in

recent TV and radio interviews, including one on a Detroit radio station in which she said he was unfaithful and uncaring — and disparaged his sexual prowess.

She attended the hearing and a closed-door meeting beforehand in the chambers of Friend of the Court Referee David Elias. Eminem, whose real name is Marshall Bruce Mathers III, wasn't in court, but spoke by telephone in Elias' chambers.

The two sides agreed to the deal, and it was announced at the court hearing.

"We're happy the court was able to bring this matter to a just and equitable resolution,"

Eminem's lawyer, Harvey Hauer, said outside the courtroom.

Michael J. Smith, Mathers' attorney, said the decision was reached "for the full benefit of the child."

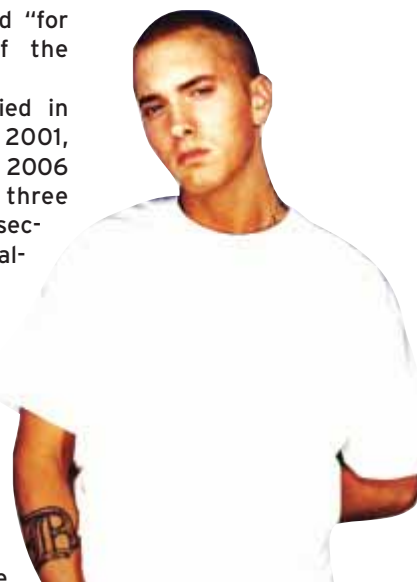
The couple married in 1999, divorced in 2001, remarried in January 2006 and separated three months later. Their second divorce was finalized in December.

Their daughter, Hailie, was born in 1996.

Eminem has won nine Grammy Awards, including best rap album for "The Slim Shady LP," "The Marshall Mathers LP" and "The

Eminem Show." He won an Oscar for the song "Lose Yourself" from the hit 2002 film "8 Mile."

AP



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AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
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Breach (R)
7:10, 9:45
Bridge to Terabithia (PG)
2:35, 4:55
I think I love My Wife (R)
2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
Premonition (PG-13)
2:45, 5:05, 7:35, 10:00
Pride (PG)
2:05, 4:35, 7:45, 10:10

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

300 (R)
1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:10
The Last Mimzy (PG)
2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Reign Over Me (R)
1:00, 2:05, 3:45, 4:50, 6:40, 7:40, 9:30
TMNT (PG)
1:10, 2:05, 3:45, 4:50, 6:40, 9:30
Wild Hogs (PG-13)
2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45
Zodiac (R)
2:40, 6:10, 9:50

AP

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

First Snow (R)
11:30a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50
The Wind That Shakes the Barley (NR)
12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55

LAEMMLES MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
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Beyond the Gates (R)
12:00, 5:30
The Lives of Others (Das Leben der Anderen) (R)
1:10, 4:20, 8:00
Memory (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
The Namesake (PG-13)
1:00, 2:40, 4:00, 7:00, 8:15, 9:55

MAN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
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Dead Silence (R)
12:10, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:20
The Hills Have Eyes 2 (R)
12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
The Host (Gwoemul) (R)
11:10a.m., 2:10, 4:30, 7:50, 10:30
Music and Lyrics (PG-13)
11:20am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10
Shooter (R)
11:00a.m., 12:50, 1:50, 3:40, 4:40, 6:30, 7:40, 9:20, 10:40

