



DOES SHE LOOK FAT?
SEE PAGE 17

Santa Monica Daily Press

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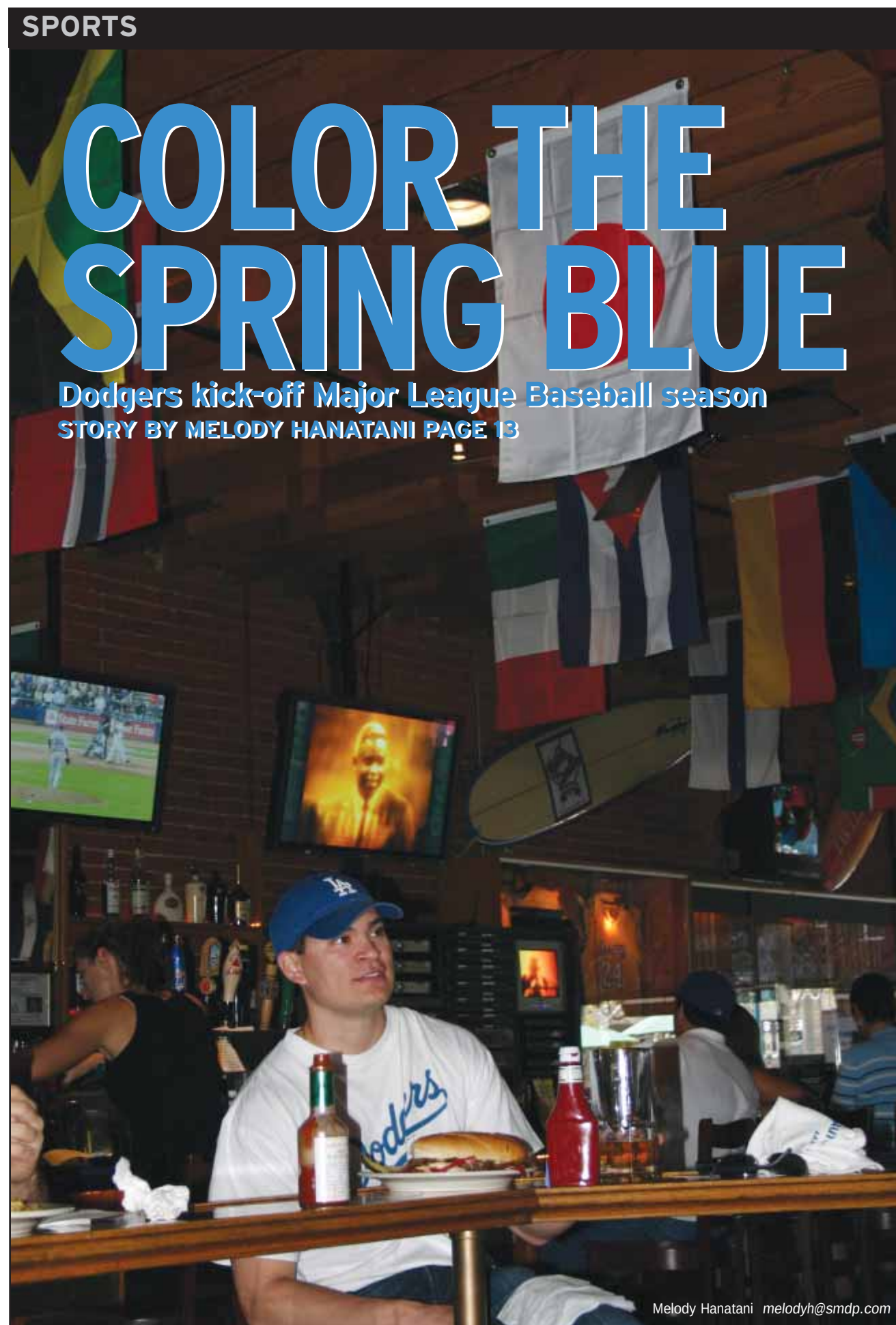
THE WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED ISSUE

SPORTS

COLOR THE SPRING BLUE

Dodgers kick-off Major League Baseball season

STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 13



Melody Hanatani melodyh@smdp.com

Noses all know it's the season

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Sneezing, wheezing, sniffing, snoozing, scratching, hacking and grouchy.

No, these aren't the names of the Seven Dwarfs. They're all common symptoms of allergy season.

Every spring and fall, the hot, dry Santa Ana winds blow through town, bringing along with them dust and pollen that affect those with allergies, giving them runny noses, itchy eyes and often a nagging cough. Many develop asthma that can be fatal.

Then there are those who have perennial allergies, such as those who cannot have dairy, peanuts or shellfish.

Some suffer from both perennial and seasonal allergies, making their daily lives rough.

"My daughter, she's allergic to everything," said Elena Hess as she walked along the Third Street Promenade. "Wheat, dust, pollen, cats, snow, fruits like peaches ... her allergies get much worse in the spring and summer."

Tuesday's pollen count for the Santa Monica area, according to www.pollen.com, is projected at 8.3 — considered medium-high. On Wednesday and Thursday, the pollen count will be 9.5, which is deemed high and should serve as a warning to allergy sufferers.

But for those like Hess' teenage daughter, medication is getting better at treating the symptoms, and a new test for allergies is making it easier for people to learn what exactly to watch out for and how to protect themselves.

The new testing, known as ImmunoCAP, is a simple blood test that any primary care physician can administer, with results known within 24 to 48 hours. The old and most popular method of allergy testing is the skin prick test, in which a patch of skin, usually on one's back, is pricked by a needle containing a small dose of an allergen. Doctors wait 15 to 30 minutes to see if there is a reaction to determine if a patient is allergic.

While the method is said to be relatively painless, there are those who remember it being unpleasant, including Brian



Christine Chang news@smdp.com

SEE ALLERGY PAGE 12

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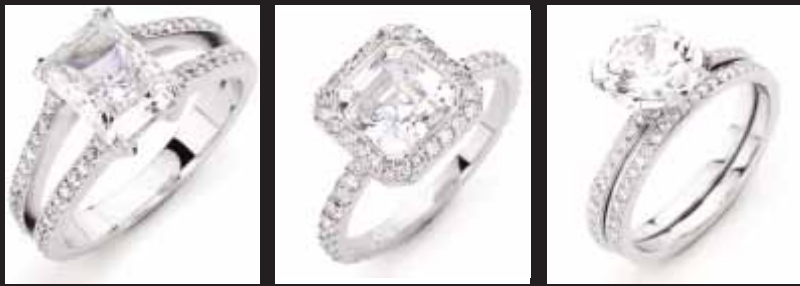
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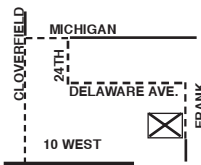


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Write-Away

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., noon — 3 p.m.

Inspiration, guidance, direction and support for writers. For further information, visit
www.writeawaywritinggroup.com.

Crafty Tuesday

1704 Montana Ave., 3:30 p.m. — 4:15 p.m.

The Montana Avenue Branch of the Santa Monica Library is holding an afternoon of
crafts for children ages 5 and up.

Enchanted Lunchtime Theatre

1211 Fourth St., 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.

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

Wednesday, April 4, 2007

Thousands of One

1026 Wilshire Blvd., 10 p.m. — 2 a.m.

For more information on ticket prices, go to www.templebar.com.
For more information on the band, visit www.myspace.com/thousandsofone.

Trim your waist with a 'Corset' in comfort

3306 Pico Blvd., 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

Farthingales L.A. Inc. is hosting an evening with Ann Grogan of Romantasy in San
Francisco. Ann will be at Farthingales to present her six-step program for permanent
waist and weight reduction by wearing corsets. Ann's book 'Corset Magic' will be
available for purchase in CD format and she will take names and measurements for
custom corsets and her three month support program for those who are interested.

Evening fee is \$30. Call (310) 392-1787 to register; payment must accompany
registration.

Screening of 'An Inconvenient Truth'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.

The third in a four-part series of films examining sustainable issues. In 'An
Inconvenient Truth,' director Davis Guggenheim weaves the science of global warming
with Al Gore's personal history and lifelong commitment to reversing the effects of
global climate change.

Green Living Workshops

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

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

Kiwanis Club weekly meeting

1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.

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

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.



SM district seems to be making the grade

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS The students in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District are a smart bunch of kids.

The state Department of Education released last week the Base Academic Performance Index Results (API) for 2006, measuring student progress over the last year by using standardized tests for grades 2-11 and the high school exit exam.

The results, released on March 27, showed the students in the district improved by 10 points in its Growth API score from 2005-06.

The state requires schools to demonstrate growth in student progress with regards to standardized testing until the school's API score reaches 800. The SMMUSD, as a whole, appears to be doing well, with an API score of 818, but the results show that a handful of individual schools in the district must continue to demonstrate improvement since their API scores fall below the 800-point threshold.

The index is on a scale of 200 to 1,000.

The schools in the district whose scores lie below 800 are Edison Language Academy, Will Rogers Elementary School, John Muir Elementary School, John Adams Middle School, Santa Monica High School and Olympic High School. All of the schools in Malibu and North of Montana received high marks from the state.

Some of the schools that are below 800, like John Adams Middle School, have a more diverse student body with a larger percentage of students that speak English as their second language, noted Maureen Bradford, director of educational services at SMMUSD.

"It shows that we're not only doing well, but we are also committed to continue this improvement," Bradford said of the scores. "Even schools above 800 are continuing to improve and we really are very committed to achievement for all students."

SEE GRADES PAGE 14



PALMS FULL OF FAITH

Photo courtesy Jason Farmer

Monsignor Lloyd Torgerson presides over the Palm Sunday liturgy at St. Monica Catholic Community Church on Palm Sunday. Palm Sunday is a moveable feast in the Christian calendar which falls on the Sunday before Easter. The difficulty of procuring palms for that day's ceremonies in unfavorable climates for palms led to the substitution of boughs of yew, willow or other native trees. Thankfully, this is not the case in Santa Monica.

Waxman expands probe

Local congressman wants information on Cabrillo Port plan

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. Just days before a controversial proposal to build a natural gas processing plant off the coast of Malibu goes before state officials for review, Congressman Henry Waxman (D-Los Angeles) has expanded his investigation into the reversal of the Environmental Protection

Agency's position on the project.

The chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Waxman has been looking into whether or not a political appointee of the Bush White House pressured EPA officials to reverse its position and exempt BHP Billiton's proposed, liquefied natural gas terminal from a key regulatory smog requirement that could sink the project.

