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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2007
Volume 6 Issue 116

Santa Monica Daily Press

ERRORS WERE MADE
SEE PAGE 14

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE GIDDY STAFF ISSUE



Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

ART LOVER: **A guest admires an art work installed at the sustainable and solar powered Civic Center Parking Structure during the grand opening reception on Tuesday. Different works of art are stationed on each floor of the structure to remind motorists where they parked.**

Windy day of honor

New parking structure debuts to SM public

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CIVIC CENTER With temperatures in the high 50s and winds blowing at 17 mph in certain parts of the city on Tuesday, the top of the city's new eight-level parking structure — known to be the most environmentally friendly garage in the country — felt more like December than March.

Undaunted, more than 60 people turned out to mark the grand opening of the mixed-use parking structure that is expected to be the first step toward giving the Civic Center area an extreme makeover.

With sweeping views of the ocean, the

SEE **PARKING** PAGE 12

As funny as a rubber chicken

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE An obese woman frets to her equally fat cat friend about weight problems over a cup of coffee and cake. The woman, Ellen, thinks she's gaining too much weight and is reassured by her feline companion, Windsor, that she looks fine.

A dietitian suggests that she eats several little meals rather than three large meals, and so she eats six meals a day. The talking bib-wearing cat remarks that six meals is actually a lot.

The comical dialogue between Ellen and Windsor continues for a few more seconds as the greeting card animation comes to an end.

The cake stuffing woman and her obese furry friend are just two of the 60 characters that bring smiles to the faces of more than 15,000 subscribers of Rubberchickencards.com, an animated greeting card Web site based out of Steve Rotblatt's California Avenue home.

With a cast of e-list actors — including Anne Cusack, the eldest of the Cusack acting clan, Adult Swim voice-over actor Fred Tatasciore, and Rotblatt who once starred as detective in Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure — the greeting card Web site has attracted a cult following since its inception in 2000.

For $20 a year, subscribers can have unlimited access to the database of greeting cards, which are customized for nearly every conceivable holiday including several Jewish days of celebration. The cartoons are about a minute long and are more akin to a short cartoon than a greeting card. Some cartoons discuss issues such as global warming and medical marijuana.

The idea to start an animation company came to Rotblatt, who grew up in Santa Monica, years ago when

SEE **CARDS** PAGE 13



Courtesy of rubberchickencards.com

SHUT IT!: **Various e-list actors provide the voices for the cartoons.**


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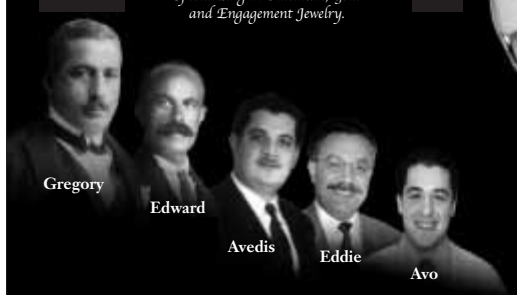

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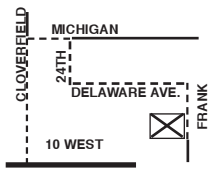


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

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 filmmaking. 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.

Thursday, March 29, 2007

'The Future of Farmers' Markets in California'
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
The Main Branch of the Santa Monica Library is the location for a panel discussion on the future of Californian farmers' markets. Speakers will include chefs, farmers and writers.

Intro to map and compass
402 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Learn the fundamentals of Map and Compass — from adventure racing to hiking to bird watching — at REI.

Yappy Hour @ Tails of Santa Monica
2912 Main St., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.
A social gathering for dogs and their people. There will be light refreshments, dog snacks and play time. For more information, call (310) 392-4300.

The 12 Steps for Everybody
16730 Bollinger Dr., Pacific Palisades, 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.
The 12 Steps for Everybody's writing-meeting is for all 12-Step programs or anyone with a habitual problem or illness in their lives. Call (310) 454-5138 or e-mail info@12stepsforeverybody.org.

'What's new this week'
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.
The Fairview Branch of the Santa Monica Library presents a weekly review and discussion of the week's key news stories, at home and abroad; moderated by Jack Nordhaus. Free and open to the public. For more information, call (310) 450-0443.

Kundalini yoga
2309 Main St., 2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
This class combines the science of movement, posture, breath, sound and meditation. Donations accepted. For more information, please visit www.shiatsumassageschool.org.

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.

CORRECTION

In my guest commentary in the March 27 issue ("It's not for a lack of effort ... well, it might be," March 27, page 11), "cojones" was repeatedly misspelled. The error was completely innocent and lacked any intent to infer, as the reader who caught the mistake mentioned, that residents of El Cajon, to Santa Monica's south, are denizens of "The Testicle."

Union OKs workers to walk out at Albertsons

BY ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES Thousands of Southern California grocery workers are prepared to go on strike against a major supermarket chain if contract talks reach an impasse, union officials said Monday.

Employees at the region's Albertsons chain voted overwhelmingly to give union leaders the authority to call a strike, said Mike Shimpock, a spokesman for the seven Southern California chapters of the United Food and Commercial Workers.

The vote, which was tallied late Sunday, did not set a definite date for a strike.

Still, it suggests grocery workers may be willing to undergo the hardships of a walk-out and possible lockout, despite the heavy toll the strategy took on them during a labor dispute in 2003.

"We don't want a strike," Shimpock said. "We know how traumatic it was for our members, but unfortunately we have been forced to take this step in order to bring the employers to the negotiating table to bargain seriously with us on this."

Three major supermarket chains are now in talks with the union — Supervalu Inc.'s Albertsons, Kroger Co.'s Ralphs and Safeway Inc.'s Vons. All criticized union leadership for its decision to ask members for permission to order a strike against Albertsons.

"For the unions to take a strike authorization vote at this stage is really disturbing," said Adena Tessler, a spokeswoman for the grocery chains. "It is frightening to the employees, it's alarming to the customers, and it certainly is not beneficial to the negotiation process."

The union locals decided to seek a strike authorization vote against Albertsons because it has been engaged in talks with the union since Jan. 17 — the longest of any of the chains, Shimpock said.

Three-year contracts covering 65,000

SEE STRIKE PAGE 11



Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

IN MEMORY: **Donors will have the opportunity to dedicate the placement of a city park bench thanks to a recent City Council resolution.**

Water fountains for fluffy?

SM residents will be allowed to dedicate memorials at city parks

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

PALISADES PARK Paying one's respects may be easier and a little less expensive thanks to a move by the City Council to offer residents more ways to memorialize a loved one or honor a special event, such as an anniversary or graduation.

Under changes to City Hall's park commemoration and tribute policy that were tentatively approved last week, residents will soon be able to contribute as little as $25 to the purchase of a new park bench, water fountain or tree and receive a special certificate acknowledging their gift.

Those who contribute enough money to pay for the entire cost of acquiring and installing the amenity, such as bleachers or picnic tables, would receive a plaque acknowledging the gift. Plaques would only be issued in designated areas where there is a need for a new amenity so as not to turn the entire city into a memorial park, said Elaine Polachek, City Hall's director of open space management.

A significant amenity shall be valued at more than $750.

"I want to make sure that folks who have an interest in dedicated benches or trees have their needs accommodated," Mayor Richard Bloom said. "There is a lot of flexibility in what is being proposed."

Plaques can already be found underneath benches at Palisades Park. There, one can find memorials for Wendy Lobel, M.W. "Bill" Downs and Ralph and Eileen Chambers alongside larger monuments celebrating the life of one of Santa Monica's founding fathers, John P. Jones, as well as contributions made by each branch of the armed services.

John Jacobs, who was visiting Santa Monica from San Francisco, said he liked the idea of the city offering people the chance to express publicly their love for a wife, son or even a family pet.

"If one has fond memories of a particular place or perhaps had a strong connection with the ocean or something like that, why not try to give them one last tribute," Jacobs said.

Elizabeth Burnside agrees, but only if there is some sort of regulation so that beautiful parks are not cluttered with rusty, old plaques that can be depressing.

"It's a park, not a cemetery," she said.

To ensure the character of the open space is maintained, city staff will only allow plaques in designated areas where they have been properly planned out, Polachek said.

Some areas under consideration include the front of tree wells as part of new streetscape projects on Second and Fourth Streets, 20th Street, Cloverfield Boulevard

SEE DEDICATE PAGE 11

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mural isn't the main point of building

Editor:

This letter is in response to the letter by Graciella Flores, who criticized the mural on CCSM's affordable housing building ("Ditch creepy mural," March 26, Page 4) The project is located at 26th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard.

According to the letter writer, the painting or mural on the side of the building depicts a "Caucasian-American" woman ... with a "Caucasian-American" man. Ms. Flores states there is a sexual connotation and that the two individuals portrayed do not reflect the "whole culture of Santa Monica."

The day the letter appeared in the SMDP, I was standing outside the CCSM building. Usually, I don't do a skin test of a mural, however, the letter prompted me to take a look. The male in the mural could be Caucasian or light-skinned Hispanic. The female is standing, not "swimming," in the ocean near the tideline. The female's back is turned, with no front facial recognition. Despite that the female has light reddish-colored hair, today she could represent any race or ethnicity.

My point is that it is a waste of energy to make such an exacting analysis of the outside mural, the paint tones and the position of the male and female. The CCSM building, which is multi-family, offers two- and three-bedroom interior units. Applicants who qualify will be screened, undoubtedly, with intention to diversify the occupancy.

My perception is that certain individuals, similar to the writer, like to preach, or maybe there is a feeling of oppression. Ms. Flores, respectfully, the suggestion I have is to not over-emphasize the outside of the building mural but to look inward, inside, and to be grateful for the low-income families who soon will benefit from this housing.

Richard Hilton
Santa Monica

Props for DP's Hanatani

Editor:

I'm writing to express our deep appreciation for Melody Hanatani's articles involving Olympic High School ("Rocking students learn music biz," March 16, page 11).

Melody has provided accurate and insightful coverage of our events, understanding the background of our students and the issues we encounter on a daily basis. She has also accommodated changes in appointments as they've occurred and is very articulate in her crafting of a very balanced and accurate story.

As a small continuation high school of 130 students, we're very appreciative of the positive attention the Santa Monica Daily Press has brought to our work as we strive to build a successful future for each and every student.

Janie Yuguchi Gates
Principal, Olympic High School

DP a little too 'cutesy '

Editor:

Am I the only one who finds some of your headlines slightly pun-ish and a little too cutesy? In a recent issue of the SMDP, "Dung diggity: More farmers turning to manure as fertilizer" (March 22, page 14) is one that falls under the too cutesy category. Cutesy in a newspaper (outside of the comic strip page or topping an article intended to be light and/or humorous) makes one not take the paper as seriously as it should be taken.

But that is your choice and we can live with it.

However, in the same issue there was the AP article on the sodium and fat content of Chinese cuisine with the following headline: "Me so unhealthy: Chinese cuisine gets taken to task." I am not Chinese, or even Asian, but I found the "me so unhealthy" to be offensive. If it was the AP writer's headline, you shouldn't have run it. If a staffer at SMDP wrote it, shame on you ... I would expect that the SMDP would be above such stereotyping.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Guest Commentary

Alex Epstein — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What to do about high gas prices?

IN RESPONSE TO RECENT RISES IN GAS prices, we are once again hearing calls for the government to "do something" to force prices lower. But no matter what the price of gasoline is, such calls are wrong. All market fluctuations in the price of gasoline, up or down, are a good thing — and none of the government's business.

When customers' demand for gasoline increases relative to the supply, the sellers of gasoline raise their prices. As the producers and owners of gasoline, this is their right — and we should be glad that they exercise it. Not only do price increases encourage future production, but without such price increases, we would very quickly see shortages as customer demand for cheap gasoline far outstripped the available supply. Thanks to price increases, we can ensure our continued access to gasoline to the extent we are willing to pay for it — i.e., to the extent we value it. Most of us are willing to pay $3 a gallon for a 15-mile office commute — but might not be for a 15-mile drive to our pet's beauty salon, and so our personal consumption voluntarily decreases as prices increase.

In the realm of business, a higher price means that firms will only purchase oil or gasoline to the extent that they can make profitable use of it at those prices. An efficient airline will still be able to offer low prices while using high-priced jet fuel; a less efficient airline may not be able to. A company in China or India that uses oil to run highly efficient factories can make profitable use of oil at $70 a barrel; their laggard competitors may not be able to. Since nearly every product we use involves oil at some stage of production, we all gain vast benefits from oil being directed toward its most profitable uses.

There is no moral or economic justification for any politician or consumer to declare market prices "too high," and to use the government to coerce lower prices. To do so violates both the rights of gasoline producers and their productive customers to set voluntary prices — and, in doing so, causes destructive shortages. When shortages exist, how much gasoline one is able to get depends not on one's willingness to pay a mutually agreeable price, but on one's political pull to secure rations, or on whether one has time on one's hands to wait in endless lines (as in the 1970s).

There is only one sense in which we are entitled to tell the government to "do something" about gasoline prices: insofar as these prices are made artificially high by the government's many regulations on oil and gasoline production.

Consider oil refining regulations. Various state governments impose the absurd mandate that companies refine nearly 60 different "blends" of gasoline — despite the fact that cars using today's standard unleaded gasoline, even with the overall increase in driving, pollute very little by historical standards. Additionally, endless red tape and "environmental impact studies" forced by regulators hostile to industrial development, make new construction dramatically less profitable. The costs of such regulations are huge and raise the price of gasoline; according to the American Petroleum Institute, "the refining industry has spent over $47 billion over the last decade to comply with environmental and fuels regulations — expenditures that generally yield little or no return on investment."