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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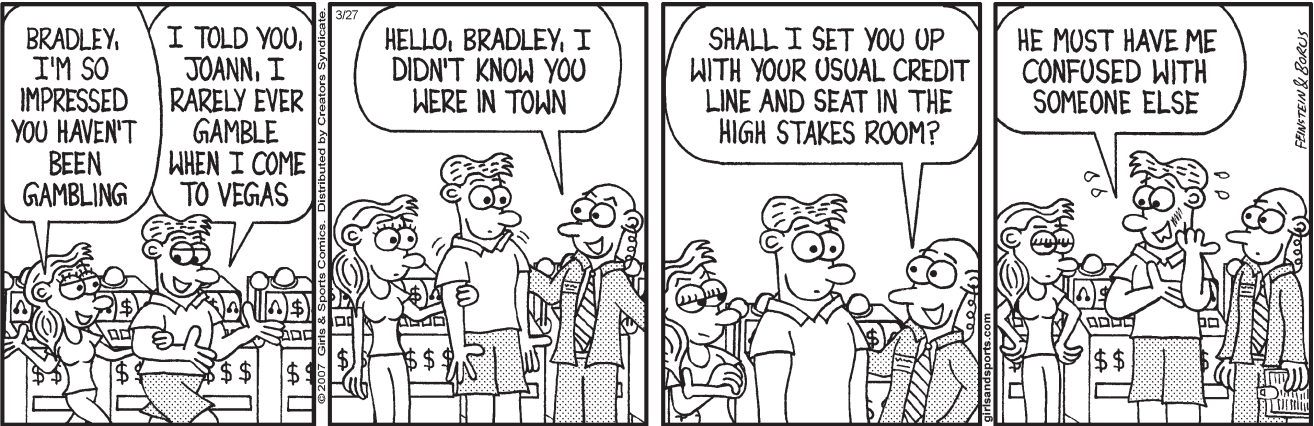
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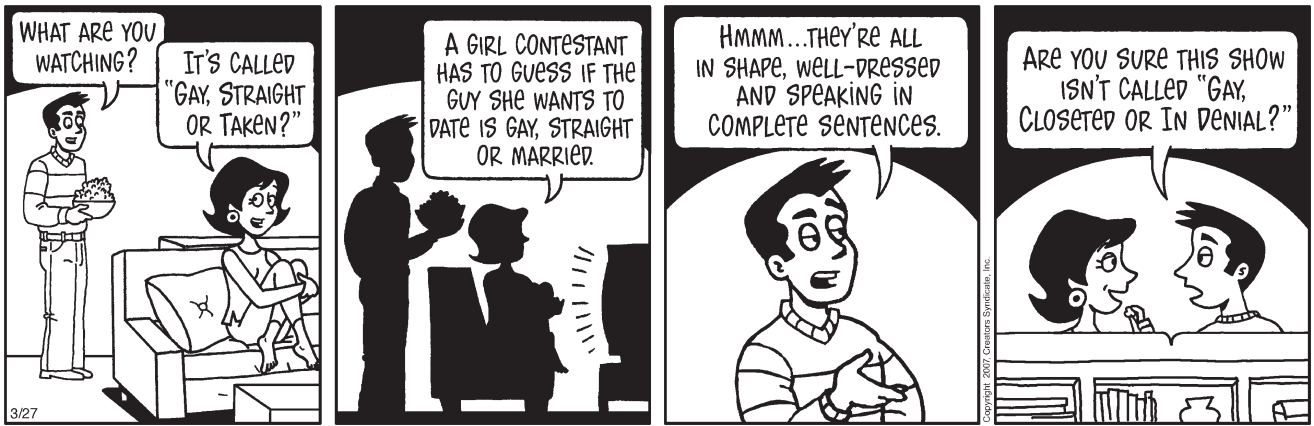
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