In addition to requesting documents from the EPA about the proposal, Waxman last Friday cast a wider net, asking Billiton President Charles Goodyear to fully cooperate in the investigation by handing over any documents and communications relating to the LNG plant.

The U.S. Coast Guard will hold a hearing

on the proposal Wednesday in Oxnard. The state Lands Commission, whose staff has recommended approval, will do the same on April 9, followed by the California Coastal Commission on April 12. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is expected to consider the proposal sometime in May.

If approved, the \$800-million Cabrillo Port, which would be located roughly 20 miles off the coast of Malibu near Oxnard, would be the first receiving port for natural gas in California and on the west coast.

In a letter to the chief administrator of the EPA, Stephen Johnson, Waxman said a "sound" decision by the EPA to insist that Cabrillo Port be permitted according to air

SEE WAXMAN PAGE 14

Grand Opening



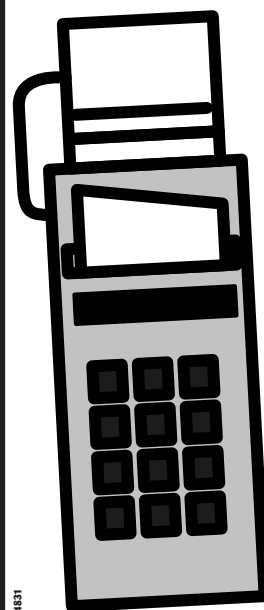
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

April Fool's issue made some points
Editor:

April Fool's Day is here, along with the usual (Daily Press) gag issue. I figured so when I saw the photo ("Vegas, baby, Vegas," April 1). But I got to thinking. Using the DC-3 to have service to Las Vegas would be pretty good. Aviation buffs would be lined up around the block to fly the same planes that first took off 72 years ago from Santa Monica Airport.

It would sure be more pleasant than flying those modern jets ... and safer. The DC-3 was built to last. You wont see any of these modern jets still flying 72 years later.

Mike Kirwan
Venice

The answers lie over and under
Editor:

I am against facilitating and enabling people to make long drives that consume fuel and pollute the air.

Policy should favor neighborhoods. Government should be making it easier to get around in your local area. Instead of making it easier to go across town, make it easier to go a few blocks to your local shopping areas. Long drives should be discouraged.

Freeways and big boulevards cut off neighborhoods and make it harder to get around. What is needed are more overpasses and underpasses.

Joe Oliva
Santa Monica

People kill fish, not plastic bags
Editor:

San Francisco's ban on plastic grocery bags is an outrageous abuse of government power.

The government has no right to force supermarkets and stores to stop using plastic bags. It is the prerogative of these businesses to decide what type of bags, if any, to offer their customers. If environmentalists and lawmakers don't like plastic bags, they are free to not use them and to try to persuade others to do likewise. They have no right, however, to impose their preferences on the rest of us.

The environmentalists' claim that plastic bags should be banned because they litter the streets and choke marine life is absurd. People, not plastic bags, are responsible for littering, and we already have laws against littering. As to the alleged harm plastic bags do to marine life, even if true it would not justify curtailing human freedom. No human activity "harms" marine life more than fishing does – yet we respect and protect the rights of fishermen to earn their livelihoods. In any conflict between protecting animal life or protecting the freedom that is necessary for human life, the only moral choice is siding with humanity.

David Holcberg
Irvine



What's the Point?

David Pissarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Chicken Little versus
any and all comers

I LOVE TO SKI. IT'S A GREAT WAY TO GET away from the city and shed the stresses of congested life here in the mythical world of Hollywoodland. Last year was a fantastic ski season. Mammoth mountain had snow until July. I was lucky enough to get away four times last year and skied in amazing conditions, with deep snowpacks.

This year I was able to escape to Mammoth only once. And that one time, though in stupendous conditions, was a stark reminder of how much can change in one year.

Last year the snows were deep and long lasting. This year, the snow pack is very light and it is warming up quickly. The lack of snow on the surrounding mountains is causing the heat to sink into the earth and thus warm the whole valley that much earlier.

Mammoth Mountain has this wonderful gondola you can take up the mountain, it allows for one to enjoy the scenic beauty of the valley, in comfort and you can enjoy a "big picture" view of the immensity of the region. I really enjoy this type of ride, because the gondola is large and roomy and usually you can move around and get to enjoy the sights.

Last year the gondola ride was exceptional, it was like being in the clouds. The hills were snow covered, and the valley was engulfed in a giant white blanket.

This year, the ride was very depressing, because the hills were so very barren. There was almost no snow on the opposing mountaintops, Instead of great white peaks that belonged on postcards there was a rocky patch of brown. The fields that would usually have a coating of ice and snow were laid bare. The lack of snow cover, combined with the absence of green trees, made the whole area looked much like a forgotten wasteland.

In many ways it was a foreshadowing of what the summer holds. The local climatologists and meteorologists are talking about how the southern California area is in "perfect drought" conditions. Lack of local rain, low Northern California rain, and low reserves is driving us into drought conditions.

But a drought is generally defined as a period of "extended" below normal rainfall but can also apply to conditions when there is not enough water to support agricultural, ranching and residential uses. While much has been made of this years surprisingly low rainfall, much of it attributed to Al Gore's Global Warming™. The immediate truth is that we live in a near desert.

Deserts are defined as areas that receive an average annual precipitation of less than 10 inches. On average, we receive 15 inches of rainfall, but there is wide variation in year-to-year rainfall. Just two years ago, we had the wettest year in over 100 years, which came just two years after the driest year in all recorded history.

The odds are that next year will be nor-

mal and the year following it a soaker. Or not. This weather business is tricky. The meteorologists said we were due for an El Nino year, and we got the driest ever.

The Chicken Littles are saying the sky is falling, and the Ostriches (otherwise known as Republicans) are saying that there is no problem, it is just seasonal fluctuations. I'm inclined to believe that the truth is somewhere in the middle. While I don't want to completely ignore the realities of the strains that increased population are putting on our infrastructure in California and the globe, I also don't want to sell my skis and buy stock

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in sunblock companies.

If there is overreaction on the left and under-reaction on the right, perhaps that is how balance is achieved. But the problem with either of these positions is it leads to wholesale dismissal of the opposing side's point of view and the valid points that are contained in their arguments.

Polarization of sides is the coward's way out whenever there is a complex question. I learned in sixth grade that there are no simple answers to complex questions. What we need is a measured response that deals with the situation. Perhaps just starting the conversation is important. For example, we know that we have more people than we did last year, and we know that we had less rainfall, which means that we need to use less water.

History has shown that there are wide fluctuations in our climate, in short periods of time, but there is also a general upward trend globally. The trick is to know what is a global problem, and what is a local, seasonal variation. That's why I'm keeping my skis but looking at installing fake grass in my new lawn.

DAVID PISSARRA is a business development lawyer in the Santa Monica firm of Pissarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpissarra@pissarra.com or 310/664-9969.

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Guest Commentary

Keith Lockitch

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Reflections on separation of science and the church

IN 1582 POPE GREGORY XIII ESTABLISHED our modern calendar and fixed the rules determining the date of Easter. This year Easter falls on April 8, but it can shift from year to year by as much as a month on Gregory's calendar.

Finding Easter's date for a given year requires a surprising degree of scientific acumen. The last things one might expect to see in, say, the Book of Common Prayer are tables of numbers and rules for mathematical calculations — but there they are, nevertheless.

At first glance, this seems to exemplify a kind of harmony between religion and science, a peaceful concord between faith and reason. Indeed, a variety of public figures — from prominent scientists to the Pope — have promoted the view that science and religion are not adversaries but complementary and mutually supporting fields. "Truth cannot contradict truth," they declare, implying that the truths discovered by reasoning from sensory evidence cannot clash with the "truths" of religious dogma.

A closer look, however, reveals the long history of the hostility of faith towards reason — which continues to this day. Violent clashes between the two are not only possible but unavoidable, and the notion that religion can coexist on friendly terms with science and reason is false.

For reasons both biblical and astronomical, Easter is defined as the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox (the first day of spring). To get his calendar rules right, Pope Gregory had to rely on some of the best astronomers and mathematicians of his day. Ironically, one of these was Nicolas Copernicus, whose sun-centered astronomy engendered one of history's most famous clashes between science and religion.

A faithful canon of the Catholic Church, Copernicus supported the calendar project happily. His scientific work was partly motivated by the goal of predicting more accurately the first day of spring and the subsequent full moon. He modestly expressed the hope that by facilitating the calculation of Easter his labors would "contribute somewhat even to the Commonwealth of the Church."

At first Copernicus's work was warmly accepted by Church officials — but only because they didn't take it seriously. Sixteenth century common sense held that the Sun orbits the Earth, which is motionless at the center of the universe. More important, Church scholars held that the true

structure of the world is established not by science but by official interpretation of Scripture. Hence, they regarded the motion of the Earth as nothing more than a convenient mathematical assumption — an idea justified solely by its utility in making astronomical predictions. Thinking they could evade a clash between reason and revelation, they denied the reality of the Earth's motion but used the Copernican theory nonetheless.

This contradiction became inescapable decades after the Gregorian reform when Galileo removed the objections from common sense by explaining the physics of the moving Earth. But the objections from faith proved more intractable. Galileo's outspoken defense of the Earth's motion as a serious physical idea forced Church leaders to take a stand — and when they got off the fence, they came down firmly against science. That the Church persecuted Galileo for defending Copernican theory is well-known. Less frequently acknowledged is the utter hypocrisy of that act: the Church persecuted Galileo for defending the very ideas on which its Easter reform depended.

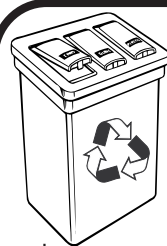
In 1992 Pope John Paul II grudgingly admitted — 350 years too late — that his predecessors had been wrong. He called the Church's persecution of Galileo a "sad misunderstanding" that "now belongs to the past."

But does it?

Although few would now declare the Earth the motionless center of the universe, it is not difficult to find those who claim it to be 6,000 years old and deny the long, slow evolution of its species. More alarming is that the same Dark Ages mentality that dragged Galileo before the Inquisition now seeks to prohibit entire fields of scientific research, such as therapeutic cloning. The war of religion against science has merely shifted to new battlegrounds, but it still rages on.

Religion's alleged harmony with science is a fraudulent masquerade, extending only insofar as religious dogmas are not called into question. True defenders of science must be committed to reason as an absolute principle — following facts wherever they lead and bowing to no authorities but logic and reality. And they must understand that the servile obedience demanded by faith is wholly incompatible with science — and with the rational thinking on which all human progress and prosperity depends.