THERE IS ONLY ONE SENSE IN WHICH WE ARE ENTITLED TO TELL THE GOVERNMENT TO "DO SOMETHING" ABOUT GASOLINE PRICES: INSOFAR AS THESE PRICES ARE MADE ARTIFICIALLY HIGH BY THE GOVERNMENT'S MANY REGULATIONS ON OIL AND GASOLINE PRODUCTION.

Another costly set of regulations are those prohibiting domestic drilling on plentiful sources of oil. In the name of safeguarding a portion of the caribou habitat in an Alaskan wasteland, drilling is prohibited in ANWR — a potential source of 1 million barrels a day. Also off-limits is the entire Outer Continental Shelf of the United States — a far larger untapped source of oil. Chevron's recent discovery of an estimated 3 to 15 billion barrel reserve in the Gulf of Mexico invites the question: How many such troves are currently off-limits?

The government is right to take action if an oil company provably threatens or harms a person's property. But to impose huge costs on oil companies and their customers in the name of preserving untouched nature is unconscionable.

What should the government do about gasoline prices? Get its hands out of the market — and keep them off.

ALEX EPSTEIN is a junior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine. Contact the writer at media@aynrand.org.


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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

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

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

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

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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Earth Talk

By the editors of E Magazine

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

That burning sensation isn't so hot for planet

Dear EarthTalk:

I saw warnings on bags of charcoal that said carcinogens are released when the briquettes are burned. Is it safe to breathe in the smell of a charcoal grill?

Joe Sliwa

BARBECUE GRILLS CAN BE PROBLEMATIC for two reasons. First, both charcoal and wood burn "dirty," producing not only hydrocarbons but also tiny soot particles that pollute the air and can aggravate heart and lung problems. Secondly, the grilling of meat can form two kinds of potentially carcinogenic compounds: polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and heterocyclic amines (HCAs).

According to the American Cancer Society, PAHs form when fat from meat drips onto the charcoal. They then rise with the smoke and can get deposited on the food. They can also form directly on the food as it is charred. The hotter the temperature and the longer the meat cooks, the more HCAs are formed.

HCAs can also form on broiled and pan-fried beef, pork, foul and fish, not just on grilled meats. In fact, National Cancer Institute researchers have identified 17 different HCAs that result from cooking "muscle meats" and that may pose human cancer risks. Studies have also shown increased risk of colorectal, pancreatic and breast cancers associated with high intakes of well done, fried or barbequed meats.

According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Air Quality, Texans who like to say that they "live and breathe barbecue" may be doing just that to the detriment of their health. A 2003 study by scientists from Rice University found that microscopic bits of polyunsaturated fatty acids released into the atmosphere from cooking meat on backyard barbecues were helping to pollute the air in Houston. The city at times registers air quality levels that rank it one of the more polluted U.S. urban areas, though emissions from barbecues are certainly dwarfed by those generated by motor vehicles and industry.

Both briquettes and lump charcoal create air pollution. Lump charcoal, made from charred wood to add flavor, also contributes to deforestation and adds to the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Charcoal briquettes do have the benefit of being made partly from sawdust (a good use of waste wood), but popular brands may also contain coal dust, starch, sodium nitrate, limestone and borax.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

MEAT AND GREET: **Charcoal briquettes burn 'dirty,' producing tiny soot particles that pollute the air and that can aggravate heart and lung problems. The grilling of meat can also form two kinds of potentially carcinogenic compounds.**

In Canada, charcoal is now a restricted product under the Hazardous Products Act. According to the Canadian Department of Justice, charcoal briquettes in bags that are advertised, imported or sold in Canada must display a label warning of the potential hazards of the product. No such requirements presently exist in the United States.

Consumers can avoid exposure to these potentially harmful additives by sticking with so-called natural charcoal brands. Noram de Mexico's Sierra Madre 100 percent oak hardwood charcoal contains no coal, oil, limestone, starch, sawdust or petroleum products and, to boot, is certified by the Rainforest Alliance's SmartWood program as sustainably harvested. The product is available at select Sam's Clubs across the U.S. Other manufacturers of all natural charcoal include Greenlink and Lazzari, both of which can be found at natural food outlets across North America.

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

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 quesiton 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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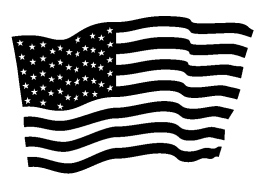
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Federal judge halts alfalfa planting

BY KIM CURTIS
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO A federal judge on Monday temporarily halted the planting of genetically engineered alfalfa across the country in response to a lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Farmers who already have purchased the herbicide-resistant alfalfa seed must plant it by March 30. No new sales of the seed will be allowed, according to U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer's preliminary injunction order.

Breyer ruled last month that federal authorities had failed to fully consider the public health, economic and environmental consequences before allowing the sale of Roundup Ready alfalfa. The Center for Food Safety had sued on behalf of farmers who complained the genetically engineered seed could contaminate organic and conventional alfalfa.

"Roundup Ready alfalfa poses threats to farmers, to our export markets and to the environment," said Will Rostov, spokesman for the Center for Food Safety, a nonprofit environmental advocacy group.

The genetically altered seed is produced by Monsanto Co. and Forage Genetics International. A call to the Idaho-based Forage Genetics seeking comment was referred to Monsanto, where a spokesman said he's disappointed by the temporary injunction but hopeful it wouldn't stand.

"We are hopeful that a reasoned approach in this matter will address questions about the regulatory approval process for Roundup Ready alfalfa," said Jerry Steiner, a Monsanto executive vice president.

Oral arguments on the Center for Food Safety's request for a permanent injunction were scheduled for April 27.

Monsanto spokesman Andrew Burchett said the company would not be hurt financially by the prohibition on the sale of the seed because "this is not one of our major crops."

About 200,000 acres of genetically modified alfalfa already has been planted across the U.S. The judge, in Monday's order, did not require those crops to be removed.

Roundup Ready Alfalfa can be grown only for hay and forage. Seed production is prohibited.

Alfalfa, which is used for livestock feed and can be planted in spring or fall, is a major crop grown on about 21 million acres in the country. California is the nation's largest alfalfa producer, growing the crop on about 1 million acres, primarily in the San Joaquin Valley.

Smugglers tempted U.S. border inspector with cash, cars and love

BY ALLISON HOFFMAN
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO The smugglers who lured border inspector Richard Elizalda into helping them sneak illegal immigrants from Mexico into the United States showered him with cash bribes and luxury cars, but love proved to be the ultimate temptation.

On Monday, Elizalda was sentenced to 57 months in federal prison for allowing smugglers associated with a woman he loved to drive hundreds of migrants through his border inspection lane.

Elizalda, who had already paid a $20,000 fine, also was sentenced to three years' probation.

"I know that I did something wrong," Elizalda told the court, his voice breaking. "I let my family down and I let the United States down — the people of the United States — and I'm sorry."

U.S. District Court Judge Larry A. Burns chastised Elizalda, a 10-year veteran of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, for doing "extraordinary things" to win the affections of an attractive and attentive woman who was also a smuggler.

"This is a terrible thing that you did," Burns said. "You're one of the gatekeepers of the safety and security of the United States and you abdicated that role."

Immediately remanded to custody, Elizalda sadly waved goodbye to a half-dozen family members.

Elizalda, 56, worked at the world's busiest border crossing, the San Ysidro Port of Entry between Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego. A former Marine who served in Vietnam, he was arrested last June after a two-year investigation by the Border Corruption Task Force, a multi-agency team that probes claims against officers at border crossings in California.

Investigators placed wiretaps on Elizalda's phones after receiving tips that he was involved in suspicious activities. According to federal prosecutors, Elizalda sent text messages directing drivers to his inspection lane at the San Ysidro border crossing and then waved them through.

In return, Elizalda received as much as $1,000 for each immigrant, taking as much as $120,000 in cash from smugglers starting in 2004. Agents seized $36,170 in cash from Elizalda's home, along with a 2000 Lexus and a 2005 BMW given to him by the ringleaders of the smuggling ring.

He also was rewarded with love — or at least the appearance of it. Elizalda's attorney, Eugene Iredale, described his client as someone who, in the midst of a separation, "was lonely and able to be seduced" by Raquel Arin, a leader of the smuggling ring.

Arin pleaded guilty and was sentenced earlier this year to 30 months in prison.

In September, Elizalda pleaded guilty to one count of accepting bribes as a public official and two counts of bringing illegal aliens into the country for financial gain.

A driver for the ring, Kenneth Web, was also sentenced Monday to 36 months.

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STATE BRIEFS

Seal Beach

Jury says mom should get $5 million

A jury said a Seal Beach mother whose young daughters were placed in foster care should get $4.9 million from Orange County for violating her parental rights.

Deanna Fogarty-Hardwick's daughters, 6 and 9 at the time, were taken away from her in 2000 based on fabricated and suppressed evidence from two social workers, the mother's lawyers said.

In a 10-2 decision Friday evening, jurors decided Fogarty-Hardwick's right to raise her children free of governmental interference had been violated, her attorney Shawn A. McMillan said.

"I had no idea that this would consume my life, and my children's lives, and my ex-husband's life for 6 1/2 years," Fogarty-Hardwick said Monday. "It was a struggle I would not wish on anyone."

The $4.9 million verdict included approximately $4.5 million in general damages against Orange County for providing inadequate training and/or supervision to the social workers and for showing deliberate indifference.

"In essence, the county saw what was going on and didn't do anything about it," McMillan said Monday.

Jurors return to Superior Court Judge Ronald Bauer's courtroom this week to consider punitive damages.

Attorney Glen Stebens, representing Orange County, declined to comment Monday. Dr. Michael Riley, the director of Children and Family Services for the Department of Social Services, said he learned of the verdict Monday.

"We were quite surprised," he said.

Fogarty-Hardwick said her children were taken away seven years ago and she was only allowed monitored visits with them for two years when they were placed first at Orangewood Children's Home and then with foster parents.

Her ex-husband was given custody of the children in 2002, and she was given visitation two weekends a month, she said. The woman now shares custody of her daughters with her ex-husband.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Temecula

Man allegedly solicits teen's nude pix on Internet

An Internet predator who allegedly convinced a 14-year-old girl to e-mail nude photographs was arrested and investigators said his Yahoo and MySpace accounts revealed at least 10 other victims.

Kevin Dale Pierce, 33, of Culver City claimed in messages to the Temecula teen that he was a 19-year-old art student at the University of California, Los Angeles, Sgt. Bill DeLuna of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department.

The girl's mother notified authorities that a man was soliciting nude pictures of her daughter, who was using her mother's e-mail address to communicate with Pierce, the sergeant said.

Pierce was arrested March 21 and booked for investigation of possession of child pornography after a search of his Culver City residence. He was released Saturday on $50,000 bond.

The girl's mother told investigators she received an e-mail from an address she didn't recognize thanking her for some photos. The message asked for more pictures and gave detailed instructions for poses.

"I need some with knees together and some knees apart ... remember to arch your shoulders and back," the e-mail read.

The girl sent about 50 photographs to Pierce over two months. At first, she wore a bikini or shorts in the photos, but he convinced her to take nude pictures claiming that he could not see her body as he needed to for his art class.

The girl told him she was only 14, but he assured her it was OK, the search warrant affidavit said.

DeLuna said examination of Pierce's Yahoo and MySpace accounts showed he had contacted at least 10 other teenage girls using the same act. None of the other victims were from the Riverside County area, he added.

DeLuna said there was no indication Pierce tried to meet any of the girls in person.

AP

Orange County

Agency gives disabled transit provider ultimatum

Orange County transit officials gave the company tasked with transporting disabled passengers 60 days to improve its on-time performance, or lose its $30 million-a-year contract.

The Orange County Transportation Authority's board members recommended during their Monday meeting that the agency begin mixing other companies' services with Veolia Transportation's to provide a smooth transition if the Illinois-based firm fails to improve its performance.

"If I could cut your contract right now, I would do it in a second and get you out of this county," Chairwoman Carolyn Cavecche said. "I think you've thumbed your noses at our disabled riders and our taxpayers."

The company's on-time performance has failed to meet the transportation authority's 94 percent standard, according to agency statistics.

Veolia President Michael D. Griffus disputed some of the report's conclusions, but apologized to the transit authority and disabled riders who needed transportation but were inconvenienced by the company.

"I think Veolia had some real bad startup problems," he said after the meeting.

AP

Orange County

Premier ballet company going out of business

Financial woes have forced Orange County's premier ballet company out of business, troupe directors said.

Ballet Pacifica's managers said Monday that the 45-year-old troupe has canceled its remaining programs for the year and that its training academy will close Friday.

AP





Market Matters

Brian Hepp
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Take advantage of a favorable situation

DESPITE A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR wealth-building, nearly one third of U.S. adults have not done anything in the past 12 months toward building their personal savings. This according to the most recent quarterly iteration of the A.G. Edwards Nest Egg Score Survey, which also says that 67 percent of adults believe personal choices have the greatest impact on their ability to build personal savings.

One third (33 percent) of survey respondents believe external factors such as the economy have a greater influence on their ability to build personal savings, which may explain why a full 31 percent took no action toward building their savings over the past year.