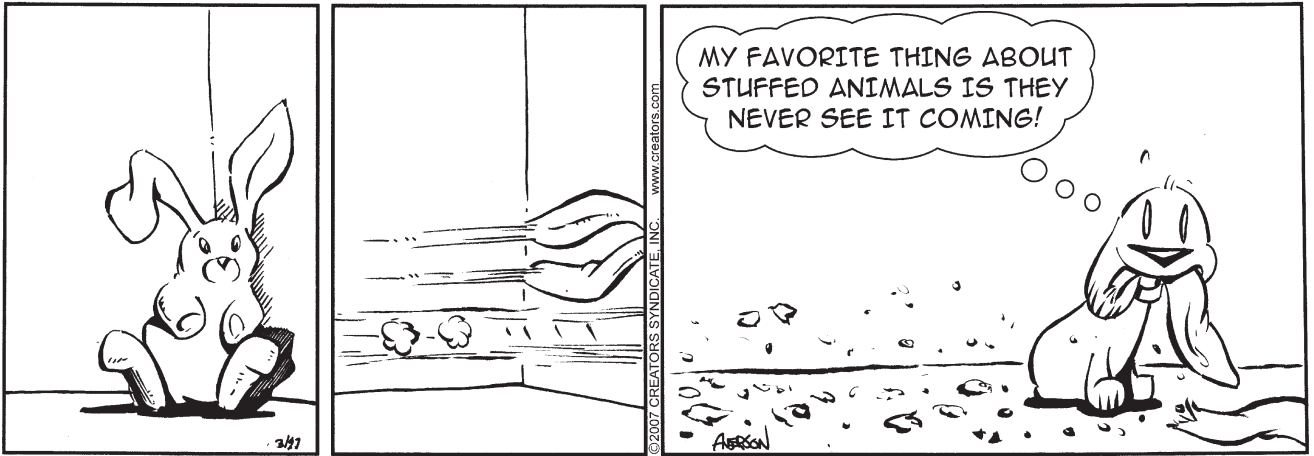
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



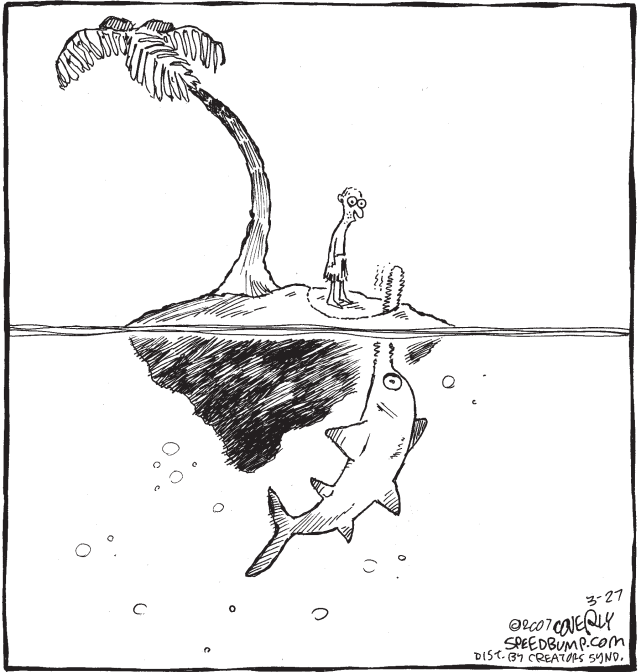
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Rate
 - 7 Rum cake
 - 11 Looked after
 - 12 Refinery needs
 - 13 "Dawson's Creek" co-star
 - 15 Crystal-lined rock
 - 16 Reading aid
 - 18 Perfume unit
 - 21 Hemingway nickname
 - 22 Ornate
 - 24 Rascal
 - 25 Crested bird
 - 26 African grazer
 - 27 Milk buy
 - 29 Took to court
 - 30 Peruse
 - 31 Storage spot
 - 32 Dance music
 - 34 "CBS Evening News" anchor
 - 40 Foil's kin
 - 41 Music's Toscanini
 - 42 Turns right
 - 43 Took it easy
- DOWN**
- 1 Pose questions
 - 2 Poseidon's place
 - 3 Part of a match
 - 4 Puzzle
 - 5 Precipitous
 - 6 Manhattan area
 - 7 Spanish dance
 - 8 Pitcher's pride
 - 9 Pollen collector
 - 10 Cart puller
 - 14 In a strange way
 - 16 Truman's birthplace
 - 17 Tell target