KEITH LOCKITCH is a PhD in physics and a resident fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine.



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Industry tightens loan standards

BY ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES Designer mortgage loans that don't require borrowers to prove how much money they earn or make downpayments are getting much of the blame for the wave of defaults racking the subprime mortgage industry.

Many lenders are tightening qualifications for such "stated income loans" and other financing that requires little or no documentation.

But experts say the move is locking out many consumers as they chase their dream of owning a home.

"That's eliminated a lot of the first-time buyers," said Mark Prather, president of Cerritos-based Buy America Real Estate & Loans.

During the housing boom, many borderline borrowers turned to a variety of nontraditional, subprime loans when they couldn't qualify for traditional, fixed-interest mortgages requiring downpayments.

Among their options were stated income mortgages, which some experts now condemn as "liars' loans" while accusing borrowers of routinely inflating income claims to qualify.

"Stated income and reduced documentation loans speed up the approval process, but they are open invitations to fraudsters," the Mortgage Asset Research Institute said in a report.

Others say the loans fill a legitimate need for borrowers who are self-employed or have high incomes and don't want to disclose their wealth.

"Subprime has actually helped people greatly," said Louis Allee, manager of Arrow Mortgage Solutions in Whittier.

"It's the small percent of extreme risk loans that are grossly overstating incomes, where people can't afford it — truly liars' loans — that really create all these defaults," he said.

Darren Shimasaki, a teacher from Yorba Linda, bought a \$425,000 condo last August with a stated income loan.



STATED INCOME AND REDUCED DOCUMENTATION LOANS SPEED UP THE APPROVAL PROCESS, BUT THEY ARE OPEN INVITATIONS TO FRAUDSTERS."

Mortgage Asset Research Institute

Home financing giant Freddie Mac has said it would tighten standards for accepting limited-documentation loans.

In California, where more than half of all new home loans last year were made in the subprime market, state Sen. Michael Machado, D-Linden, is trying to force state-regulated lenders to follow federal standards and more closely evaluate a customer's long-term ability to repay a loan.

He also called for state agencies to more aggressively restrict low introductory interest rates but stopped short of seeking an end to stated income loans.

"I fundamentally believe it is the choice

of the borrower to be able to say yes or no," he said.

Many lenders now require credit scores exceeding 700 to approve a stated income loan for a first-time homebuyer, compared to 580 during the housing boom, Prather said.

Stated income loans were initially designed for borrowers who are self-employed or have high incomes, and for those who sought quick approval of mortgage applications.

That changed, however, during the housing boom, as would-be buyers became more eager to enter the market. The mortgage industry eagerly devised ways to help them.

Many lenders loosened their underwriting standards for borrowers who otherwise might not have qualified for traditional loans.

Use of stated income and other subprime loans jumped during the real estate boom, when appreciation rates soared and equity protected most homebuyers from defaulting on their loans. Most could simply refinance or sell homes at a big enough profit to pay off mortgages and move on.

About 5.1 percent of all homeowners hold subprime adjustable loans. Among those borrowers, 85 percent are making payments on a timely basis, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association in Washington, D.C.

"We still have a lot of these loans that some of the people with good credit are still making payments, but their loan hasn't adjusted yet," said Stan Ross, chairman of the Lusk Center for Real Estate.

Spring break means overseas travel for some state lawmakers

BY STEVE LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Ah, Paris in the springtime. The Eiffel Tower. The Louvre. The Seine. The Champs-Elysees. The TGV.

The TGV? It's the French high-speed rail system. (TGV stands for Train a Grande Vitesse, which translates to high-speed rail.)

Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, and five other California lawmakers are scheduled to be in France this week to take a look at the TGV as the state considers building a 700-mile, high-speed rail system of its own.

Other legislators are traveling in Japan, Taiwan and other parts of Europe while the Legislature takes its annual 10-day spring

recess.

France has been operating a high-speed rail system since 1981, when it opened a line between Paris and Lyon. Since then, it has added lines to other parts of the country and developed links to high-speed systems in other parts of Europe.

TGV trains carry passengers at speeds of up to 200 mph and have been clocked at more than 340 mph on test runs.

"France leads the world in high-speed rail, and with the Legislature weighing the fate of a \$10 billion project, it makes sense for lawmakers to learn the feasibility and viability" firsthand, said Steve Maviglio, a spokesman for Nunez.

Also on the trip are Assembly members John Laird, D-Santa Cruz, Fiona Ma, D-San

Francisco, Joe Coto, D-San Jose, Michael Duvall, R-Yorba Linda, and Bob Huff, R-Diamond Bar.

A nearly \$10 billion bond measure that is supposed to be on California's November 2008 ballot would provide about half the funding needed to build a high-speed rail line between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area. Plans also call for lines to Sacramento and San Diego.

But the vote on the bond measure has been delayed twice already, and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger wants legislation bumping the issue from the 2008 ballot, as well.

The lawmakers' schedule in France includes a ride on a high-speed train, a visit to the company that makes them and meetings with French railway operators and other

French officials. They also will take part in discussions about global warming.

The legislators are paying for their flights and hotels out of their own pockets or campaign funds. Other costs are being covered by the French government and the William Velasquez Institute, a nonprofit think tank based in San Antonio, Texas, that focuses on issues important to Hispanics.

A spokeswoman for the institute did not return telephone calls from The Associated Press.

Nunez also traveled to Switzerland in January to attend the World Economic Forum and talk about California's efforts to combat global warming. While Nunez and his group are in France this week, five state senators are in Taiwan.

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STATE BRIEFS

Gardena
Pushcart vendors getting the boot

A law taking effect April 28 makes it illegal to push vending carts in Gardena. The City Council approved the ordinance last week.

“They don’t have health permits. They use the public right of way to sell items. They contribute to trash in the area. They dump their stuff in the sewers,” Deputy Police Chief Edward Medrano said.

The vendors peddle ice cream, tamales, cut fruit, corn and other items.

Licensed vendors were allowed in the past, but police officers often found many of them didn’t bother to get licenses. Lt. Mike Saffell said about 31 unlicensed street vendors have been cited in the past two years.

The new law bans pushcart vendors – licensed and unlicensed.

“We still have licensed food-vendor trucks that go to work sites, etc. But those are regulated by the city and state,” Medrano said.

Tasha Cerda, president of the Holly Park Homeowners Association, said the pushcarts should have been banned years ago.

“It’s a long time coming,” Cerda said. “Peddlers are coming up and down the cul-de-sac. Our homes are worth \$500,000 here. We’re spending too much money for our homes to have to see something like this.

“And what happens if you get sick? I can’t track the vendor down.”

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rialto
Charges dismissed against teens in roadblock shooting

Charges were dismissed against two teenagers charged last year with shooting and wounding two motorists at a freeway overpass in Rialto.

Deputy District Attorney Steve Singley said Thursday that evidence remaining after a county commissioner threw out statements that Alvin Molina III, 17, and Steve Torres, 18, made to police was insufficient to tie them to the shooting.

“I do think they were involved in the crime at some level,” he said. “Unfortunately, we are not able to prove their culpability at this time.”

The teens were charged in connection with an Aug. 11 shooting that wounded a driver and passenger when their Chevrolet Suburban slowed for a makeshift roadblock on Interstate 210.

The teens were arrested the following evening when police observed them setting up a roadblock.

They spent six months in jail until March 1, when Knish ordered their release following a February hearing during which he threw out the statements, according to court records.

Torres’ attorney, Neil Shouse, said previously that police obtained false statements by telling his client details of the case.

“Everybody seemed to jump to conclusions,” Shouse said Thursday. “But when the evidence unraveled, it was apparent the wrong people were apprehended.”

A conspiracy accessory charge against Debra Molina also was dismissed Thursday. She was accused of washing her son’s clothes to help conceal the crime.

AP

San Diego
California Condor lays egg in Mexico

A California condor has laid an egg in Mexico for the first time since at least the 1930s, biologists at the Zoological Society of San Diego announced Monday.

If the chick hatches and survives, scientists hope it will herald the return of a breeding condor population to Mexico, decades after the iconic giant of the skies was wiped out there.

“This is a momentous occasion,” said Dr. Mike Wallace, a field scientist who observed and measured the egg in its nest. “We’re all excited.”

Wallace and colleagues found the egg March 25 in an abandoned eagle nest on a cliff in the Sierra San Pedro de Martir National Park, located in the arid interior of the Baja California peninsula more than 100 miles south of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Wallace climbed to the nest and took photographs and measurements of the egg, shining a bright light through the shell to determine that the egg was 45 to 50 days old. Condor eggs incubate for 57 days, meaning the chick could hatch any day.

There was also a chance the egg was dead, but Wallace said he did not smell any sulfur and the parent condors were still tending to it.

“We are all sitting on pins and needles waiting to see where the situation is going,” said Wallace, who works for the zoological society’s center for Conservation and Research for Endangered Species.

The society also runs the San Diego Zoo and its wild animal park.

The California condor was once widespread, swooping above the western United States, parts of Canada and Baja California.

A type of vulture, the condor scavenges dead fish and animals – as coastal population of seals and otters declined, so too did the bird.

The use of poison to kill California’s grizzly bears in the 1800s also devastated numbers and lead shot remains a potential source of poison. Hunting, egg collecting, and power cables were also blamed for hurting the creature’s numbers.

Only 22 California condors were left by the 1980s, and the last documented sighting in Mexico was in the 1930s, Wallace said.

Thanks to a captive-breeding program, numbers recovered to a worldwide total of about 280. More than 100 of these fly free in the skies above parts of California, Nevada and Utah. Working with the Mexican government, biologists reintroduced captive-bred birds to Mexico in 2002.

Condors don’t reproduce until they are several years old, Wallace said.

The 7-year-old female that laid the egg in Mexico, known as Condor 217, was born at the Los Angeles Zoo.

AP

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Between Wilshire & Montana	= \$ 2,335,700	\$ 904,944
South of Wilshire	= \$ 960,000	\$ 653,038
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Babies, moms play weight game

Weight gain in moms can lead to fat kids, according to study

MALCOLM RITTER
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK The standard advice for how much weight a woman should gain during pregnancy may need to be changed, concludes a rigorous and provocative study suggesting that even accepted weight gains may raise the risk of having an overweight toddler.

Women in the study who gained the rec-

ommended amount of weight ran four times the risk of having a child who was overweight at age 3, compared to women who gained less than the advised amount.

The outcome was about the same for women who gained more than the advisable amount.