The March 2007 Nest Egg Score of 645 shows an eight-point increase from the December 2006 score. Compiled from a proprietary analysis of 12 factors, including government data and proprietary research, the quarterly Nest Egg Score is intended to show how well Americans are doing at saving and investing. Several factors contributed to the Score's improvement this quarter, including continued low unemployment and moderate inflation due primarily to declining energy prices.

But rather than take heart in the fact that the Nest Egg Score is improving, investors need to take action and make improvements in their savings behaviors so they can take advantage of this favorable economic climate. Even simple steps can get people back on track when it comes to their personal savings. To use a timely example, many taxpayers will be receiving a tax refund soon — if they haven't already — and a portion of that refund check could be set aside in a savings account of some kind.

Even those who do not plan to receive a tax refund can still make slight adjustments in their savings habits that can lead to potential long-term benefits. Employees who participate in a company-sponsored retirement plan should consider regularly increasing their contribution percentage to their plan. And others who don't participate in company plans can still open individual retirement plans and make regular contributions. In fact, now is the perfect time to contribute to such a plan as taxpayers could receive tax benefits for finalizing their contributions for the 2006 tax year.

To help us understand why the current economic environment is favorable for saving, the Nest Egg Score Survey data offer some interesting insights on several of the factors that contributed to the Score's increase this quarter. For one thing, the wealth-to-income ratio rose to its highest level during a five-year comparison period. Additionally, a decline in the cost of living also helped boost the Nest Egg Score and the unemployment rate remained at a five-year low. All these factors should put Americans in a good position to do something about their savings.

In addition to getting their own savings in gear, adults should also work to help younger generations establish good savings habits as well. Some of the Nest Egg Score Survey research suggests that some older adults waited until they secured their first job or got married before they started to think about building their own personal savings. But if these same adults encourage kids to start saving at an early age, these children will be much better off in the long run.

To illustrate with an example, if a 25-year-old invested $50 per month in a tax-deferred account, by the time he or she reached age 65 the account would be worth more than $175,000, assuming an 8 percent annual rate of return. But if they started saving the same amount at age 15, assuming the same 8 percent rate of return, the account would be worth $400,000 at age 65.*

For more information on the Nest Egg Score Survey, or to calculate your own personal Nest Egg Score, please visit www.agedwards.com/fc/brian.hepp.

**This hypothetical example is not representative of any specific product. The effects of taxes and commissions have not been included in the figures, which would lower the end results.*

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

Upgrading the homestead a good way to build equity

Safety upgrades and remodeling popular ways to add value

BY JAMES AND MORRIS CAREY
Associated Press Writers

The annual "Cost vs. Value" article published annually by Remodeling Magazine gives consumers a look at the average price — and the return on investment — of all the most popular types of remodels.

In 2005, the word was that the average return on a remodeling project was in the high 90 percentile. At the same time the average cost of a kitchen remodel nationwide was $108,000.

In 2006, the 19th annual cost vs. value report shows, housing sales slowed and remodeling did, too. The survey, published last November, said that returns on remodeling investment in 2006 had plummeted from the 90s to the 70s, a whopping 20 percent drop.

Remodeling is still going strong, but with the slowdown in new home sales, most consumers have become reluctant to invest in higher-end products — expensive finishes such as fancy faucets and flooring, for example.

The word among those in the industry is: Don't expect customers to pay $700 to $900 for a faucet, because the ones most desired now are closer to the middle in price, $200 to $300.

We have trouble believing that anyone would spend more than $200 on a faucet anyway.

Nonetheless, now you know the industry buzz.

Keep in mind that our faucet example also applies to finish choices folks are making as they remodel. Other features and finishes offered at the upper end of the price scale included expensive tile and custom hardwood floors, and bathrooms with fireplaces.

But is remodeling still a good investment?

You bet, as good as ever. However, you may want to think out exactly what you want to spend on your remodel before making the final decision. Currently, more modest investments in finish items are getting the best return.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS:

■ Before tackling any major remodeling project, first invest in safety upgrades. Make sure that your electrical and gas systems are in premium condition and that they comply with the most current electrical and plumbing codes. Ask your local building department to inspect your home and advise you on what repairs will make your home safest for you and your family. You may have to pay a small fee, but nothing like the cost of losing your home to a fire or an explosion.

REMODELING IS STILL GOING STRONG, BUT WITH THE SLOWDOWN IN NEW HOME SALES, MOST CONSUMERS HAVE BECOME RELUCTANT TO INVEST IN HIGHER-END PRODUCTS.

Don't forget smoke alarms and CO2 detectors. If you don't have them, add them. If you do have them, bring them up to date — smoke detectors stop detecting after 10 years.

■ Next, comes energy efficiency: Invest in compact fluorescent light bulbs, furnace cleaning and maintenance, and appliance replacement — new ones are a great deal less expensive to operate.

■ Finally, don't forget general home maintenance. A roof leak may cost $450 dollars to have repaired, but if left unchecked it could end up doing thousands of dollars in damage.

REMEMBER:

Safety, energy and maintenance repairs are not considered remodels. A remodel is not tax-deductible against a home's capital gain.

A repair is deductible. That's because a remodel is considered (by the government) as an improvement to conditions where a repair, even if it is an upgrade, brings the home back to its normal condition.

Once your home is safe, energy-efficient and properly maintained, remodel the master bath and kitchen. Of all possible remodels, they have always been top of the list.

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Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Mortgage market is taking a down turn

IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, A LOT OF NEWS has come out about the subprime meltdown. However, people want to know if it will affect them. About one in five loans is a subprime loan.

But what is a subprime loan?

Lenders, such as banks, have certain credit criteria that a borrower has to meet in order to receive a loan with a competitive rate. Obviously, not all borrower's meet this criteria, but need an option for obtaining a loan, typically with less favorable terms. These types of loans are known as subprime loans. A subprime borrower usually has a credit score in the low 600 range. Per the 2001 Expanded Guidance for Subprime Lending Programs, "Subprime borrowers typically have weakened credit histories that include payment delinquencies, and possible more severe problems such as charge-offs, judgments and bankruptcies."

Lenders over the last few years have continued to lower the credit criteria for subprime borrowers due to increased competition. This caused the subprime market to balloon due to easier borrower qualification. Many subprime borrowers received short-term fixed products that turn into adjustable loans.

The problem is that subprime loans are much riskier for lenders. Many lenders anticipate a certain level of default, but lately that default level has mushroomed to an even higher level. It is difficult to paint a clear, unbiased picture. On one hand, lenders are giving people an opportunity to own a home. On the other hand, the lender is charging a higher rate and offering terms that may not be advantageous for the borrower. For example, if a borrower came to a lender and did not meet the credit criteria for a market rate loan the lender may offer the borrower a loan with a higher rate. The borrower may be able to pay for the loan with the higher rate, but after two, three or five years that loan begins adjusting. If the borrower is just able to make the payment during the fixed period, when the loan becomes an adjustable the payment could raise 30, 40 or even 50 percent, making it impossible for the borrower to make the payment.

At the time of origination, the borrower may have thought that they would simply refinance. The problem is many of these subprime loans are turning into adjustable loans in the near future and the many property values have lowered. If you were a borrower that got a 100 percent financed loan and went to refinance, but learned your home is only worth 90 percent of what you paid, you would not be able to get out of the current loan without paying down a chunk of the principal.

This problem will only get worse in the near future and with rates continuing to move higher today, as compared to a few years ago, this will continue to play a big part in the real estate market. Also, subprime borrowers tend to default, or not make payments, on home loans more often than borrowers who meet the higher credit criteria. Each loan that goes into default means more capital reserves have to be placed aside by the lender. The more money the lenders have to place into a reserve account, the less money they can lend out. Many of the large subprime lenders in the news are not able to make new loans or even cover the losses from the current loans, forcing many of them into bankruptcy protection.

Today, there is talk on Capitol Hill about finding a solution for these subprime loans. It is possible the government may bail these homeowners out since no one wants millions of people losing their homes. The next few months may well be an interesting time in the political and economic areas. Many lenders are tightening their credit criteria and are preparing for the worst.

If you are a subprime borrower and making your next payment is becoming difficult, talk to the lender to see if they can help you avoid defaulting.

MIKE HEAYN is a Washington Mutual multifamily loan consultant. He can be reached at (310) 428-1342 or michael.heayn@wamu.net.

Families get nice price on rent

By the Associated Press

HONOLULU Japanese billionaire Genshiro Kawamoto has selected the first four of eight Native Hawaiian families that will each rent one of his multimillion-dollar homes in the exclusive oceanside Kahala area for $150 a month.

The low-income families could move into the furnished Kahala Avenue homes, purchased in 2005 for $2 million to $3.4 million each, as soon as this weekend.

"They will be living in heaven now," said Kawamoto, a 75-year-old real estate tycoon.

Among Kawamoto's four rental homes is one with five bedrooms and 5 1/2 bathrooms. The 6,489-square-foot home was built in 1989 and is more than three times larger than the average house on Oahu. It was purchased by Kawamoto in August 2005 for $3.4 million.

The families were selected from 3,000 people who wrote him in response to his plan announced in October to rent to low-income Hawaiians.

Kawamoto said it was difficult to choose families because there was so much interest. He also expects to select four more tenant families as early as next month.

He said he's renting the homes "because the affluent people can help the least fortunate people."

Kawamoto spent about $115 million to purchase 20 homes on Kahala Avenue since 2002. Many of the houses have been vacant since then. He plans to convert four to public museums displaying his collection of Western and Oriental art.

The plan hasn't been welcomed by everyone, including some of his neighbors, who have complained about the upkeep of the homes and the possibility of the area losing value.

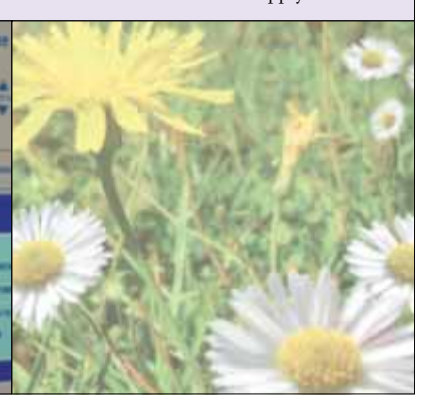
Kawamoto stirred up controversy beginning in the 1980s when he bought up 160 Oahu homes. He often rented them for well below market value and the homes were allowed to fall into disrepair. Kawamoto claimed his property managers failed to tell him of the problems.

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News reports bias jury in rape case

BY JENNIFER DOBNER
Associated Press Writer

ST. GEORGE, Utah The jury pool for the trial of a polygamist sect leader accused of ordering a 14-year-old girl to submit to sexual relations in a 2001 spiritual union with a cousin has been so biased by news reports that Warren Jeffs can't get a fair trial in southern Utah's Washington County, his lawyers contend.

Judge James L. Shumate was to hear arguments Tuesday during which Jeff's lawyers were to introduce polling data in support of their motion to move the trial to Salt Lake City, 270 miles north.

Jeffs, 51, has pleaded not guilty to two first-degree felony charges of rape as an accomplice. Prosecutors contend they can prove two instances when Jeffs used his position of trust as a prophet to prevail upon the girl to have sex with a 19-year-old cousin she testified she always hated.

The couple were then members of Jeffs' Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, an insular sect of nearly 10,000 which practices polygamy in arranged marriages. The majority of church members live in the twin border towns of Hildale, Utah, and Colorado City, Ariz., about 45 miles east of St. George.

Defense attorneys contend polls taken in early February show news reports have biased the county's jury pool. Data show 51 percent of 210 Washington County respondents believe Jeffs is "definitely guilty" of the charges.

In Salt Lake County, 39 percent of 206 respondents said Jeffs was "definitely guilty," according to court documents filed in 5th District Court. The survey was conducted Feb. 5-14 and has an error margin of 6.9 percentage points.

Respondents said they got most of their information about the case from the news media.

Salt Lake City pollster Dan Jones, who conducted the survey for the defense, was expected testify that the 13 percent split between counties is significant.

The estimated population of Salt Lake County is nearly 950,000 and Washington County is estimated at 118,000.

It was not known when Shumate would make a decision on the change of venue matter.

Earlier Tuesday, Shumate rejected a defense challenge to Utah's rape law. Jeffs' attorneys argued that the law was too vague to prosecute Jeffs.

The young woman has said she was unwilling but that Jeffs told her it was her religious duty to participate.

Wyoming Sun Dance case argued

BY BEN NEARY
Associated Press Writer

CHEYENNE, Wyo. A federal judge in Wyoming was wrong to dismiss criminal charges against a Northern Arapaho man who shot a bald eagle for use in his tribe's Sun Dance, federal prosecutors argue in papers filed last week.

U.S. Judge William Downes last October dismissed criminal charges against Winslow Friday. Friday and the Northern Arapaho Tribe had argued that the charges against him should be dismissed on the grounds that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service generally refuses to grant permits allowing tribal members to kill eagles even though federal regulations say the permits should be available.

The Northern Arapaho Tribe argued in Friday's case that federal records show more than 5,000 American Indians are on a waiting list to get eagle carcasses from a federal repository in Denver and that the wait is about 3½ years.

In his order, Downes said that while the federal government professes respect and admiration for accommodating the religious beliefs of American Indians, "its actions show callous indifference to such practices."

"It is clear to this court that the government has no intention of accommodating the religious beliefs of Native Americans except on its own terms and in its own good time," Downes wrote.

An attempt to reach Friday for comment on Tuesday was unsuccessful. In an interview last year, he said he had no regrets about killing the eagle.