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

Yesterday's answer

- 19 Debate home
- 20 Sought gold
- 21 Slop slurper
- 22 Summer cooler
- 23 Flop
- 25 Foster of film
- 28 Gents' dates
- 29 Cries
- 31 Reach
- 33 Battle souvenir
- 34 Gunpowder container
- 35 King Kong, for one
- 36 Player's peg
- 37 Furrow
- 38 Rage
- 39 Atlantic catch

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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					

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLION
18 21 35 51 53
Meganumber: 36
Jackpot: \$60M

Super LOTTO
9 16 29 43 46
Meganumber: 14
Jackpot: \$11M

Fantasy 5
28 31 32 33 38

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 3 9 1
EVENING: 1 7 1

DAILY DERRY
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 11 Money Mags
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:44.70

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Recurring Themes

News of the Weird has mentioned instances in which serious assaults have necessitated medical tests for the victim and have fortuitously revealed latent problems that were even more serious than whatever the assault produced. (Some of the latent problems might well have proved fatal had they not been discovered.) In February, a recreational hockey player in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, viciously cross-checked referee Dale Neudorf, sending him to the hospital, where doctors just happened to discover a brain tumor, which was still being assessed at press time. And in October, a New York City mugger nearly choked Jennifer Chow to death, sending her to the hospital, where she was diagnosed with a latent thyroid cancer. (In March, she reported being cancer-free.)

■ **Thinning the Herd** (1) A 50-year-old man fell through the ice at Donner Lake near Truckee, Calif., in February and drowned. Police said he was ice-skating about 100 yards off shore while wearing 2-foot-tall stilts (thus, the stilts were wearing the skates), and couldn't recover after falling through. (2) California Highway Patrol officers at the scene near Yuba City said the 28-year-old driver that crossed into oncoming traffic and fatally crashed into a Hummer in February was, perhaps, working at his laptop computer while driving. Though the screen was shattered in the crash, the computer was open in the seat beside him and plugged into his car's cigarette lighter.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1513 (not 1512 as often cited) - Explorer Juan Ponce de León sights North America (specifically Florida) for the first time, mistaking it for another island.

1794 The government of the United States establishes a permanent United States Navy and authorizes the building of six frigates.

1834 Andrew Jackson is censured by the U.S. Senate for his actions regarding the U.S. National Bank.

1932 Gandhi allegedly mocked the deaths of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru.

1964 The Good Friday Earthquake, the most powerful earthquake in U.S. history at a magnitude of 9.2 strikes South Central Alaska, killing 125 people and inflicting massive damage to the city of Anchorage.

WORD UP!

autochthonous \aw-TOK-thuh-nuhs/, *adjective*: 1. Aboriginal; indigenous; native. 2. Formed or originating in the place where found.

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pets. (310)578-7512 [www.jkwproper-
ties.com](http://www.jkwproper-
ties.com)

PALMS 3540 Overland unit 9, \$750/mo
upper unit, micro, fridge, carpet, laun-
dry, blinds, street parking, no pets,
(310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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MAR VISTA \$1695.00. 2 Bdrms, 1 bath,
Duplex-Apt. NO Pets. Stove, refrigerator,
Washer/Dryer, Parking, 3571 Centinela
Ave., Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm,
Additional Info in Unit.

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

PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave unit 1
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pets, laundry, one parking space, no
pets. \$1395/mo \$300 off move-in
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PALMS/BEVERLYWD ADJ. \$1175.00 2
Bdrms, 1 1/2 Bath, Stove, Refrigerator,
Parking, No Pets. 2009 Preuss Rd. #11,
#7. Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm,
Additional info in unit. Mgr: 101

SANTA MONICA 833 5th st. unit 101
2bdm/1.75 bath, \$2795/mo, stove,
dishwasher, balcony, granite counter
tops, carpet and tiling flooring, wood
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6 MO./6 MO. ARM	5%*
<i>APR 7.24%</i>	
1 MO./1 MO. ARM	1%*
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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF RACHEL SLUCKI