So what's a pregnant woman to do? Clearly, she shouldn't gain more weight than recommended, said the study's lead author, Dr. Emily Oken of Harvard Medical School.

But beyond that, it's too early to say whether women should try to gain less than the standards call for or shoot for the low end of the recommended range, Oken said. At least the latter course is probably safe, she said.

Some other experts urged that pregnant

women not try to gain less weight than recommended.

In any case, Oken said, it's too soon to call for a revision of the standard guidelines.

The study appears in the April issue of the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology. It focuses on guidelines issued in 1990 by the Institute of Medicine, a private non-governmental organization that advises the federal government.

The guidelines recommend differing amounts of weight gain depending on how much a woman weighed before pregnancy, as measured by a combination of her height and weight called the body-mass index.

Those with a "normal" BMI are encouraged to gain 25 to 35 pounds, for example. Women with a higher BMI, meaning they

are heavier at a given height, get lower targets, while women with a lower BMI are given a higher range.

The new work looked at 1,044 pairs of mothers and their 3-year-olds. It compared how much weight the mother had gained during pregnancy with the BMI of their children.

It defined "overweight" in the 3-year-olds as having a body-mass index greater than 95 percent of children of the same age and sex.

Researchers found that about half the mothers gained more weight during pregnancy than the guidelines called for, while about a third met the recommended gain. The remaining 14 percent gained less weight than recommended.

Crowded house: Nevada foster parents have their hands full

BY LENITA POWERS
Associated Press Writer

SPARKS, Nev. Kathy and Dave Bain always seem to have room for one more.

In the past seven years, they've opened their home and hearts to dozens of foster children who have been victims of physical abuse, were born with fetal alcohol syndrome or whose parents were in prison.

So last fall, when they learned eight brothers and sisters needed to find one home so they wouldn't be separated, the Bains found room for them as well.

"We never had planned to take care of

this many kids, but when eight children came up, it was like, 'Oh, my God, they need a family to keep them together, get them to school and just be there for them,' said Kathy Bain, an assistant manager at a Reno bank.

On Dec. 29, the Bains became the foster parents of Mariano, who turns 12 later this month, Angie, 11, Lupe, 9, Ofelia, 6, Andrea, 5, Bidi, 4, Francisco, 3, and Gabriel, 2.

The couple already has three adopted children — Jennifer, 15, Tyler, 6, and Jesse, 5. They also are the foster parents of two children, ages 2 and 9, who can't be identified because their parental rights have not been

terminated.

Not counting their biological son — 19-year-old Mitchell, a student at Simpson University in Redding, Calif. — that adds up to a total of 13 children who are now part of the Bains' household.

Snowflake and Noble, a white cat and a husky-mix dog adopted from the local shelter, round out the family.

"We go to Costco and Sam's Club the way other people go to 7-Eleven," said Dave Bain, who trains foster and adoptive parents for Washoe County.

The family goes through seven loaves of bread and 14 gallons of milk a week and can

put away a 6-pound bag of chicken at one meal.

A heavy-duty Kenmore washer and dryer get a workout three times a day to handle the 25 loads of laundry done each week.

"And sorting the socks is like doing a 1,000-piece puzzle," Kathy Bain said.

A chart lists a household chore each older child must do for the week on a rotating basis.

To help pay the bills, the family gets the county's standard rate of \$30 per day, per foster child, plus medical care through Nevada Medicaid. If a foster child is adopted, the county no longer pays the per diem.

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Guest Commentary

Linda Milo

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Can mothering be both bad and good?

SITTING ON A PARK BENCH THE OTHER day, I heard a mother speaking with outraged tones with another mother. She was talking about a third mom who she said, "Was a bad mother." A day later I had coffee with a friend of mine who told me that her daughter-in-law was a "terrible mother" to her adopted year-old child.

"She's just not bonding with him, she doesn't have enough food in the house," and on and on. That set me to thinking about mothering and specifically about the sacred ideal that there is a perfect way to nurture the young. The belief states that if a woman deviates from being perfect, that somehow makes her a "bad" mother?

There are tons of studies that tell mothers how to behave and what to do for their children. Years ago we were instructed to start solid foods at 3 weeks of age, use disposable diapers, and always keep your baby in the crib and not in your bed at night. Now we are told that solid foods shouldn't start until after 9-months-old, cloth diapers are best, and it's really OK for your baby to sleep with you. The very latest studies rarely agree with one another because frankly if they did, there would be no money given out to actually do the studies, and then there wouldn't be any money in writing books on the subject.

Anyway, most of us survived our childhood. Some of us complain and point out our parent's mistakes and then state that we would never do that to our child! We promise that things will be different. I guess we could say we are fighting off bad mothering when we talk like this, but is there such a thing as "bad" mothering?

The term bad mothering shouldn't be applied to a young mom when she doesn't use disposable diapers or is using formula instead of breastfeeding her baby. Bad mothering is not giving your baby a cookie to just shut up her whining. Nor is it allowing the baby to sleep in bed with her parents, even while they make love.

There are bad mothers, no doubt about it. Mothers who neglect their children, stuff a pillow over his head so that you don't have to listen to his whimpers, mothers who abandon their child on street corners because they don't want to put up with them anymore, and those mothers who twist their child's arm until it snaps.

Bad mothers? Absolutely.

But most of us are not bad mothers.

Mothers in the Western world at some point stopped trusting their instincts and began to listen to doctors whose advice was from books and studies that told us how to be good mothers. And while this was going on, we began to betray one another — setting up rules for what was considered good mothering. Mother's would sit together and discuss the ignorant woman down the street who bottle fed her baby from birth, while smugly nodding that they were superior because they breastfed their child for years.

Or mothers would have a cup a tea and roll their eyes about their neighbor who quit her high-profile job so that she could stay home with her child and finger paint all day. They then congratulated themselves on their excellent luck in picking the greatest nanny to take care of their child. Look at me! I am the better mother! And when I am surrounded by other mothers who feel the same way, then I know for sure that my choice is the best.

Why do this?

**SOME OF US COMPLAIN
AND POINT OUT OUR
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ARE FIGHTING OFF BAD
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TALK LIKE THIS, BUT IS
THERE SUCH A THING AS
'BAD' MOTHERING?**

Every woman can feel confident in her own mothering choices. Why does a mother need to criticize and scorn another mother because they chose differently? Have you found yourself today, in your mind, criticizing another mother?

Stop — just stop and ask yourself truly if she is a "bad" mother? Does she abuse her child? Neglect her child? Think about what is coming out of your mouth.

None of us is perfect. Mothering is a daily education, where all of us are learning how to "do it" and how to get better at it. We all make mistakes. So instead of attacking and criticizing the next mother, why not start feeling more confident in yourself and look to your own children — instead of judging another. Mothers should try supporting each other. We seem to always find the bad about another mother, but it takes a good heart to find something good. So go find something good about another mother and tell her so! Make her day! And once that happens, we all become better mothers.

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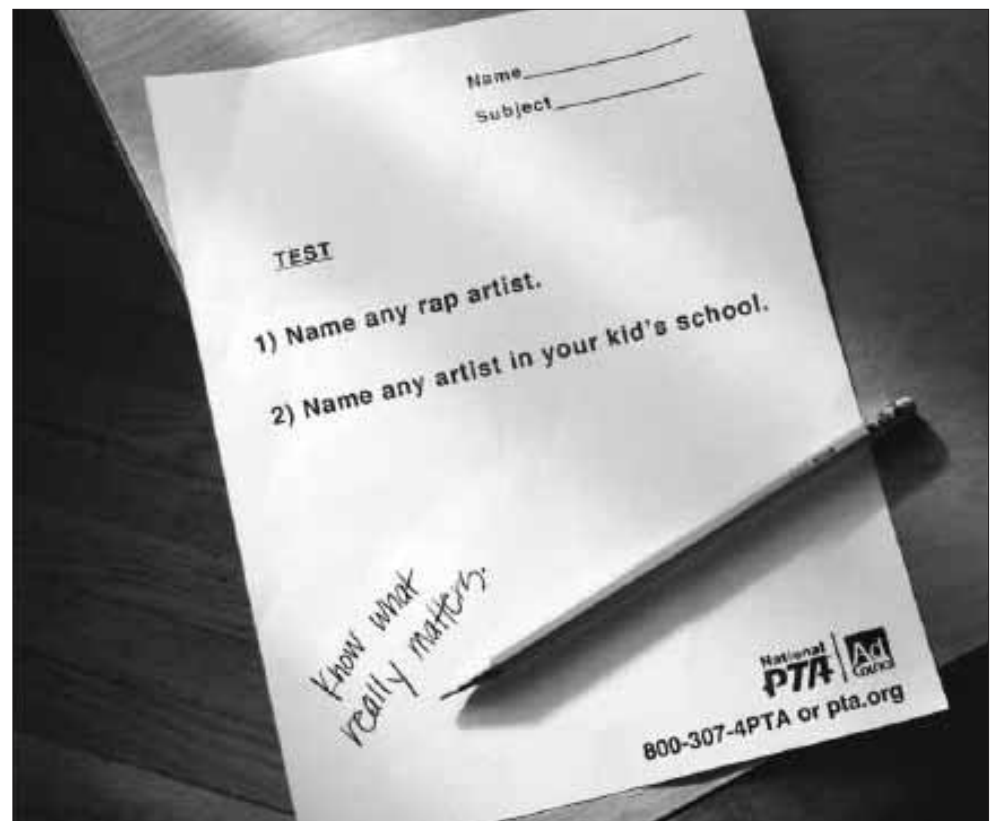
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Study finds more airport delays

BY JENNIFER C. KERR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON More airline passengers bumped, more bags lost and fewer on-time flights. For the third year in a row, those problems grew worse for the industry, according to annual study that rates airline quality.

"They just don't get it yet," said Dean Headley, an associate professor at Wichita State University and co-author of the study being released Monday.

One upside, researchers said, was that the number of complaints about airlines has stabilized since hitting a five-year low in 2005.

The study does not include information

from recent weather-related flight delays such as the ones that left JetBlue and United Airlines planes idling for hours on taxiways.

An industry spokesman does not expect travel woes to improve anytime soon.

"We're going to see more delays and those delays translate to cancellations, mishandled bags and unhappy passengers," said David Castelveter, spokesman for the Air Transport Association, a trade group for the major U.S. carriers. "It's not a pretty picture."

Castelveter blamed the majority of delays on bad weather. Making matters worse, he said, more planes are going to be in the air in the coming years and the air traffic control system is not capable of handling the rate of growth.