"I'm going to say no, because of what I did with the bird," Friday said last year. "I participated in our Sun Dance. No, because that made me feel good in my heart."

Robert Rogers, an assistant federal public defender in Cheyenne who represents Friday, said he's sure "Indian Country will be watching the outcome of this case closely."

"There are other prosecutions going on, here and around the country, for Native Americans who are using eagle feathers in religious ceremonies," Rogers said Tuesday. "This case will be important for this region at least."

> **"THERE ARE OTHER PROSECUTIONS GOING ON, HERE AND AROUND THE COUNTRY, FOR NATIVE AMERICANS WHO ARE USING EAGLE FEATHERS IN RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES."**
>
> **Robert Rogers,** assistant federal public defender in Cheynenne

Lawyers with the U.S. Department of Justice filed a 50-page brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals in Denver last week arguing that Downes' ruling dismissing the charges was wrong.

"The district court erred in holding that Friday was not required to seek a permit because applying would have been futile," the government's brief states. "Both the Eagle Act and the regulations expressly provide for the availability of permits to take eagles for Indian religious purposes, and the record shows that take permits are in fact available and have been issued in short order."

To support their point, the federal lawyers filed an extra brief asking the appeals court to take notice of an eagle permit the Fish and Wildlife Service issued last October to the Jemez Eagle Watching Society, an American Indian group in New Mexico. The brief states the New Mexico permit reflects, "the indisputable fact that the FWS has permitted the take of eagles for Indian religious purposes."

The government also notes that both the Navajo and Hopi tribes in the Southwest receive annual permits from the federal government allowing tribal members to kill eagles, and that the Hopi permit allows an annual take of up to 40 eaglets.

The government argues that it can't allow every American Indian who says they need an eagle for religious purposes to shoot one. "The record in this case shows that allowing tribal members to take eagles for religious purposes without a permit would seriously compromise the Fish and Wildlife Service's ability to administer the Eagle Act and threaten the viability of the species," the brief states. The brief states that the National Eagle Repository receives almost 2,000 requests for whole eagles annually.

Harbormaster refuses to seize salmon fishing boats, quits

BY JEFF BARNARD
Associated Press Writer

CHARLESTON, Ore. Don Yost, harbormaster in Coos Bay for the past 18 years, was handed a list of seven salmon fishermen and instructed to seize their boats because they had fallen months behind in paying their mooring fees.

Yost, who knew every man on the list, quit rather than comply.

"I was directed to lock their boats up, put them up on dry land in the shipyard, and effectively end their livelihoods. And I — I drew the line," said Yost, who resigned in mid-February. "That's essentially the last nail in the proverbial coffin for them, and I wasn't going to be the one driving the nail."

Ultimately, the port's management backed off, but the blowup demonstrated how desperate things have become for salmon fishermen on the West Coast.

Nearly all salmon fishing was prohibited last year along 700 miles of the Oregon and California coast because of three straight years in which the numbers of spawning salmon returning to the Klamath River were low. The state of Oregon came up with $1 million in emergency relief that helped some fishermen stave off bankruptcy, but California offered nothing.



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DANCE TO THE BEAT

Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

Niancho Sanneh, from the Niancho Eniyaley group, an African dance and drum band, bangs on his djembe drum on Saturday at the Venice Windward Plaza.

Both parties to negotiate

FROM **STRIKE** PAGE 3

workers at 785 stores from San Luis Obispo and Bakersfield south to San Diego are now set to expire on April 9, but the pact has already been extended twice.

The current contract was reached in 2004 through collective bargaining between the chains and the union.

This time, the chains are negotiating separate contracts with the union, although representatives from all the parties are coordinating with each other. The Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service has been coordinating the discussions.

The union is pushing to reverse a two-tier wage system it agreed to after the dispute in 2003. The union said the wage system has kept most new workers from getting health care benefits.

Albertsons has 22,000 union workers at 249 stores in Southern California. More than 11,000 voted Sunday, with the majority authorizing the union to order a strike if need be, Shimpock said.

Because of prior agreements, the earliest that union employees at Albertsons could walk off the job would be April 13, Shimpock said.

After April 9, the supermarkets and union can agree to extend the existing contract on a daily basis or decide to cancel it by giving 72 hours notice.

Once the current contract is allowed to expire, the union is free to call a strike against Albertsons.

Remembering loved ones with a lasting memorial

FROM **DEDICATE** PAGE 3

and the Exposition Bike and Pedestrian path.

There could also be a tribute wall or other design element integrated into the new Civic Center, as well as room for small plaques embedded into replacement benches along Barnard Way Linear Park and Ocean Front Walk.

> **"IF ONE HAS FOND MEMORIES OF A PARTICULAR PLACE OR PERHAPS HAD A STRONG CONNECTION WITH THE OCEAN ... WHY NOT TRY TO GIVE THEM ONE LAST TRIBUTE."**
>
> John Jacobs
> visitor from San Francisco

In the early 1990s, the council approved a program at the park where people could purchase a bench and have it installed along with a memorial plaque. The program's popularity, along with concerns about the random placement of additional park benches to accommodate the demand, prompted the Recreation and Parks Commission and the council to draft a new policy in 1994.

Palisades Park reached capacity two years ago and city staff is no longer able to accommodate additional request.

In looking at neighboring municipalities, city staff found a range of options that could bring more money into Santa Monica for the maintenance of open space. Many cities offered not only options to commemorate those who have died, both human and animal, but other special occasions like birthdays and anniversaries.

Since the program is about paying tribute and building revenue streams to improve public recreational spaces, city staff recommended a standardized menu of simple tributes so as not to turn the plaques into a political medium.

Councilman Kevin McKeown raised a hypothetical situation which caused some staff members to scratch their heads. He asked whether or not it would be permissible to pay for a plaque that would read, "In memory of the 3,323 service people killed in Iraq."

A city attorney said that would most likely be allowed.

To let people know when a bench or tree becomes available for tribute, city staff intends to work with students from the Art Institute of Los Angeles, located in Santa Monica, to develop a professional, attractive marketing identity that can be used in all publicity and community outreach efforts.

Marketing strategies will include regularly publicizing program information, tribute opportunities, and a commemoration/tribute order form in Seascape — a city-run publication — and on the city's Web site, as well as running public service announcements on CityTV.

Other marketing strategies will be explored as well. Acknowledgments of donors and annual reports on donated items could also be published by the city.

It is important to note that materials or amenities that have been acquired through the tribute program will become property of City Hall and can be removed, relocated or replaced at any time.

kevinh@smdp.com



DEDICATION: **A plaque honoring a loved one is one of the many ways city officials are making available to residents to show appreciation for a loved one or special occasion.**
Fabian Lewkowicz
fabianl@smdp.com



New structure is LEED certified

FROM **PARKING** PAGE 1

Santa Monica skyline and the city of Los Angeles in the background, the guests — including architects from Moore, Ruble, Yudell Architects and city planners — mingled, congratulating each other on a job well done and enjoying a spread of snacks on plates and napkins made from sustainable materials.

"This is an incredible spot," said Councilman Kevin McKeown during his speech, motioning to the view of the ocean behind him.

The new parking lot will provide 882 parking spaces in an area where it's desperately needed, with the Civic Center, Santa Monica Courthouse, Public Safety Facility and City Hall all within walking distance.

Located at 333 Civic Center Drive, ground was broken on the project 18 months ago and completed for $29 million. It's considered to be a piece of the puzzle that is the massive renovation of the Civic Center area — a puzzle that includes an arboretum, a soccer field, renovation of the Civic Center auditorium and affordable housing.

The 298,786-square foot structure will include approximately 9,457 square feet of commercial and retail space, with a restaurant occupying the second floor outdoor plaza.

Perhaps one of the main reasons why many of the city officials and project planners were beaming with pride is what lies ahead for the product of all their hard work — certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) from the United States Green Building Council, which should make it the first parking garage in the nation to achieve such standing.



Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

CITY HEAVY WEIGHTS: **Santa Monica City Councilmen Kevin McKeown, center, and Robert Holbrook review some of the handy work during the grand opening of the sustainable and solar powered Civic Center Parking Structure on Tuesday, March 27.**

Approximately $1.5 million of the total cost was spent on sustainable elements, including solar panels on the roof level, which will generate 181,000 watts of renewable power, and a storm drain system that will filter runoff before it is sent to the bay. The building was also made from recycled construction materials, and will accommodate seven electric vehicles with charging stations.

There are currently five LEED certified buildings in the city. The city of Los Angeles, which has 40 times the population as Santa Monica, has only six LEED certified structures.

Part of the focus with designing the parking structure was to make it more than a building where people could park their cars, a veritable gateway to the Santa Monica Civic Center and all that is to come in the future.

"It's important that this building is a complement and benefit to the Civic Center rather than a concrete parking structure," said Laura Friedman, the city's architect.

Art was also an important feature, with colorful paneling on the exterior of the structure and art pieces installed at the elevator bay on each floor. The panels are intended to signify the sunrise to the east and the ocean to the west. At night, the color panels are illuminated.

On each floor, Glendale-based artist Mark Lere installed a sculpture in front of the elevator, which should remind people where they parked their car, from the gigantic ball of twine on the first floor to the gray diamond on the third to the large tire on the roof.

"You don't have an excuse not to remember what floor you were on," Lere said.

Art is meant to alleviate the fears of a dark parking structure, especially for women who might find themselves walking in the garage alone.

"Parking structures are serious and sometimes scary places," Lere said. "One of the things I tried to do is add humor to it."

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WINDS OF CHANGE

Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

Alayha Aquarian, left, and Lily Silver have their hair mussed by the wind during the grand opening reception on the rooftop of the sustainable and solar powered Civic Center Parking Structure on Tuesday. A brief storm blew through the area, but conditions should stabilize Wednesday according to the National Weather Service.

Greeting card company attracts subscribers

FROM CARDS PAGE 1

he was sitting in a small warehouse that he had leased for six months to concentrate on his writing. The actor decided to start writing after he had noticed that many struggling actors were not making enough money to even cover "fun" expenses.

So he started to write, creating screenplays and eventually greeting card mock-ups. He sent 10 greeting card samples to 10 companies and received contract offers from two of the major companies — Recycled Paper Greetings and Paper Moon.

> **"I FEEL LIKE I CAN USE MY WILDEST IMAGINATION AND BRING IN ANYTHING AND THEY'RE OPEN TO TRYING ALL SORTS OF THINGS."**
>
> **Melissa van der Schyff**
> Santa Monica actress

After working with Recycled Paper Greetings for about five years, Rotblatt decided to leave the business and branch out on his own.

"I knew they were making a lot of money (on my cards) but I didn't make very much," Rotblatt said.

He enrolled in the animation program at UCLA and graduated in 2000. Fresh out of graduate school, Rotblatt partnered with his buddy Richard Zobeo and started Rubberchickencards.com. Zobeo passed away a few years ago.

"If you're having a bad day and I answer [the phone saying] 'Rubberchickencards.com,' that's pretty cool," Rotblatt said on naming the company.

It takes about 15 hours to create one card. All the ideas are generated by Rotblatt and his friends. The dialogue is a combination of script and improvisation.

"I just think of things that make me laugh and I call up my actor friends," he said on the thought process that goes into the creation of a card.

Many of the actors either met Rotblatt in graduate school or were later introduced to him through mutual friends, which was the case for Melissa van der Schyff of Santa Monica.

The voice-over actress has worked as an actor and singer in the past and has a Broadway show to her credit. She was just getting off to a start in her voice-over career when she met Rotblatt.

"I really appreciate the creativity of everybody that works for him," she said. "I feel like I can use my wildest imagination and bring in anything and they're open to trying all sorts of things."

Some of the actors come from comedic backgrounds, including Tatasciore who met Rotblatt while they were both students at UCLA. A former student of the Groundlings comedy troupe, Tatasciore has appeared in "Family Guy," "American Dad" and "Robot Chicken" on the Adult Swim segment of Cartoon Network. His background in improvisation has helped him develop characters for Rubberchickencards.com.



Courtesy of rubberchickencards.com

DO I LOOK FAT?: **Ellen asks her feline friend Windsor if she looks heavier in this card.**

Their greeting cards are appreciated around the world according to company insiders.

Rotblatt was sitting at his computer one day when he received an e-mail from Rabbi Moshe Ya'akov Scholnick in Jerusalem, complimenting Rubberchickencards.com.

They began correspondence and eventually met in Miami a few years ago for lunch.

A few months later, the rabbi wrote Rotblatt another e-mail saying that he was sitting in a cafe in Jerusalem with about 15 friends and were laughing at a Rubberchickencards.com cartoon.

"We started this business in a bedroom in Silverlake with no money and we're reaching people all over the world and making them laugh," Rotblatt said.

melodyh@smdp.com

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Army officers made critical errors

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Nine high-ranking Army officers, including four generals, made critical errors in reporting the friendly fire death of Army Ranger Pat Tillman in Afghanistan, but there was no criminal wrongdoing in the shooting of the former NFL player, the military concluded Monday.

In releasing a pair of reports on the 2004 killing, however, defense officials did not rule out that criminal violations may have been committed by officers who provided misleading information as the military investigated the killing. While saying they believed there was no orchestrated cover-up, they left the decision on whether crimes occurred to the Army.

Army and Defense Department investigators said officers looking into Tillman's death passed along misleading and inaccurate information and delayed reporting their belief that Tillman was killed by fellow Rangers.