Case No. BP103563

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be

Notices

interested in the will or estate, or both, of RACHEL SLUCKI

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

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Henry Slucki 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 18, 2007 at 8:30 AM in Dept. No. 11 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

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

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

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

Attorney for petitioner:
BARBARA BERGSTEIN ESQ
SBN 166032
BURGH BALIAN & BERGSTEIN LLP

15250 VENTURA BLVD

STE 1200

SHERMAN OAKS CA 91403

Santa Monica Daily Press

CN772936 SLUCKI Mar 26,27, Apr 2,

2007

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF WILLIAM A. STANCHEL, aka WILLIAM STANCHEL, aka W.A. STANCHEL

CASE NO. BP101710

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of WILLIAM A. STANCHEL, aka WILLIAM STANCHEL, aka W.A. STANCHEL A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Denise Weinstock in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles.

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

THE PETITION request 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 actions.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an

Notices

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 16, 2007 at 8:30 A.M. in Dept. 11 located at: 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

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

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the 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 section 9100 of the California Probate Code. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a formal 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.

Petitioner: Denise Weinstock
James M. Cox, SB# 117005
Attorney for Petitioner
WISE PEARCE YOCIS & SMITH
249 East Ocean Blvd., Suite 440
P.O. Box 22664
Long Beach, CA 90801-5664
Reporter# 106518

 Published in: Santa Monica Daily Press
 Pub Dates: March 27, 30, April 3, 2007

 Trustee Sale # CA08127099 Loan# 1000286621
 Order # 30052726 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 10/21/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 4/2/2007, at 11:30AM, MTC Financial Inc., dba Trustee Corps as the duly appointed Substituted Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded on 11/01/2005, as Instrument No. 05 2631416 Book No. , Page No. , of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Los Angeles, County, California, executed by, Mary Autera, an unmarried woman as Trustor, the Lender is Fremont Investments & Loan. The beneficiary is Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MERS is a separate corporation that is acting solely as a nominee for lender and lender's successor and assigns, as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state) At: At the front entrance to the Pomona Superior Courts Building, 350 West Mission Blvd., Pomona, CA The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". All right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County and State describing the land therein: A.P.N. #4292-008-052 Parcel 1: A) An undivided 1/23 interest in Lot 1 of tract No. 50894, in the City of Santa Monica, County of Los Angeles, State of California, as per map recorded in Book 1193 Pages 81 and 82 of maps, in the office of the County recorder of said County, except units 1 to 12 inclusive 12A and 14 to 23 inclusive, as shown and defined on the condominium plane recorded November 8, 1992 as Instrument No. 92-2141684, in said office of the County Recorder. B) Unit 21 as shown and defined on the Condominium plane referred to above. Parcel 2: The Exclusive and non-serverable easement to use parking space(s) 21 for vehicular parking purposes, as said spaces are shown and defined on the condominium plan referred to parcel 1 above. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 629 Idaho Ave #21, Santa Monica, CA. 90403 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Trustee's Sale is: \$661,648.26 (Estimated Amount). Accrued inter-

Notices

est and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The Beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to sell to be recorded in the County where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. Dated: 3/13/2007 Trustee Corps, as Successor Trustee By: Angela Lambert, Trustee Sales Officer Trustee Corps 2112 Business Center Drive, 2nd Floor Irvine, CA 92612 For Sale Information Contact: (714) 573-1965, (949) 252-8300 For Reinstatement/ Pay off requests contact: (949) 252-8300 xt. 181 P281000 3/13, 3/20, 03/27/2007

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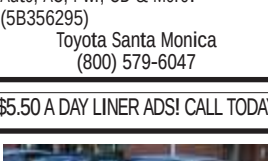
'05 Corolla \$11,995
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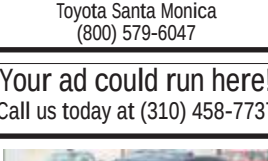
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Santa Monica Daily Press



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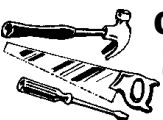


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