Congress, he said, needs to provide more money to update the system so it better can handle the increased traffic and weather problems.

The Airline Quality Rating report, compiled annually since 1991, looked at 18 airlines and was based on Transportation Department statistics. The research is sponsored by the Aviation Institute at University of Nebraska at Omaha and Wichita State University.

Among the study's conclusions:

—Southwest had the lowest number of complaints in 2006, 0.18 per 100,000 passengers. United and US Airways were tied with the most complaints, 1.36.

—Hawaiian Airlines had the best on-time

performance (93.8 percent) for 2006, followed by Frontier Airlines (80.7 percent) and Southwest (80.2 percent). Atlantic Southeast Airlines had the worst on-time performance (66 percent). On-time was defined as within 15 minutes of the scheduled arrival time. Canceled and diverted flights counted as late.

Last year, 6.50 bags were lost, stolen or damaged, for every 1,000 passengers, compared with 6.06 in 2005. Hawaiian had the best baggage handling performance; Atlantic Southeast the worst. The increase in lost bags comes at a time when at least one domestic carrier — Spirit Airlines — is planning a new fee on passengers who check their bags.

Tribune sale closer than ever

BY ASHLEY M. HEHER
AP Business Writer

CHICAGO Tribune Co. remained silent Sunday as its board of directors reportedly met to vote on competing buyout offers for the media company.

Tribune's 11-member board appeared to favor a \$7.9 billion buyout offer by real estate mogul Sam Zell, the Chicago Tribune, which is owned by the media conglomerate, reported in its Sunday editions.

Chicago-based Tribune had set a March 31 self-imposed deadline to announce a spin-off, buyout or reorganization.

The paper, citing an anonymous source, said Los Angeles billionaires Eli Broad and Ron Burkle had all but conceded a Zell victory.

A person familiar with the matter told The Associated Press on Sunday that no party had admitted defeat.

"I don't think anybody's given up," said the person, who asked not to be identified.

Tribune spokesman Gary Weitman declined to comment Sunday. Zell spokeswoman Terry Holt, who has declined to comment throughout the buyout process, did not immediately return a message seeking comment, nor did a Burkle spokesman.

Members of a special committee of board members spent much of the week sifting through dueling offers for the nation's second-largest newspaper publisher by circulation.

Broad and Burkle made an 11th-hour bid for the company on Thursday, offering \$34 per share, or \$8.2 billion, said the person, who has knowledge of the offer but was not permitted to disclose details.

The Burkle-Broad bid includes \$500 million in cash and

would use an employee stock ownership plan to raise money for a buyout. It is believed that Zell proposed an investment of \$300 million and would use a stock ownership plan.

An ESOP resembles a profit-sharing plan, but allows the company to borrow money and repay loans using pretax dollars. Payments of both interest and principal are tax-deductible and would create more leverage for a buyer.

Tribune also is said to be considering a "self-help" plan that would involve spinning off the company's broadcast division and borrowing money to pay a one-time cash dividend to shareholders.

Like most newspaper companies, Tribune has been struggling with declining profits, circulation and advertising revenues. Last month, the company announced revenue fell 3.4 percent in February as its publishing division continued to struggle.

In addition to the Chicago Tribune, the company owns nine other daily newspapers, including The Los Angeles Times, as well as 23 TV stations and the Chicago Cubs baseball team.

Tribune's share price fell about 50 percent from early 2004 until last spring and has languished at just above \$30 for months, down from an all-time high of \$60.88 in November 1999.

Its shares climbed nearly two percent Friday on the New York Stock Exchange as investors awaited an announcement from the company.

Zell, 65, has earned a reputation as an astute investor, making his fortune reviving moribund real estate. After a bidding war culminated in February, he sold his company, Equity Office, to a private equity firm.

Dogs join masters for yoga instruction across the country

BY DONNA GORDON BLANKINSHIP
Associated Press Writer

BELLEVUE, Wash. By the end of their doggie yoga class, most of the wandering and sniffing participants are passed out on their mats, in a position their instructor calls the "upward facing belly pose."

Beans, a majestic 2-year-old Vizsla, however, is ready to play. The overgrown puppy has tried to relax with his owner, Chantale Anderson, but once Magnet the black lab heads off to explore the room, Beans is ready to go.

Mostly, however, both the dogs and the humans on a recent evening at the Seattle/King County Humane Society seemed relaxed and focused for about 40 minutes of "doggie yoga."

Leilani the toy poodle is the star of the class, perhaps because the tiny 11-year-old is too timid to venture off the mat to play with the big dogs.

Her owner, Suanne Nagata, said afterward that Leilani just loves being touched.

"I could just feel her relax," she said.

Brenda Bryan, who teaches human yoga as well as the new class for both dogs and humans at the Humane Society, says the dogs react to the gentle energy in the room.

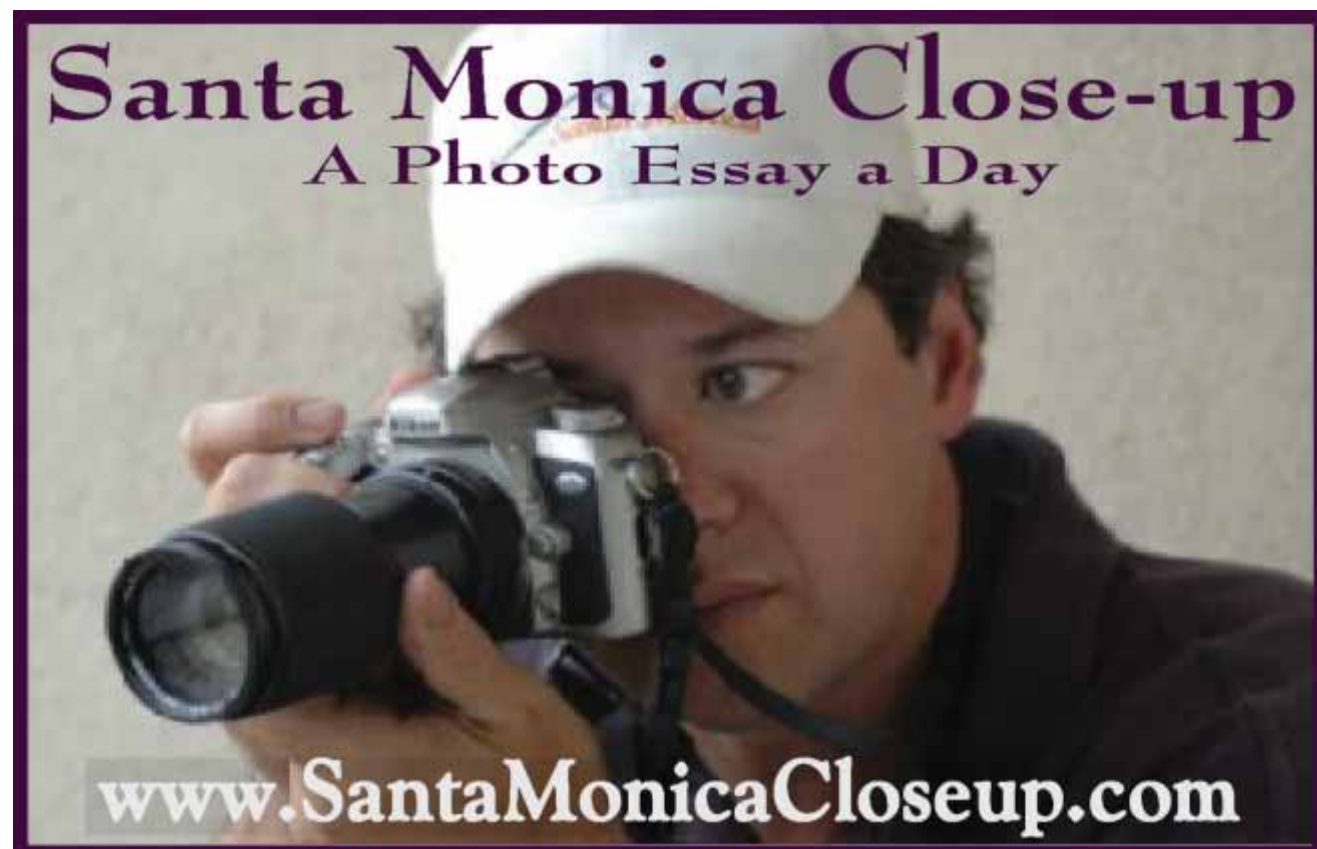
"As we get into it, the dogs all kind of calm down," said Bryan, who developed the poses for the class.



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Hikers advised to keep wits about themselves in Arizona

By the Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. Hikers tackling the front range of the Catalina Mountains' eastern slopes should bring an extra dose of caution because of loose boulders, authorities say.

The U.S. Forest Service warns that boulders still could come loose from hillsides that were hit last summer by rocks and sediment that came crashing down the mountain following a July 31 storm that dropped 6 inches of rain in seven hours.

"I would certainly suggest that anyone hiking in and around those debris

flows should exercise extreme caution," Forest Service spokesman John Abel said.

The affected areas include Ventana Canyon on the west to Soldier Canyon on the east, not far from where two teenagers were injured last Wednesday when a loose boulder hit them as they were rock-climbing.

Officials have recorded 260 such flows from the 2006 storm. Until then, 10 to 15 were known to have occurred in the Catalinas.

Peter Griffiths, a U.S. Geological Survey hydrologist, said he couldn't say if the boulder that hit the hikers was

part of the 2006 debris flow without knowing exactly where the rock was.

Griffiths said that hikers in the Catalinas need to look carefully for signs of recent slope failures.

Bare areas, where a hillside looks stripped of vegetation, are spots where boulders could come loose because of past flows, he said. The failures occurred where sediments on the side of such slopes became over-saturated.

"Places where material is cut loose to form debris flows — those places are still unstable," said Griffiths, who is working on a study looking into the cause of those flows.

Religious conservatives are still important in Iowa, but declining

BY MIKE GLOVER

Associated Press Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa There was a time when any Republican candidate who did not meet the approval of Iowa's religious conservatives was all but doomed to failure in the state's presidential caucus.

As the 2008 race takes shape, these conservatives are no longer the unassailable force they once were, although they remain a powerhouse in Iowa's GOP.

The role of Christian activists in the state is closely watched because of Iowa's leadoff position in the presidential nominating season. At this point, however, there is little sign that activists are uniting behind a candidate or trying to channel the race in a particular direction.

"We've become part of the process, we've become political players, instead of this fringe element that people didn't understand when Pat Robertson surprised everybody," said Ed Failor Jr., a lobbyist for Iowans for Tax Relief. The group is closely allied with religious conservatives.