The investigators recommended that the Army take action against the officers, but suggested no specific punishments and left it to the Army to decide what to do. Possible steps could include demotions, dishonorable discharges, jail or letters of reprimand.

Acting Army Secretary Peter Geren has asked Gen. William Wallace, who oversees training for the Army, to review the actions of the officers and to provide a progress report in 30 days. The Army will take corrective action and hold people accountable, said Geren, who also issued an apology.

> **"OUR FAILURE IN FULFILLING THIS DUTY BROUGHT DISCREDIT TO THE ARMY AND COMPOUNDED THE GRIEF SUFFERED BY THE TILLMAN FAMILY."**
>
> **Peter Geren,** Acting Army Secretary

"We as an Army failed in our duty to the Tillman family, the duty we owe to all the families of our fallen soldiers: Give them the truth, the best we know it, as fast as we can," Geren told reporters at the Pentagon. "Our failure in fulfilling this duty brought discredit to the Army and compounded the grief suffered by the Tillman family. For that, on behalf of the Army, I apologize to the Tillman family."

Using photographs, charts and a video reenactment of the day's events, investigators at the Pentagon walked reporters through a minute-by-minute accounting of Tillman's death in the rocky Afghanistan hills on April 22, 2004.

The sometimes gruesome briefing described Tillman's frantic efforts to signal the shooters to stop the firing. Brig. Gen. Rodney L. Johnson of the Army Criminal Investigation Command said the investigation found no basis to believe the shooting was criminal.

"We determined that neither a negligent homicide or aggravated assault occurred in the shooting deaths and woundings of Corporal Tillman and the others," Johnson said. "The manner of death was accidental." An Afghan fighter with him was killed and two other U.S. soldiers were wounded.

Though dozens of soldiers knew quickly that Tillman had been killed by his fellow troops, the Army said initially that he was killed by enemy gunfire when he led his team to help another group of ambushed soldiers. It was five weeks before his family was told the truth, a delay the Army has blamed on procedural mistakes.

"We thought there was never an attempt to cover up that we saw," Defense Department Acting Inspector General Thomas F. Gimble said during a Pentagon briefing as the military released two reports, one by the Army Criminal Investigation Command and the other by the inspector general.

Tillman's death received worldwide attention because he had walked away from a huge contract with the National Football League's Arizona Cardinals to enlist in the Army after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The reports' release comes as the Bush administration is under widespread fire for its handling of the war in Iraq, though the conflict in Afghanistan has been more broadly supported.

Coming under the heaviest criticism was Lt. Gen. Philip Kensinger, the now-retired three-star general who was in charge of Army special operations.

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BASEBALL

Dodgers trade Dessens to Brewers for Clark

By the Associated Press

PHOENIX The Los Angeles Dodgers, seeking a right-handed hitting outfielder because of a potential season-ending injury to Jason Repko, acquired Brady Clark and cash from the Milwaukee Brewers on Monday for reliever Elmer Dessens.

The 33-year-old Clark has a .278 career batting average over seven seasons with Cincinnati, the New York Mets and Milwaukee. He appeared in 125 or more games in each of the past four seasons with the Brewers. He hit .263 with four homers and 29 RBIs in 138 games last season — a year after batting .306 with 183 hits.

"What this gives us is a very capable player to replace Jason Repko, a right-handed batter who can play all three spots," Dodgers general manager Ned Colletti said. "When Repko went down, it left us very left-handed in the outfield and also less versatile."

Repko will have surgery Wednesday in Los Angeles and is probably out for the season. An MRI showed he tore two hamstring tendons off his pelvis bone in an injury that occurred while he was chasing a fly ball last Thursday.

"The prognosis is good, the timeframe is bad," Dodgers trainer Stan Conte said. "This requires the tendon to re-grow back to the bone and that takes a period of time of simple rest, unfortunately. He will be out a minimum of five months, so he will essentially miss the season."

Dodgers shortstop Rafael Furcal received better news Monday, but he still might not be ready for opening day because of a sprained ankle.

"He is recovering incredibly quickly, much quicker than I thought," Conte said. "We still have a long way to go, but the timeframe is unpredictable."

Furcal thinks he will be ready physically by next Monday, when the Dodgers play their opener at Milwaukee.

"I don't need that many at-bats before we start," he said.

Left-hander Hong Chih-Kuo, who has not thrown a ball since a start last Wednesday, likely will not compete for three to four weeks because an MRI showed a muscle strain below the back of his shoulder. Kuo will likely have another MRI next week to see how much the injury has healed, but he will remain in Florida until he is ready to begin throwing again.

> **"WHAT THIS GIVES US IS A VERY CAPABLE PLAYER TO REPLACE JASON REPKO, A RIGHT-HANDED BATTER WHO CAN PLAY ALL THREE SPOTS."**
>
> **Ned Colletti**
> Dodgers general manager

The Dodgers will pay Clark the $1.7 million they were set to pay Dessens, and the Brewers gave them $2.1 million to cover the difference from what Clark would have made in Milwaukee. Clark has appeared in 286 games in center field, 238 in right and 75 in left during his career.

After attending the University of San Diego, Clark began his career in the Cincinnati organization and made his big league debut in 2000. He was traded to the Mets in 2002 and claimed off waivers by Milwaukee the following year.

The 36-year-old Dessens has a 46-59 record and 4.41 ERA with Pittsburgh, Arizona, Los Angeles and Kansas City. In parts of three seasons with the Dodgers, he appeared in 59 games, six of them starts, and went 2-3 with a 3.74 ERA.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Afflalo looks for a better result against Gators this time around

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Arron Afflalo is getting just what he wanted — another shot at Florida.

The UCLA star has vivid memories of the Gators' 73-57 victory over the Bruins in the NCAA championship game last spring, and they aren't pleasant.

"It was horrible, not the game itself, but the thought of losing," Afflalo said Monday on a conference call. "Winners and people who do things special are never forgotten. Second-best is not good enough. It was very painful that night."

Even a year later, Afflalo doesn't appear to see the upside concerning what his team accomplished on its first trip to the Final Four since 1995.

"I hate to lose and I like to win. I hate losing more than I like winning," he said. "I'm very competitive when it comes to a lot of things, but especially basketball. No one was happy with the season we had last year, especially with the effort in that last game."

The Bruins (30-5) and Gators (33-5) meet again Saturday, this time in the national semifinals at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta after Ohio State (34-3) faces Georgetown (30-6). The winners play Monday night for the championship.

"Now that it's here, it's a great thing," Afflalo said of playing Florida again. "It gives us a chance to kill two birds with one stone in a sense — a chance at revenge and moving toward the championship.

"Obviously to play the team that beat you in the championship game adds a little incentive, a little motivation for you. Hopefully we feed off that as a team and use that to our advantage."

Bruins coach Ben Howland said his team played its best game of the season in beating Kansas 68-55 to reach the Final Four.

"We have to play better because we're playing the best team in the country," he said of Saturday's matchup.

"It's going to be very difficult. We have to take it to a new level to have a chance to advance."



SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 57°**

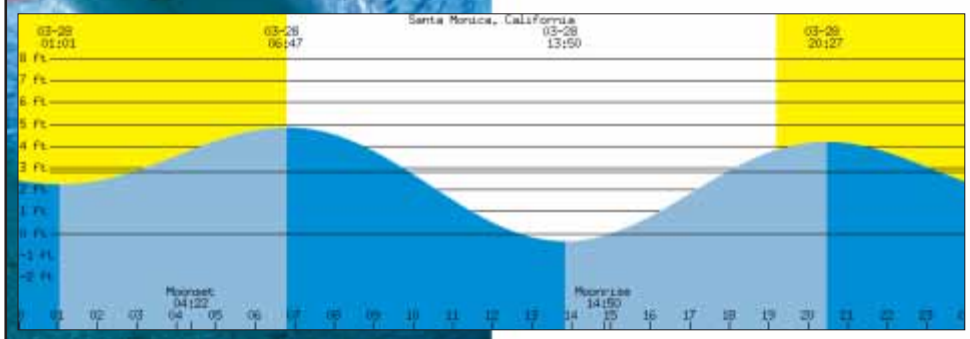
SWELL FORECAST (6-10 FT)

Today should see the peak of the NW swell that's building along the coast today. This swell though will peak before dawn, leaving some overhead conditions in the AM, but declining throughout the day. Although winds should shift to offshore, they could still be problematic from the north.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SOUTHERN HEMI SWELLS BEGIN HITTING THE COAST SUNDAY... TRACKING NW FOR NEXT WEEK AS WELL...

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**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 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 Ford

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	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
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	B	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	B	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco 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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Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card℠ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

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

Muster up some fun, Aries

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)
★★★★ You might be unusually verbal about what you think and feel. Sometimes, and perhaps now, it might behoove you to head in a different direction. Act and be master of your destiny. Remain focused and sincere about end results. Tonight: Muster up some fun.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You come from a secure position. You might find that your good faith and ability to understand what others think or feel open up doors. Let good vibes float through your home and personal life. Tonight: Happy at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Touch base with others. Discussions surround daily matters and communication. You might feel a bit out of kilter when dealing with someone who seems heavy or doctrinaire. Listen to what is being said. Tonight: Have a serious talk.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You are looking at gains and long-term decisions. You might not be able to make a difference, even if you want to. Consider more carefully options that surround your daily life. Think positively. Tonight: Take a hard look at your budget.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You are full of fire and get-up-and-go. You have a serious side as well, which will manifest later in the day. Creativity and changes merge. Though you might not feel totally comfortable with what goes down, you'll ride through a situation. Tonight: Happy as a cat.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★ Take your time making a decision. If you move too quickly, you'll get results you'd prefer not to experience. You could be a bit down or depressed. You are overly serious and withdrawn. Take your time. Tonight: You need some personal time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Aim for more of what you want. Somehow, you could feel a bit crazy and out of sync. A meeting or group of associates could be a drag, but you do need to listen and think. You could be overly serious or drawn. Tonight: Make weekend plans.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Think positively and consider what might happen. You might be overly burdened or tired. Know when to consider your options. Your sense of humor comes into play. Examine the bottom line. Some details might not change. Tonight: Happy wherever you are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Taking an overview might not always be easy or helpful. As you seek out more information, you could hit obstacle upon obstacle. Reveal your interests and direction if need be. Being secretive might not behoove you. Tonight: Take in new views.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might find that you are heading in the wrong direction, and quickly at that. You might want to revise your thinking and redo or revamp a situation involving a partner. You cannot be right all the time. Tonight: Say "yes."

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Others certainly appear to be in control, whether you like it or not. Loosen up and work with an existing situation rather than fight it. You find answers where you least expect them. Openness pays off. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Your easy attitude and fun-loving nature help others respond and make their point. You have a lot going on professionally. Tension builds to a new level. Your directness about a money matter needs to be your trademark. Others will listen. Tonight: Off for a walk or get some exercise.

Born Today

Singer Reba McEntire (1955)
Actress Dianne Wiest (1948)
Novelist Maxim Gorky (1868)

Happy Birthday!

How you deal with others can define your year and your relationships. You can be positive and encouraging, or you could be high-strung and nervous. Though you cannot control others and their responses, you can and certainly will evoke different reactions given a different attitude. When there is a problem, consider if you might be off-kilter. Hold up a mirror. An attitude adjustment just might be necessary. If you are single, you enter a new bond, which could quickly become more difficult or testy than you anticipate. If you are attached, your bond cements through a mutual commitment.

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com
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Anorexia scare

Versace's 20-year-old daughter having issues

DONATELLA VERSACE'S 20-year-old daughter, Allegra, is undergoing treatment for anorexia, the fashion designer said Tuesday.

"Our daughter, Allegra, has been battling anorexia, a very serious disease, for many years," Versace and Paul Beck said in a statement released by spokesman Robert Zimmerman.

"She is receiving the best medical care possible to help overcome this illness and is responding well. As parents, we are doing our best to protect our daughter. However, due to numerous media reports, we want to let everyone know that we appreciate their concern for Allegra, and we ask that her privacy be respected at this time."

Versace, 51, first confirmed the news to syndicated entertainment show "The Insider" on Tuesday following recent media speculation and Internet chatter about her daughter's gaunt appearance.

Versace, the sister of the late designer Gianna Versace, and Beck are legally separated, Zimmerman said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEIBOVITZ TO SHOOT QUEEN

ANNIE LEIBOVITZ will take the official photograph for Queen Elizabeth II's state visit to the United States, Buckingham Palace said Tuesday.

The photograph will be shot at the palace in the next few days. It will be released the day before the queen leaves for a six-day visit to the United States in early May, the palace said.

Leibovitz said the portrait would be "very formal and painterly" and that she was in negotiation with the palace over what the queen would wear.

"I feel like I'm a documentarian and want to take a very simple portrait," Leibovitz said in the palace's portrait room, which featured photographs of the queen riding horseback with President Reagan and ballroom dancing with President Ford.

Leibovitz was among some 300 guests invited to the palace for a reception for Americans working in Britain. Supermodel Jerry Hall, actor Don Johnson and U.S Ambassador Robert Tuttle also attended.

It will be the queen's fourth state visit to the United States, coming 50 years after her first one, when she was a guest of President Eisenhower.

Buckingham Palace has said the monarch and her husband, Prince Philip, would visit the United States from May 3 to May 8.

The queen will be in Virginia on May 3-4 to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement, the first permanent English settlement in the New World.

She is scheduled to attend the Kentucky Derby on May 5 and will then travel to Washington to meet President Bush and his wife, Laura.

AP

Wynonna Judd files for divorce

WYNONNA JUDD said she filed for divorce Tuesday from her estranged husband, Dan R. Roach, after his arrest in Texas on sex charges involving a minor.

Roach was arrested Thursday in Abilene and charged with three counts of aggravated sexual battery against a child younger than 13, according to Nashville police.

He was expected to be extradited to Nashville, said police spokesman Don Aaron.

"I am obviously devastated," Judd said in a statement posted on her Web site. "Our family will pull together, begin the healing process and hopefully — by the Grace of God — become stronger. We will move forward with our faith, family and our friends to find resolution to this difficult situation."

The couple were married in November 2003.

Judd said she cited irreconcilable differences as a reason for divorce. A copy of the filing wasn't immediately available.

Roach had been receiving treatment for drug and alcohol addiction at a rehabilitation clinic in Buffalo Gap, Texas, since Feb. 21, Judd said.

The 42-year-old country singer has sold nearly 30 million albums as a solo artist. She sang with her mother, Naomi Judd, as the duo The Judds. Her solo hits include "No One Else on Earth" and "I Saw the Light."

AP

Lobbyist Valenti hospitalized after stroke

Former Hollywood lobbyist and presidential adviser JACK VALENTI has been hospitalized after suffering a stroke.

Valenti, 85, had the stroke last week and remains at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center in Baltimore, according to a statement issued by longtime friend Barry Meyer, chairman and chief executive of Warner Bros.

"His family tells me that the doctors are encouraged by his progress," Meyer said.

No further details would be released, he said.

Valenti is the former president of the Motion Picture Association of America, where he devised the ratings system for films. He also served as an adviser to President Johnson.

With a shock of white hair, Texas drawl and cowboy boots, the diminutive Valenti was a force to be reckoned with at congressional hearings or Hollywood gatherings when he represented the motion picture industry.

Valenti was tapped to head the MPAA in 1966 by legendary Hollywood power broker Lew Wasserman.

In 1968, in the wake of cries for movie censorship, he abolished the outdated Hays Code and instituted the voluntary ratings system designed to guide parents with labels such as "G" and "R."

Valenti retired from the MPAA in 2004 and was succeeded by Dan Glickman, a former Kansas lawmaker and agriculture secretary under President Clinton.

Valenti got his start as an aide to then-Vice President Johnson. He was riding in the presidential motorcade on Nov. 22, 1963, the day President Kennedy was assassinated.

Valenti was whisked aboard Air Force One for Johnson's famous flight back to Washington, and was drafted as a special assistant to the new president.

AP

Cruz estate's executor given the boot

A state judge has removed one of the executors handling the affairs of the late Celia Cruz and ordered him to provide details on any deals he made regarding the singer, beloved as the "Queen of Salsa."

Superior Court Judge Peter E. Doyne, who sits in Hackensack, gave Luis Falcon two months to provide an inventory and appraisal of the estate's assets.

The judge's order stopped short of finding that Falcon had violated his financial obligations to the estate, but that issue could be revisited if Falcon fails to make an accounting.

Omer Pardillo, the other executor for the Cruz estate, had charged that Falcon was draining the estate's assets. Both men were named in Cruz's will to oversee her estate.

Pardillo had been joined in the effort by a court-appointed law guardian to represent Cruz's ailing husband, trumpeter Pedro Knight, who later died.

The judge's order was filed Friday and made public Tuesday by Pardillo lawyer Gilberto M. Garcia.

Garcia said Falcon wasn't represented by a lawyer in the dispute, and messages left at numbers he provided for Falcon in California weren't immediately returned Tuesday.

Pardillo claimed in a lawsuit filed last year that Falcon had siphoned funds from accounts for Knight, made "extravagant expenditures" and failed to account for transfers of more than $1 million from Cruz's estate.

Cruz died in 2003 at age 77 of a brain tumor. She rose to fame in the 1950s with Afro-Cuban group La Sonora Matancera, but left Cuba after the 1959 revolution. The Grammy-winning performer recorded over 70 albums.

She named Knight her sole beneficiary in her will, the lawsuit said.

Pardillo accused Falcon of exercising improper influence over Knight, who was 85 and suffering from dementia, the suit claimed.

AP

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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
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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

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

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

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

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

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
GOLD

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

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

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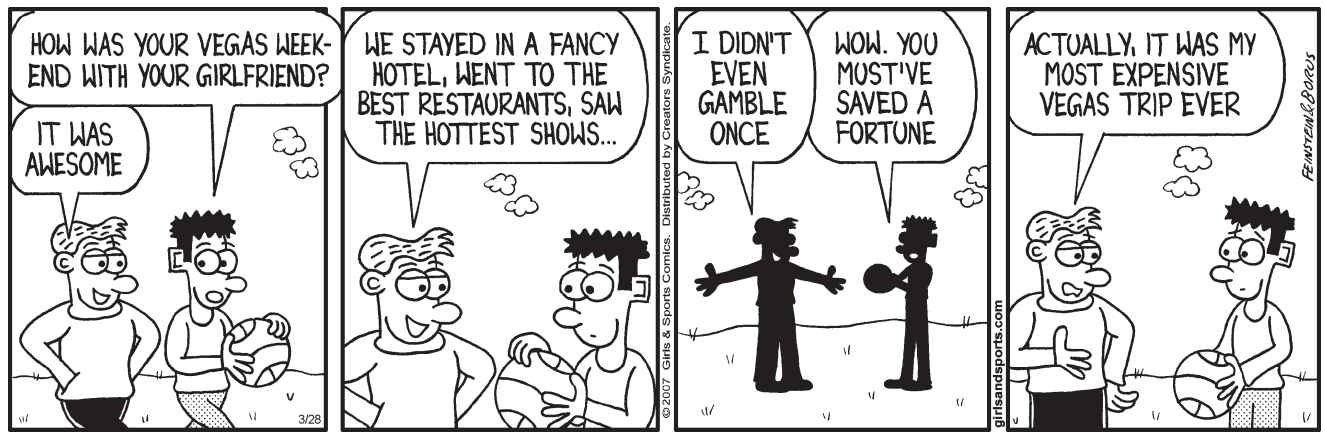
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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



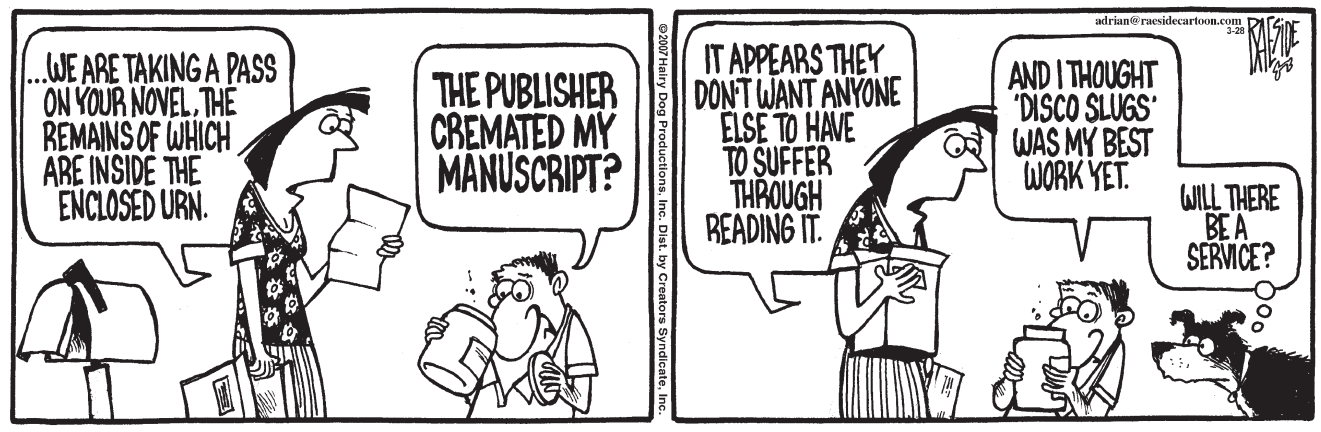
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



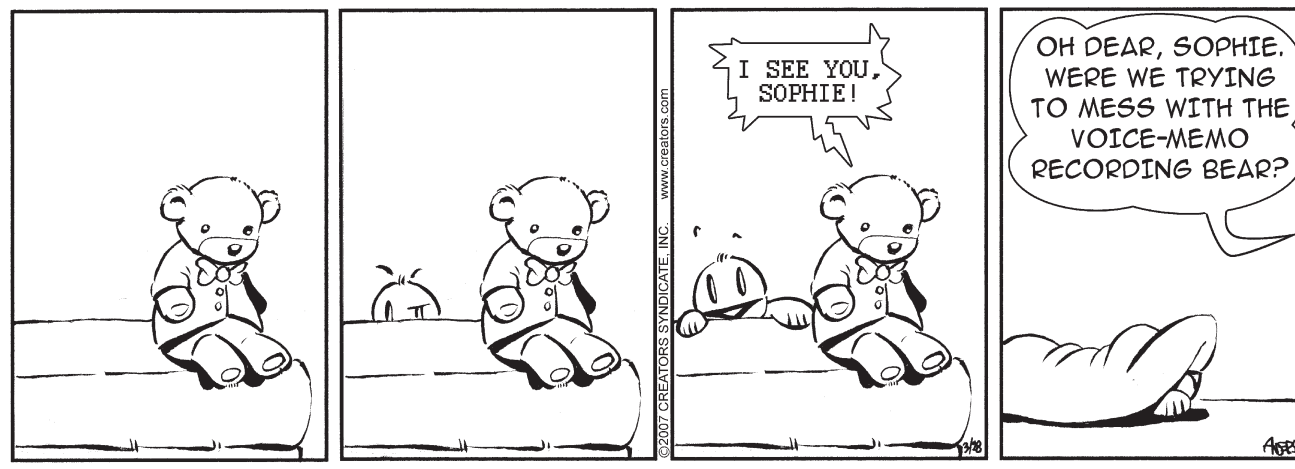
Garfield

By Jim Davis

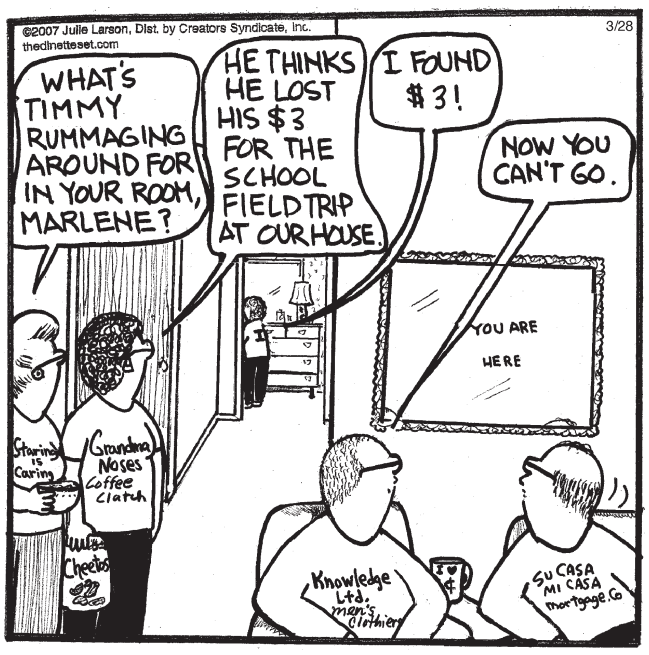


Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

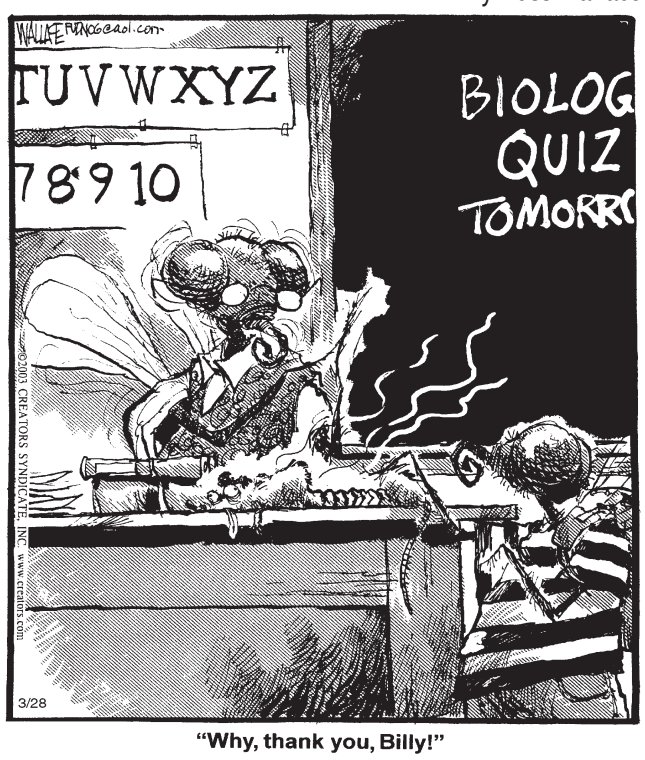


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Natural Selection

By Russ Wallace



"Why, thank you, Billy!"