It was religious conservatives who propelled Robertson, founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network and the Christian Coalition, to a second-place finish in Iowa's 1988 GOP caucus, ahead of then-Vice President George H.W. Bush. They also were responsible for conservative pundit Pat Buchanan's surge in 1996, holding Republican front-runner Bob Dole to a surprisingly narrow victory.

White evangelicals made up one-third of the electorate in Iowa in the 2004 presidential election, according to exit polls

conducted for The Associated Press and the television networks. Two-thirds of them voted for George W. Bush.

Nationally, evangelicals were 23 percent of the electorate in 2004 and they voted overwhelmingly for Bush.

Virtually all recent polls in the state have shown former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, Arizona Sen. John McCain and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney leading the Republican pack among likely 2008 caucus-goers, and all have hurdles to overcome with religious conservatives.

Candidates such as Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, with far better conservative credentials, have drawn little support, largely because they are viewed as long shots.

"They acknowledge that these guys may not be guys who are going the distance," said Iowa House Republican leader Chris Rants of Sioux City, who has close ties to religious conservatives.

Steve Scheffler heads the Iowa Christian Alliance, which split with the National Christian Coalition a year ago, leaving plenty of hard feelings.

"It's the best thing we ever did," said Scheffler. "The national organization had lost its focus in terms of being a grass roots, positive organization. It became increasingly evident that it just didn't have its act together."

He insisted Christian conservatives have rebounded and "we've come a long way."

Republicans suffered a dramatic setback in Iowa in the midterm elections.

Searchers looking for Gardner's plane

BY PAUL FOY

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY A salvage operation began Monday for the airplane that crashed into Lake Powell in February and left Olympic wrestler Rulon Gardner swimming in 44-degree water and stranded on a remote beach overnight.

The recovery at the reservoir straddling Utah and Arizona was ordered by the National Park Service and will be paid for by the pilot's insurer.

"The Park Service has an interest seeing it removed because of the hazardous fuel and oil on the aircraft," Glen Canyon spokesman Kevin Schneider said.

Divers will attach cables before a winch-equipped, 44-foot catamaran lifts the small plane from a depth of 115 feet.

The Cirrus SR22 is largely intact and standing up on a sloping bottom, said James L. Cross Sr., a 30-year veteran of underwater salvage jobs who runs two marine companies from American Fork, Utah.

But it has an emergency parachute "that could cause us some grief" if it opens, said Cross, owner of Marine Projects Consulting Co. and Cross International Search and Recovery.

Cross and his crew were steaming Monday for Good Hope Bay, 28 miles from the nearest boat launch, where they planned to set moorings and anchors for their vessel and send divers to evaluate how to rig the plane with cables.

They were hoping to get the plane to the surface by Tuesday.

The crash stranded Gardner, 35, his pilot and another man on a remote shoreline Feb. 24.

The pilot, Randy Brooks, was flying low over Lake Powell when the plane suddenly dipped and clipped the water's surface. It came to an abrupt stop and began sinking.

The three survived the crash with only bumps and bruises and managed to swim more than an hour in 44-degree water — conditions that easily could have caused hypothermia in just half as much time, experts said.

After a night without fire or shelter, they flagged down a fisherman on a boat the next morning.

Gardner captured a gold medal at the Sydney Olympics in 2000. Two years later, he was stranded for a night by his snowmobile in subzero temperatures in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, about 15 miles from his hometown of Afton, Wyo.

He slipped into an icy creek several times.

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Envisioning a better Reed Park

BY ALISON TULLY

Special to the Daily Press

WILMONT Architect Katherine Spitz realized the extent of Reed Park's poor signage when her own coworker couldn't find it.

"The park has a lack of identity. There is nothing that celebrates it," Spitz told community members gathered inside the Miles Playhouse on Saturday. "My coworker was wandering down Wilshire."

Her law firm — Katherine Spitz Associates — is currently mulling ideas for the park's eventual redesign. Proper signage is one of many problems at Reed Park, so named in 1997 to honor the late former mayor Christine Emerson Reed.

The city has received five proposals for the park's renovation, according to Miriam Mulder, an architect for the Civil Engineering and Architecture Department.

"Five is a really high number for a small project like Reed Park," she said. "I think a lot of people wanted to redesign it because it's high profile and has a lot of inherent challenges."

Homelessness is perhaps the biggest of the challenges. The park's one square block — cov-

ering the area between Wilshire and Lincoln boulevards and California and 7th streets, attracts a considerable number of transients because of its abundant green space. In the 188 surveys filled out by residents concerning the park, more than half complained about the homeless, according to Brett Horner, senior administrative analyst for the Department of Community and Cultural Services.

"The park is used by a lot of transients because it is close to downtown," said

\$450,000 has been allotted for improvements in Reed Park, according to Horner.

Resurfacing of the park's six tennis courts, expansion of the playground, planting of drought-resistance plants and the preservation of the historic playhouse are some of the ways that Spitz feels the park's space could be enhanced.

"We want to use playful and modern playground equipment seating that are uncomfortable for people to sleep on," she said.



I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE WANTED TO REDESIGN IT BECAUSE IT'S HIGH PROFILE AND HAS A LOT OF INHERENT CHALLENGES."

Miriam Mulder, an architect for the Civil Engineering and Architecture Department

Horner. "The acreage has a casual use instead of being programmed for sports and different activities."

The planned renovation is part of the city's Parks & Recreation Master Plan, adopted by City Council in 1997. Around

Some senior citizens like Patricia Kelch, 70, however, felt that the new redesign is more catered to children.

"I can see how this will help the kids," Kelch said. "But I don't see how this is going to help us, who live by the park and don't

have anywhere to sit."

Janaki Symon, 59, of Santa Monica, said that implementing programs like read-alouds by adults could balance the different needs of the population.

"There is a natural polarization between young people and the elderly," Symon said. "We need to create an atmosphere in which they can find common ground."

Following the meeting, residents were able to place red stickers alongside their favorite photos that Spitz's firm is pulling ideas from. Santa Monica Police Officer Jacob Holloway held his sheet of stickers, moving from poster to poster to carefully make his choices.

"I like this fish, because I have a 6-year-old girl who would love playing on it," Holloway said, pointing to a playground structure. "Stuff like this is a great way to expand the park and it will help to attract more people."

news@smdp.com

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Seasonal allergies return to Southland

FROM ALLERGY PAGE 1

Sapp, who was excited to learn about the new blood test.

"I've noticed in Southern California a lot of people have allergies," said Sapp, who blames this on the "dirty" L.A. environment. "We live in the desert, and I guess people just have to put up with it."

Sapp may have a point. Those living in Southern California have it rough compared to those who live where there are seasons, said Dr. Leonard Fromer, an allergist who has been in private practice in Santa Monica for more than 20 years.

While most locations get a break from pollen, Southern California does not because of the extended growing season, meaning those with certain allergies receive no respite.

"I tell patients that pollen season starts on Jan. 1 and ends on Dec. 31," said Fromer, who sits on the state Department of Health Services IMAP Advisory panel for Allergy and Asthma, and is on the faculty of the Department of Family Medicine at UCLA.

"We live in a climate that, for a large part, something is blooming year round," Fromer added. "The concentration of most pollens is in spring and fall, but in a desert climate like we have — with the sun, the warmth, and add water by irrigation — you have a serious concentration of pollen in the air and everyone feeling miserable."

Developing an allergy depends largely on one's DNA and interaction with nature. Studies have shown some identical twins to not be allergic to the same things.

For some reason, the number of people developing allergies has increased rapidly over the last two generations, Fromer said. There are several theories, but one that is gaining the most support, is the belief that the way in which we live, with more industrialization, congestion and concentration of populations, has contributed to the increase.

"There is a tremendous epidemic of allergies and asthma," Fromer said. "There are



Photo courtesy

BUZZ KILL: It seems that bees are the only ones not affected by season allergies brought on by pollen.

about 21 million people with asthma in the U.S., and of those, 90 percent of kids have allergic asthma as do 60 percent of adults.

"If untreated, it can be fatal."

Lucky for those afflicted, medication, including cortisone steroid nose sprays, are

improving and as more people get tested, the better off they will be, Fromer said.

However, one with allergies must constantly be aware of their surroundings and what they are eating, protecting themselves against triggers that can cause an attack.

"My allergies have gotten better since I've been in So. Cal because it's drier down here," said Kelli McCarthy. "I don't really know if that's the reason, but I'm happy."

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Time to 'Think Blue'

Opening Day draws baseball fans out of the SM woodwork

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

THIRD STREET PROMENADE It was the bottom of the fourth inning with two outs when Milwaukee Brewers leftfielder Geoff Jenkins lofted a pitch from the Dodgers Derek Lowe high and deep.

It could've been an inning-ending at bat ... if L.A. leftfielder Luis Gonzalez caught the ball.

"You're useless!" a Dodgers fan screamed at a high-definition TV inside Yankee Doodles, an irritated look on his face as he threw his arms up in the air. Dodgers fans all around the room groaned, grumbling about the ongoing massacre as they drowned their Monday afternoon sorrows in beer and buffalo wings.

Gonzalez' what-could-have-been provided the Brewers with a 6-1 edge over the visiting Dodgers on Opening Day.

It's a tradition as time-honored as Major League Baseball itself — skipping out of the office to spend three blissful hours root, root rooting for the home team on baseball's first day of the season. For hope truly springs eternal.

The Dodgers organization has established a partnership with 25 bars and restaurants in Greater Los Angeles, creating destinations where fans can gather and watch games all season. Yankee Doodles on the promenade was one of the few locations in the area that hosted a special 2007 Opening Day party, inviting customers to enjoy the game on the more than 42 televisions in the sports bar and meet-and-greet Dodgers legends Wes Parker and Kenny Landreaux.



**I THINK
EVERYONE HAS
HIGH HOPES FOR THIS
YEAR."**

Adam Rock
Dodgers Fan

Up to 300 people were estimated to take part Monday at the sports bar, according to manager Jairo Hernandez. A large crowd was also expected for the L.A. Angels opener last night against the Texas Rangers, though there were no formal plans for a party at the sports bar and restaurant.

Nearly every single television in the main dining room showed the Dodgers-Brewers game. Waiters, bartenders and busboys alike were all sporting Dodgers caps as they

served their customers, most of whom were also decked out in Dodger blue.

One Dodgers fan who asked to remain anonymous was playing hooky on Monday and drove over to Yankee Doodles to cheer on his team after calling in sick.