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Tube tops
5 Salon sound
9 Yard-stick's kin
11 Tea cake
12 Seething
13 Complete
14 Tofu base
15 HBO crime series
17 Movie teaser
19 Pool need
20 Bowl
21 Obtain
22 Relish
24 Touch lightly
26 Singer Piaf
29 Dallas player, for short
30 Peter Benchley novel
32 Boxing combos
34 Jelly buy
35 Spokes
36 Old treaty org.
38 In the thick of
39 Building wing
40 Rural road
41 Flat-bottomed boat

DOWN

1 Like fresh celery
2 Dawn goddess
3 Athlete
4 Ready to go
5 Flat-bottomed boat
6 Catch sight of
7 Needing change
8 Marti-nique volcano
10 Eye part
11 Simmer
16 Dismissal
18 Suit piece
21 Cross-word part
23 Texas city
24 Canal setting
25 Photog-rapher Richard
27 Selena's music
28 Gat
29 Fable finish
30 Tree bit
31 Stand-in
33 Fork feature
37 Wrap up

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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			

3-28

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
18 25 34 35 42
Meganumber: 6
Jackpot: $60M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
9 16 29 43 46
Meganumber: 14
Jackpot: $11M

Fantasy 5
2 12 20 28 37

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 0 9 8
EVENING: 0 9 2

DAILY DERBY
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1.41.55

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Retired German farmer Karl Szmolinsky told reporters in January that he had agreed to visit North Korea in April to give tips on how he managed to breed huge rabbits (around 20 to 25 pounds), which he believes the Koreans view as one answer to their hunger crisis. He has already sent a sampler of 12 monster rabbits, which should produce 60 offspring a year, with one providing "a filling meal for eight people," he told Der Spiegel.

■ Walter C. Stevens, 81, thought he had buried his allegedly disreputable past, but an underground water problem at his former residence in Sierra Vista, Ariz., brought it back. When an area in the yard flooded, a plastic bag emerged, containing videotapes that the FBI now says Stevens had made in the 1970s and 1980s of himself having sex with underage girls in Japan, South Korea and Thailand.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1776 Juan Bautista de Anza finds the site for the Presidio of San Francisco.

1834 The United States Senate censures President Andrew Jackson for his actions in defunding the Second Bank of the United States.

1871 The Paris Commune is formally established in Paris.

1935 Robert Goddard launches the world's first successful liquid-fuelled rocket.

1979 In Pennsylvania, a pump in the reactor cooling system fails in the Three Mile Island accident, resulting in the evaporation of some contaminated water causing a nuclear meltdown.

2003 In a "friendly fire" incident, two A-10 Thunderbolt II attack aircraft from the United States Idaho Air National Guard's 190th Fighter Squadron attacked British tanks participating in the 2003 invasion of Iraq, killing British soldier Matty Hull.

2005 The 2005 Sumatran earthquake rocks Indonesia, and at magnitude 8.7 is the second strongest earthquake since 1960.

2006 At least 1 million union members, students and unemployed take to the streets in France in protest at the government's proposed First Employment Contract law.

WORD UP!

roborant \ROB-uh-ruhnt\, *adjective:* 1. Strengthening; restoring vigor. *noun:* 1. A strengthening medicine; a tonic; a restorative.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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$1000'S WEEKLY mailing beautiful rose catalogs! Free supplies/postage! Rush self-addressed, stamped envelope: RBM-I, PO Box 759, Lake Zurich, Illinois 60047-0759.

$3000 PER week? Possible? Easy! No selling, no convincing, just redirect calls. 1-888-705-4334x2. www.ourwealthgenerator.com

$5.50 A DAY LINER ADS! CALL TODAY

SALES
SANTA MONICA
Earn $60K - $400K.
One of the nation's oldest/largest precious metals co. seeks sales pros. No cold calling or license required, paid training & full benefits.
www.Goldline.com.
310-395-0762

Employment

ADVERTISING SALES

OUTSIDE SALES EXPERIENCE A MUST

Above average income.

Work with local clients to figure out their message, package it cleverly, get results. Must be persistent and willing to make the calls, knock on doors, network fiercely.

You will be working with local business owners, advertising agencies, non profits, every day.

Great long term position for the right personality. Energetic office full of resources to help you grow as a professional. Must be a self starter, high energy and computer literate.
Send resume and cover letter to ross@smdp.com or call 310-458-7737 x 104

AUTO MECHANIC top pay and benefits, Volkswagen Santa Monica. Rick Cuesta (310)829-1888

BEAUTY STUDIO
Total Beauty Studio
Station Rent. Skin Care Room Rent. Commission. Beautiful Interior. Parking Lot.
Reasonable Rental Prices.
(310)956-2229, (310)452-3430

CASHIER/CLERK F/T must have auto with good driving record. Fax resume to (310)450-6401

CLASS-A DRIVERS Needed. OTR or Regional. No NYC. Top Pay! Great Benefits! Start ASAP. Call now! 866-317-0288

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Come hungry. Leave happy.

1920 Santa Monica Blvd.
(Corner of 20th & Santa Monica Blvd.)
(310) 829-9597
Hours: 6:30am-10:00pm Daily

Cashiers: Great hours, Top Pay Great Benefits, Vacation Pay, Holiday Pay, Insurance & Complete Meals

Come Join The IHOP Team.

ADVERTISE! CALL US (310) 458-7737

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Current guard card
Apply online LANTZSECURITY.COM
or call (800) 870-4357

Employment

CONTRACT DESK clerk. All aspects of the business office, at least two years experience in the automotive industry in business office. Please email resume to dina.perdue@hondaofsantamonica.com

COOPPORTUNITY
PRODUCE ASSISTANT, other positions, too! Apply at 1525 Broadway

COUNTER HELP needed. Cafe near 3rd St. Promenade 215 Broadway. Must be experienced. Immediate openings morning and evening shifts. Apply afternoons in person. (310) 396-9898.

Customer Service/Full Time- starting up to $12.00 per hour. 22 year old telephone services company in WLA with free secure parking. Experience preferred but will train. Good language skills and reliability a must.
Call 310-281-3079 for recorded details.

DRIVER, MUST have clean DMV, mostly airport transfers. Call Ace Limo for appt. (310)452-7083

EARN UP to $500 weekly assembling our angel pins in the comfort of your own home. No experience required. Call 1-650-491-0054 or visit www.angelpin.net

FREE CASH GRANTS! $700 - $800,000++ **2007** NEVER REPAY! Personal/Medical Bills, Business, School/House. Almost Everyone qualifies! Live Operators! AVOID DEADLINES! Listings, 1-800-270-1213, Ext. 281

FULL OR PART-TIME helper for food court in office building. Good money. (310)449-1896 (310)925-0777. Please call before 12pm or after 2pm.

GOVERNMENT JOBS $12-$48/hr. Benefits/ Paid Training. Homeland Security, Clerical/Administrative, Law Enforcement. 1-800-320-9353, ext. 2504

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PROGRAM FOR adults with disabilities in Malibu. Secretary M-F 9am-3pm day program coordinator M-F 9am-5pm. Coordinator must have experience in day programs for developmentally disabled. Both positions have excellent benefits. Call (310)457-2026

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SALES
SALES of cruises and tours P/T 30 hours. Base + commission. Near LAX Paid training, no cold calling. Some weekends required. Our top sales people make $40,000. (310) 649-7171

Employment

SALES, TILE and Marble
Showroom Santa Monica Immediate positons, great salary +commission. Need experience. (310)995-5136

SANTA MONICA MORTGAGE COMPANY
Needs Sales Professionals!
-Best Leads, Commission, and Training
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-Best Closers Only
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ONLY SERIOUS APPLICANTS NEED APPLY.
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Commission only salon with great commission structure!
Seeking creatively inspired stylists to work with an amazing team who believe that their work can manifest more than just a good color and a cut.
Stylist with a strong client base preferred.
You can find us at www.studiodnasalon.com or by calling Aubrey 310-968-0398

SM ROOM and board + $200/mo in exchange for part-time housekeeping/ light caregiving and cooking. Valid dl necessity, errands. 50-65. dog. Ruth (310)392-6301

SOCIAL ESCORTS needed. Accompany celebs, V.I.P.'S to dinner, theatre, events, etc. assignments strictly platonic. P/T evenings and weekends. $150/hr (323) 852-1377

THE ART Institute of CA-LA seeks a Senior Maintenance Technician with experience. 30 hrs/wk. 2900 31st St., Santa Monica 310.314.6035

WANTED MALE care-giver to help Quad male 2 hours/day at $15/hr in SM area; 310-453-2274

WORK AT the beach and get paid! front counter/customer service, bike rentals, bike mechanics. Full-time/Part-time 20-40 hours/week. English or bi-lingual. Apply in person: 2400 Ocean Front Walk, SM or call Aurora (310) 864-3717 between 9-5

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ASSEMBLE MAGNETS & CRAFTS FROM HOME! Year-round Work! Excellent Pay! No Experience! TOLL FREE 1-866-398-1113, code-11

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AFFORDABLE HEALTH BENEFITS. $154.95 monthly for family. Hospitalization, Prescriptions, Dental, Vision, More. Everyone accepted. 866-459-3470

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For Sale

SATELLITE TV CHEAP!! FREE installation. No equipment to buy! Free digital recorder upgrade! Up to 250 digital channels. FREE portable DVD player. 1-800-536-0375

SPA/HOT TUB 2007 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth $5950, sell for $1950 (310) 479-3054

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NEED A NEW COMPUTER? Bad credit - No problem! Buy a new computer now, pay later. New Computers/Laptops from $20/Month. Call now 1-800-451-3217

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MEMORY FOAM Thera-Peutic NASA Mattress: Q-$399, K-$499. Free Delivery. Warranty. 1-888-287-5337. (60 night trial) www.mattressdr.com

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I WILL CLEAN YOUR HOUSE $8/hr+ (10 hour minimum). Experienced, insured, bonded. (626)796-3946, (310)392-4314

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QUICKBOOKS BOOKKEEPING service, personal or businesses. Call 310 977-7935

For Rent

BEAUTIFUL MONTANA GARDENS
Room and Board
401 Montana Avenue
Your home away from home.
Daily meals, laundry, housekeeping, utilities, and cable. 1 Bdrm, 1 Bath + Full Kitchen. Seniors and all ages welcome. Ask about 1 month of free rent.
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$430/month
323-650-7988
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: $5.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

Santa Monica Daily Press GET RID OF YOUR ROLLERBLADES. Sell your sports equipment to someone who will actually use it. **Classifieds**

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Happy Apartment Hunting!
Most of our buildings are pet friendly

PLEASE Visit our website for complete listings at:
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LOS ANGELES 1523 Holt Ave unit 2, $1100 stove, fridge, blinds, carpets, ceiling fan, on-site laundry, parking, no pets. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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.

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

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

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DOWNTOWN SANTA Monica office to sublet, 800 sf, upscale building now medical office. (310)393-9359

DOWNTOWN SANTA MONICA Private office 2 spaces: 296 sq/ft, 331 sq/ft. Available May 1st (310) 394-3322

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Call for a free list
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Contact Me to Find Out.
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NORTH CAROLINA MOUNTAIN CABIN Shell on Private 1.3 acre site. $129,900. 2-10 acre mountaintop homesites with dramatic views. $39,900+up. 828-652-8700.

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Real Estate

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VERY AGGRESSIVE
RATES
TIME FOR A 30 YEAR FIXED?

RATES AS LOW AS 6%

30 YEAR FIXED	5.76%
APR 5.866%	
10 YEAR/1 ARM	6%
APR 6.6%	
7 YEAR/1 ARM	5.75%
APR 6.655%	
5 YEAR/1 ARM	5.75%**
APR 7.0%	
3 YEAR/1 ARM	5.5%**
APR 7.0258%	
1 YEAR/1 ARM	5.25%
APR 7.1%	
6 MO./6 MO. ARM	5%
APR 7.24%	
1 MO./1 MO. ARM	1%**
APR 8%	

*Rates subject to change
* As of Febuary 21, 2007
** Denotes an interest only loan


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DESIRABLE SUNSET park traditional house on huge lot. Trust sale. (310)422-2777 agent

Autos Wanted

WANTED JAPANESE MOTORCYCLES: Kawasaki Z1-900, KZ900, KZ1000, H2-750, H1-500, S1-250, S2-350, S3-400. Cash Paid. 1-800-772-1142. 1-310-721-0726.

Business Opps

ABSOLUTELY ALL Cash! Do you earn $800/day? Vending route. 30 machines + candy. $9995. 1-800-807-6485.

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$50,000 GUARANTEED. Never repay. Grants for school, business, home or pay bills. As seen on TV. 800-679-8994.

CASH FOR ANY REASON. For or against Commercial Real Estate only. Competitive. All credit. 1-866-271-3810.

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NEED A LOAN? No credit - BAD credit - Bankruptcy - Repossession - Personal Loans - Auto Loans - Consolidation Loans AVAILABLE! "We have been helping people with credit problems since 1991". Call 1-800-654-1816.

Lost & Found

LOST SET of keys at 10th and Montana on Sat. March 24 am. On keychain that is a purse that says American red cross, has a zipper. Please call if you find (310)998-8252

ADVERTISE! CALL US (310) 458-7737

Massage

BLISSFUL RELAXATION! Heal your body, mind, spirit. Therapeutic bodywork/energy healing. Strictly non-sexual. Introductory specials $68.00. Lynda, L.M.T. (310) 749-0621

EXQUISITE, INTUITIVE, strong and tender relaxing body work by mature Europen. Very Professional, Sonja (310) 397-0433.

$5.50 A DAY LINER ADS! CALL TODAY

Personals

Talk to a Model
24HRS.
877-EZ MARIA
877-396-2742
$10-17 for 15 min.
ATM/CC/Checks by phone
www.USLove.com

Run your personals here!
Call us today at (310) 458-7737

Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF PAUL FEJER

Case No. BP103463

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notices

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vehicles for sale


Chevy Suburban
'93 Suburban-1500 4x4. Dual air, 3rd Seat, HD tow, sunroof, alloys, grill guard, 60k miles.
Excellent condition. $7750.00
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'06 Focus $11,995
Automatic, CD, A/C
(6W182121)
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Vehicles for sale


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(800) 579-6047


'98 Passat WGN .. $8,995
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'04 Scion XB $12,900
Auto, A/C, CD & Lots More! (40156296)
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'07 Caliber SXT ... $12,995
Chrome Wheels
(7051079)
Toyota Santa Monica
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'04 Jetta GLS Turbo .. $14,995
Leather, Moon Roof, CD, Auto & Lots More! (1M023757)
Toyota Santa Monica
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Automotive

SELL YOUR PRE-OWNED VEHICLE. The only directory for used vehicles in and around Santa Monica. Santa Monica Daily Press

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There is no more convincing medium than a DAILY local newspaper.

$45 for two weeks.
$20 every two weeks after.

Vehicles for sale



'06 Accent …. $11,995
Auto, A/C, CD
(6U003215)
Toyota Santa Monica
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'02 Explorer Spt .. $8,995
Automatic, CD, A/C, Alloys & Full Power (2U037397)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'03 Galant …. $9,995
(3E212783)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'06 Solara Red …. $17,788
Automatic, A/C, CD, Pwr Pkg, (6U649295)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'03 Civic EX …. $12,995
Auto, Moon roof, A/C, Full Power DIAMOND! (3HS44431)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'05 Nissan Sentra …. $11,788
Auto, AC, CD, Power windows
(5L469212)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'05 Chevy Aveo …. $8,995
Auto, AC, Pwr, CD & More!
(5B356295)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

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COULD RUN HERE!
CALL US TODAY AT
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Vehicles for sale



'05 Corolla …. $11,995
Under 10K Mi, AC
(5Z447475)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'04 Hybrid Civic …. $12,995
Auto, AC, Car Pool
(4S007972)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'03 Jetta …. $12,995
Auto, AC & More!
(3M115974)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'03 Infiniti FX45 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Met. brown, Bose premium sound, Loaded!! (I6303A)
$29,123
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'06 Infiniti G35 Coupe 2D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
D. Blue, V6 3.5L, Auto, RWD, MP3, Leather, Alloy Wheels
(P1525) $27,993
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'05 Infiniti G35 Coupe
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Bose Prem. Sound, Leather, Moon Roof, Alloy
(P1535) $29,994
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

$5.50 A DAY LINER ADS! CALL TODAY



'02 BMW 3 Series 325i Sedan
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
D. Blue, 6-Cyl. 2.5L, Auto, RWD, Telescope wheel, Traction, ABS
(P1554) $16,892
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

Vehicles for sale



'04 Infiniti I35 Sedan
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Auto, A/C, Bose premium sound, ABS (P1563)
$21,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'06 Chrysler 300C Sedan 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V8 5.7L HEMI, Leather, Traction, Moon roof, Premium Wheels
(P1549) $23,992
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'04 BMW M3 Coupe
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
L.Blue, 6-Cyl. 3.2L, 6-sp. SMG, Leather, Alloy Wheels (P1557)
$35,993
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'04 Infiniti G35 Coupe
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Auto, RWD, ABS, Air Bags, Leather, Alloy
(P1555A) $30,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'03 Infiniti I35 Sedan 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Met. Green, V6 3.5L, Automatic, Bose Sound, Air Bags, Multi CD
(I6757A) $17,992
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'03 Murano …. $19,995
LOADED! GORGEOUS!
MUST SEE! (3W106109)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



1971 Buick
67000 miles, one owner, Caramel color. $5,500 firm. Great condition.
Nadine 626-796-3946

Vehicles for sale



'03 325i …. $19,995
Auto, Lthr, Mnrf, Perfect, Sport & Premium Pkgs (3KP80423)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'03 G35 Cpe .. $23,995
Navigation, Leather, Moon Roof, Beautiful! (3M203957)
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For Sale 1989 300SE
Great older Mercedes Benz
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Leather, Excellent Sound, IPOD
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(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Auto, RWD, Bose Sound, Air Bags, ABS (P1520A)
$22,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
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SELL YOUR CAR FAST!
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FOR ONLY $45
Run it until it sells!*

SAMPLE AD!



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Ad shown actual size

Package includes:
- Ad runs until your car sells. Period.*
- Large format photograph.
- 20 word description.
- **FREE** online placement!

Call us today at (310) 458-7737
Take advantage of this great offer.

Santa Monica Daily Press

*Terms and conditions. Ad will run for thirty (30) consecutive days. After 30 days, ad will expire and advertiser must call to schedule a free renewal. Ads are renewed for an additional 2 weeks. Advertiser must call within 5 days of ad expiration to renew. If renewal is placed after 5 days of ad expiration, advertiser must pay full price. Photographs must be submitted digitally in JPG or TIFF format. Email photographs to anniek@smdp.com. Photographs only appear on print edition. 20 word description maximum; additional words 50 cents. Call for more details. Private parties only. Terms subject to change without notice.

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Find them

in the Santa Monica Daily Press classifieds.

Call today to learn about our local hiring packages.
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YOUR AD
COULD RUN HERE!
CALL US TODAY AT
(310) 458-7737

Mail. Fax. Call. Email. Running your classified ad is easy!

$5.50 per day. Up to 15 words, 20 cents each additional word.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: ____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____ **Phone:** (____) _____

Classification (Pets, Yard Sale, Etc...): _____

Ad Copy (attach copy if necessary)

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____
7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____
10 _____ 11 _____ 12 _____
13 _____ 14 _____ 15 _____

Requested Start Date: / / **Requested End Date:** / /

Extras (Additional 20 cents/word):
❒ ALL CAPS ❒ **bold** ❒ *italics*
❒ Box (.50/day) ❒ Reverse($1/day)

Payment:
❒ Visa ❒ Mastercard ❒ AMEX ❒ Check

_____

Exp: ___/20___ **Check #:** _____

Make checks payable: Santa Monica Daily Press

NO CASH PLEASE

Signature: _____

Mail.
Fill out this form and mail to:
1427 Third Street Promenade
Suite 202
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Fax.
Fill out this form and fax to:
(310) 576-9913
ATTN: Classifieds

Call.
Call Annie Kotok!
(310) 458-7737 Ext. 114

Email.
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anniek@smdp.com

PREPAY YOUR AD TODAY!

Call us with questions
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Santa Monica Daily Press
Visit us online at smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press

ServiceDirectory

Promote your business in the only DAILY local newspaper in town.

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Some restrictions may apply.
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All classified liner ads are placed on our website for **FREE!** Check out ***www.smdp.com*** for more info.

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LEASE
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15K per yr/36 mo.
OR
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STANDARD EQUIPMENT
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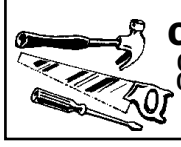
Purchase on approved credit 60 months 650 credit score or above, lease 36 months, 15K miles per year. Tier 1+ credit 740 score or higher. 15 cent per mile over 45,000 miles, total drive off Lic. First Pymt $691 total. Stock #7770001 VIN# 75450115

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ROOF REPAIR AND WATER DAMAGE
CALEB 25-35/HR (310) 409-3244

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Senior Discount
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Repairs, floors , doors, moldings
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"LOWEST RESIDENTIAL RATES IN SO. CALIF."
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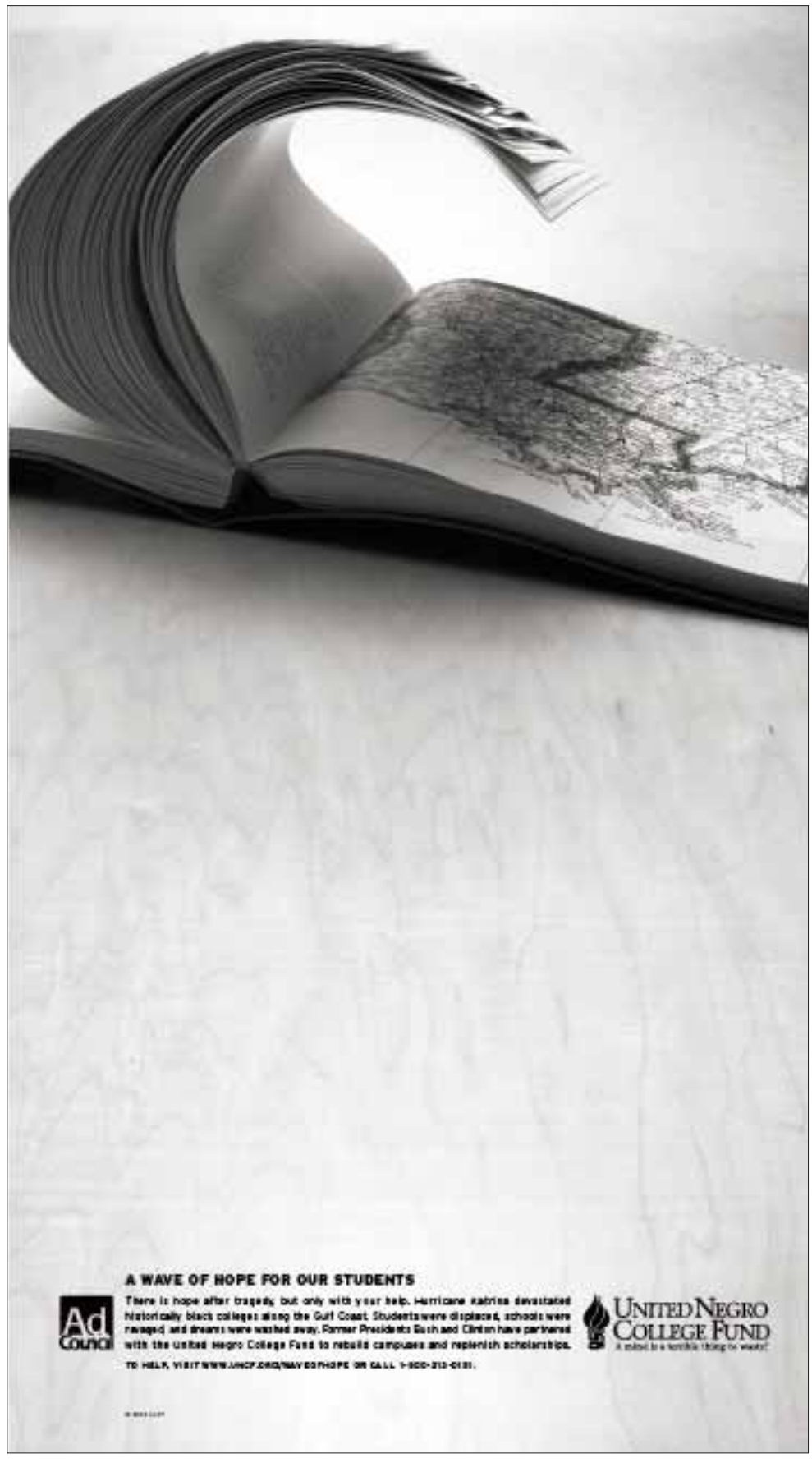
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THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS IS CURRENTLY **LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTORS AND INTERNS** TO HELP US AUGMENT OUR **ENTERTAINMENT COVERAGE**. EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD IS GREAT, BUT WE'LL TALK TO ANYONE WITH **A FRESH VOICE AND A WILLINGNESS TO WRITE** ORIGINAL AND, AHEM, ENTERTAINING COPY. GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

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



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30 year fixed 5.76%	APR 5.866%	10 year/1 arm 6%**	APR 6.6%
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3 year/1 arm 5.5%**	APR 7.0258%	1 year/1 arm 5.25%	APR 7.1%
6 mos./6 mo. arm 5%	APR 7.24%	1 mo./1 mo. arm 1%***	APR 8%

** Rates subject to change * As of March 28, 2007 ** Denotes an interest only loan *** Denotes Neg Am*



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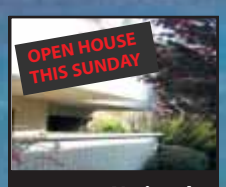
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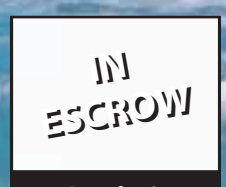


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and
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Los Angeles
1BD. 1 BA.
CONDO
$389,000

5600 West 79th Street
Los Angeles
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CONDO
$685,000



177 Douglas Street
Los Angeles
$755,000



8628 Cadillac
West Los Angeles
$850,000

IN ESCROW
8300 BLEWITT AVE.
NORTH HILLS
$560,000

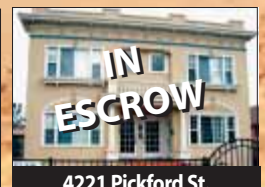
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WILMINGTON
DUPLEX
$549,000



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Los Angeles
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4265 Purdue Ave.
Los Angeles
$949,000



4221 Pickford St.
Los Angeles
$1,275,000

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VENICE
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We are looking to acquire a twenty to forty unit building on the west side. Please call us with any available properties in this range.