He's been a die hard Dodgers fan since he was 8 years old and went to a home game with his father. It was a baseball give-away day then and most of the baseballs ended up on the field after an umpire made a questionable call against the Dodgers, he recalled.

"That bad situation for me showed just how passionate Dodgers fans were," he reflected.

BLUE, THROUGH AND THROUGH

Many of the fans who ditched school and work obligations for Opening Day have been life-long fans, following the team through the good times and the bad.

Playing hooky from school, Adam Rock, of Brentwood, a law student at USC, believes the Dodgers' run for the World Series will lie in how the team uses their young players. In a competitive National League West, the Dodgers will be better off if they utilize their young and healthier players than with the aging veterans, he said.

"I think everyone has high hopes for this year," Rock said in the second inning.

Halfway through a mug of beer, Elias Perez Jr., of Glendale, took a vacation day in order to watch the game. A consultant, Perez

is often out of town for his job and tries to catch as many Dodgers games as he can.

He too has high expectations for this year's squad, although the game wasn't looking too good for the Dodgers.

"We shouldn't have signed (centerfielder) Juan Pierre," Perez said, shaking his head at the game. "It was a mistake, as I thought."

Across the room, fans were lining up to receive free T-shirts and water bottles and autographs from Parker and Landreaux.

A Golden Glove winner from 1967-1972, Parker, the former Dodgers first baseman, believes that as a player, Opening Day was the most exciting time of the year.

"As a fan, I'm just glad that baseball season is here," he said.

Opening Day is one of the biggest and most exciting events of the year for former Dodger Landreaux, famous for catching the final out in the 1981 World Series.

Drafted by the California Angels in 1976, Landreaux spent about 10 years playing in the majors with the Angels, the Minnesota Twins and the Dodgers, where he finished his career.

In fact, the Dodgers were his favorite team growing up in Los Angeles, idolizing Sandy Koufax, Tommy Davis and Maury Wills.

"Ever since I played baseball, I would look forward to Opening Day, whether it was in little league or in the pros," Landreaux said.

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Congressman wants some answers

FROM WAXMAN PAGE 3

quality standards set by the Ventura County Air Pollution Control was reversed on June 2005 after intervention from a political appointee who “may have been acting after consultation with the White House.”

If the reversal is allowed to stand, Waxman said it will “likely ... result in degraded air quality in California, inconsistent application of air quality regulations and potential enforcement difficulties for any mitigation project ultimately adopted by BHP Billiton.”

Waxman is also requesting several e-mails and handwritten notes taken during a phone conversation with the EPA official. Waxman also asks for EPA employees to be made available for interviews with committee staff.

Dale Kemery, a spokesman for the EPA, said “The EPA has been responsive to Congressman Waxman’s request, providing the requested materials and working with congressional staff to respond to questions.”

Officials with BHP said they have received Waxman’s letter and are ready to cooperate.

BHP Billiton, one of the largest energy companies in the world, wants its terminal, capable of processing 800 million cubic feet of natural gas daily for use in homes, factories and power plants, to become the portal through which California receives natural gas from Australia.

Californians are the largest consumers of natural gas in the nation, with about 35-45 percent of all electricity used in the state generated by natural gas, a figure that is expected to rise nearly 44 percent by 2013, according to the California Energy Commission.

The port will be a floating, LNG terminal that will receive gas from ships and transfer it to land using pipelines connected to the Southern California Gas Company’s onshore natural gas pipeline distribution system. Once operating, Cabrillo Port is expected to meet almost 15 percent of California’s daily natural gas needs.

Environmentalists have been lobbying hard for the project to be scrapped, citing a 300-page report prepared by the U.S. Coast guard, California State Lands Commission



Photo courtesy

ON THE HORIZON: An artist's rendering of the liquid natural gas off-shore facility to be named Cabrillo Port. BHP Billiton is developing the project.

and the U.S. Marine Administration that said the processing plant would pose substantial environmental and safety concerns for the California coast.

The study says the terminal would significantly affect air quality, ocean views and marine life. It also concludes that an accident or terrorist attack, while unlikely, could affect ships heading or departing from the nation’s busiest port complex at Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors.

“If this facility is constructed, it would instantly rank as one of Ventura County’s major contributors to smog pollution. It’s common sense that it should fully comply with the Clean Air Act to protect the health and safety of all of the communities it would impact,” said Susan Jordan, director of the California Coastal Protection Network.

“This expanded investigation by the Oversight Committee is further evidence that EPA’s reversal was motivated by politics,

not science,” Jordan added.

Representatives with Billiton claim the project will be safe and environmentally sound, utilizing the latest technology to reduce impacts to the land, air and sea.

Unlike other projects, it will in no way utilize or extend the life of offshore oil platforms off the California coastline, officials said.

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Cardinal Mahony decries assisted-suicide bill, calls on parishioners to stand with him

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Cardinal Roger Mahony called on members of the nation’s largest Roman Catholic archdiocese Monday to beat back a proposal to legalize assisted suicide for the terminally ill in California, and accused the Legislature’s most powerful Democrat of being swept into a “culture of death.”

“Assisted suicide is totally unnecessary — not only is it against God’s law, God’s plan, we simply don’t need something like that,” Mahony said during a lightly attended noon Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels.

He urged parishioners to pressure Sacramento legislators “to vote down ... this attack on life.”

He leveled unusually sharp criticism at one of the bill’s prominent sponsors,

Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, who recently met with the Cardinal to discuss the proposal. Nunez’s support is viewed as crucial if the bill is to reach the governor’s desk.

Mahony said he was saddened and confused by Nunez’s decision to endorse a plan that would allow the terminally ill to obtain life-ending drugs from their physicians.

“We should be troubled that Fabian Nunez — who has worshipped here in this cathedral, is a Catholic — somehow has not understood and grasped the culture of life but has allowed himself to get swept into this other direction, the culture of death,” said Mahony, whose archdiocese is estimated to have more than 4.3 million Catholics.

An Assembly committee last week approved the bill, the fourth attempt in recent years to get it to through the Legislature.

Modeled after an Oregon law, it would

allow patients found by two physicians to have no more than six months to live to request a drug to end their lives when they choose. The drug would have to be administered by the patient, who would have to request the prescription in writing and orally. A physician could require the patient to have counseling before receiving the drug.

In a statement, spokesman Steve Maviglio said while the speaker respects the cardinal’s opinion “this is another issue of individual choice where the overwhelming majority of Catholics have a different perspective than the official position of the church. Personal liberty and dignity are important values to Californians, regardless of their religious beliefs.”

Even if the bill makes it out of the Legislature, it could face a veto by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who has said the issue should be decided by voters rather than the Legislature and governor.

Making grade

FROM GRADES PAGE 3

The API score is proof that the district’s format is working and that the teaching strategy implemented in the classroom is having an impact on student progress, according to Oscar de la Torre, vice president of the school board.

Along with the API scores, the Department of Education released schools’ statewide ranking. Schools in the state are ranked academically on a scale of one to 10, with 10 being the highest. Each of the district’s schools received a ranking above 5, with six area schools notching a 10 for academics. Though the API scores show the district is doing well, it’s only one indicator of the students’ and schools’ progress, especially considering there are excellent students who don’t perform well on standardized tests, de la Torre said.

“The test does not supplant quality instruction in the classroom,” he said.

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NCAA BASKETBALL

UCLA could be back for another attempt

BY JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

ATLANTA This time, at least, the future seems brighter for UCLA.

The Bruins headed home from the Final Four for a second straight year having had their season end with a disappointing performance against Florida. But they also enter a second straight offseason knowing the returning nucleus is strong enough that another shot at a national championship is well within reach.

“We were beaten both years by Florida. You have to credit them, a great team,” Bruins coach Ben Howland said minutes after Saturday’s 76-66 loss in the semifinals meant the Gators would have a chance at a second straight title and UCLA would not be able to add to its record 11th.

Almost a year to day, it had been a 73-57 loss to Florida in the national championship game that ended the Bruins’ season.

Though the second loss was tougher to take, there was cause for hope.

“I’m excited about our team next year,” Howland said. “We have no seniors in the program. I’m thinking that we’re going to be a very good team and competitive next year, especially with the addition of Kevin Love, who is one of the top players in the country, if not the best kid in the country. He gives us a very good inside presence.

“Then also we’re getting the Los Angeles city player of the year in Chase Stanback out of Fairfax, who did a great job again leading his team this year to the state championship and city championship.”

The addition of the 6-foot-10 Love and 6-7 Stanback is certain. The return of All-America guard Arron Afflalo is the biggest question facing the program in the offseason.

The 6-5 Afflalo entered his name for the NBA draft after the loss to Florida in 2006, but withdrew and returned to lead the Bruins in scoring.

He also was their best defender and their leader on and off the court in a season that saw them reach No. 1 for six weeks and never fall out of the top 10. The Bruins won the Pac-10 regular season title for a second straight year and went unbeaten at home for the first time in 32 years.

They were the No. 2 seed in the West Regional and put on an impressive defensive performance on the way to the Final Four, holding opponents — including No. 12 Pittsburgh and No. 2 Kansas — to 36 percent shooting and 50.2 points.

“WE HAVE NO SENIORS IN THE PROGRAM. I’M THINKING THAT WE’RE GOING TO BE A VERY GOOD TEAM AND COMPETITIVE NEXT YEAR, ESPECIALLY WITH THE ADDITION OF KEVIN LOVE.”

Ben Howland
Bruins coach

That was all forgotten in a hurry after Afflalo struggled through foul trouble in the loss to Florida. He played just five minutes in the first half, and all his 17 points came in the final six minutes when the Bruins got no closer than 10 points.

Afflalo was disconsolate after the game. His decision about returning for a senior season, and perhaps another run at a national title, won’t be made for a few weeks, but his immediate thoughts made it sound like a possibility.

GOLF

The kid becomes a golfing champ

BY DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

RANCHO MIRAGE Morgan Pressel never lost hope, even after she walked off the 18th green Sunday still three shots out of the lead with little reason to believe she would return an hour later for the greatest swim of her life.

Typical of her career, everything happened so quickly.

Pressel closed with a 3-under 69 at the Kraft Nabisco Championship, playing the final 24 holes without a bogey. Then she watched a series of collapses unfold on a sun-baked afternoon in the desert, none more shocking than Suzann Pettersen blowing a four-shot lead with four holes to play that made the 18-year-old Pressel the youngest major champion in LPGA Tour history.

About the only thing anyone could have predicted was Pressel in tears.

“Oh my God! Oh my God!” was all she could manage with a camera in her face when Pettersen’s 25-foot birdie putt to force a playoff stopped a few inches short.

These were tears of celebration as a major champion, not even a year after she finished high school. And she sobbed remembering her mother, Kathy, who died of breast cancer four years ago.

“I know my mother is always with me,” she said. “And I’m sure she’s proud of me.”

Pressel was at 3-under 285 and on the practice range when she entered the record books, winning a major at 18 years, 10 months and 9 days. Sandra Post of Canada won the 1968 LPGA Championship at 20 years, 19 days.

The youngest man to win a major was Young Tom Morris, who was 17 when he captured the 1868 British Open.

Pressel returned to the 18th not for a playoff she expected, but for a plunge into the pond with her caddie, Jon Yarbrough, and her grandmother, Evelyn Krickstein. Herb Krickstein, her grandfather and the father of former tennis player Aaron Krickstein, later dipped his toes in the water.

Pressel slipped on a white robe with “2007 Kraft Nabisco Champion” stitched on the back.

“This is a dream come true,” Pressel said.



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SURF REPORT

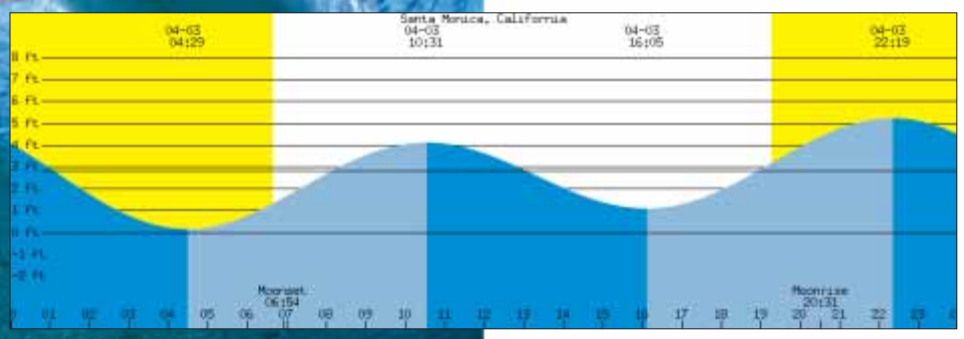
SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 57°

SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)
Today the lagging periods arrive from this first southern hemi system, more along the lines of 12-14 seconds. We could also see some forerunners from the swell coming in Wednesday; these would be potent, 19-20 second periods. Size though should still run chest to occasionally times head high on the sets with a little less punch.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
SOUTHERN HEMI SWELLS THIS WEEK...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



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 27, 2007

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 3

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 36/ ns

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10/ ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	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	A	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	D	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	B	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	F	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	C	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
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

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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LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A	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	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	ns
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	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	ns
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

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.

Handle your budget, Virgo

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)
★★★★ Let others have their way. You really cannot change their decisions or direction. By honoring friendships and knowing what you are seeking, you will grow and gain. Sometimes you don't see events like others do. Tonight: Talk turkey.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Plug into work and get as much done as possible. Sometimes you might not know what is best. You might need to make your own inner decisions. Comfort might not play into what is happening. Tonight: A late-night chat.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You are imaginative and full of answers. You don't need to have all the answers all the time. You might want to think and consider your options. A straight reply will head your way if you are direct as well. Tonight: Be willing to break from tradition.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You might need to answer to someone else or approach a situation totally differently. How you handle a personal matter could change given time and space. A partner could be very strong-willed and push hard. Tonight: Relax at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Speak your mind, but be ready to handle the unexpected in a new way. Others could clearly be brusque or difficult. Listen to what you are hearing, ask questions and get information. Tonight: Talk up a storm.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You have a lot to get done quickly and efficiently. Listen to what someone shares, even though he or she expresses anger and frustration. You might want to revise your thinking. Consider options that open up. Tonight: Handle your budget.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You are all smiles, knowing what you want. You will want to think about and verify news. High energy and probably contentiousness come down your path. Listen to an irate loved one. You don't need to agree; just listen. Tonight: Ever happy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★ Listen to your inner voice. Think in terms of gains and growth. You might need to go along with someone who can be contentious and touchy. Consider your options carefully before deciding which course will work for you. Tonight: Easy does it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You are fiery and direct in your dealings. Speak your mind without attaching frustration or anger to your voice. Good news comes your way. Talk about dreams rather than just think about them. Start making them happen. Tonight: Join friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Take charge and make what you want happen. You are more in control than you realize. Your high energy and instincts could take you in a new direction. You understand more than you realize. Tonight: A must appearance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Reach out for new information. You will want to try to do something very different. You have energy and a sense of direction. Investigate possibilities with the idea of making what you want happen. Tonight: Fun and games.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might need to listen to a partner, whether you agree or not. Creativity blends and takes you down a new path. You are on top of your game. Think in terms of expansion through novel attitudes. Also allow a partner to have his or her head. Tonight: Go along with plans.

Born Today
Actress, singer Doris Day (1924)
Comedian, actor Eddie Murphy (1961)
Singer Wayne Newton (1942)



Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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Happy Birthday!
How you choose to deal with people this year could be radically different or more dynamic from in the past. Your ability to understand what goes on will be enhanced if you sit back and say little. Observation also proves to be a good teacher. You find that by deferring, success heads in your direction. Let success become your middle name. If you are single, your life will take a new twist. You relate quite differently; your style has interesting results. If you are attached, your bond twists and turns in a new direction. Your life together will flourish if you emphasize common goals and the friendship that exists between you.

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<06>xA

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A thin line

Starlet Hilary Duff says she feels pressure to be skinny in public

Teen starlet **HILARY DUFF** claims she's never had a problem with her weight, but feels pressure to be thin.

The 19-year-old actress and singer told People Magazine that she's either perceived

as too fat or too thin in the media, which she says can be "judgmental and mean."

"And if you don't like the way you look or feel insecure, when people say things about you – in magazines or just in everyday life – they can be hurtful.

... But you'll never make them happy," she told the magazine.

Duff, who has sold more than 13 million albums worldwide, has a new album out April 3 called "Dignity." Several of the songs are about her

relationship with her now ex-boyfriend, Good Charlotte singer Joel Madden, but she denies that she slammed his new newest flame, Nicole Richie, in her tune "Gypsy Woman."

And anyway, she told

People she doesn't like to discuss relationships.

"It's not my job to talk about my relationship," she said. " ... But the more you try to keep it quiet, the more people want to know about it."

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Ripken Jr. says be ready to persevere through anything

Newly elected baseball Hall of Famer **CAL RIPKEN JR.** says he remembers the advice his father gave him – "come to the park ready to play." And he followed it.

By the time the younger Ripken retired, he had played in a major league-record 2,632 consecutive games to break Lou Gehrig's

mark of 2,130. He had 431 home runs and 3,184 hits.

But it wasn't easy. One must be ready to persevere, the former Baltimore Orioles shortstop said in an interview that aired Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

"We all have our moments of weaknesses and our low points, and we all

feel sorry for ourselves at certain times. And I was no different than anyone else," said Ripken, who has a new book, "Get in the Game."

"There was an expectation that tomorrow would be better, and that you push yourself through to there," he said.

AP

SOMETHING TO PROTEST



MARTIN SHEEN was among a group of peace activists cited during an anti-nuclear protest Sunday at the Nevada Test Site, authorities said.

A total of 39 protesters, including Sheen, were released after being cited by sheriff's deputies for crossing onto test site property following the rally, test site spokesman Darwin Morgan said.

Organizers said about 150 people attended the demonstration, but Nye County Sheriff Tony DeMeo said it was only 75.

"We are asking for nuclear disarmament and peace," organizer Ming Lai said. "We are asking for the Nevada Test Site to stop doing the testing they're doing. The only reason they're doing it is to make bombs."

Sheen, who spent seven seasons playing President Josiah Bartlet on the TV drama series "The West Wing," has received similar citations at the test site in the past. Calls to Sheen's publicist were not returned.

AP

R.E.M. to unveil tracks from new album

R.E.M. plan to give fans a taste of tracks from their upcoming album during a series of gigs in Dublin this summer.

In a statement posted Friday on the R.E.M. Web site, the band said it would hold a five-night "working rehearsal" for the album at

Dublin's Olympia Theatre June 30, July 1 and July 3-5.

Singer Michael Stipe said the concerts would provide "the great start we need for our next album's work."

"I intend to hit the ground running," he said.

Stipe and bandmates

Peter Buck and Mike Mills are due to begin work on the as-yet-untitled 14th album this spring with producer Jackknife Lee.

Formed in Athens, Ga. almost 30 years ago, R.E.M. were college radio favorites in the 1980s with songs like "Radio Free Europe" and

"Pretty Persuasion" before becoming mainstream stars with 1990s hits including "Losing My Religion" and "Everybody Hurts."

Their 13th album, "Around the Sun," was released in 2004.

AP

Snoop Dogg surprised about being denied visa

SNOOP DOGG says he was shocked at being denied a British visa this week, although he remains hopeful authorities will allow him to share a "message of love and harmony."

"I was shocked by the decision but am optimistic that the British authorities will soon realize my global efforts to promote peace and grant me the opportunity to come back for my fans," the rapper said Wednesday during an interview for the documentary "In Prison My Whole Life."

The 35-year-old rapper,

whose real name is Calvin Broadus, has been touring Europe with Sean "Diddy" Combs. The duo was forced to cancel British dates after authorities denied the visa.

Segments of Broadus' interview were released Thursday by a publicist for actor Colin Firth, who is producing the documentary on death row inmate Mumia Abu Jamal. The interview had been scheduled for London but was filmed in Amsterdam instead.

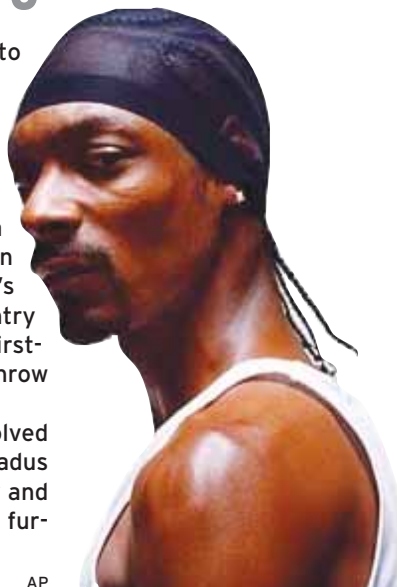
Legal troubles are not new for Broadus, who was

also barred entry into Britain in May 2006.

In April 2006, he and five others were arrested on charges of violent disorder and starting a brawl after a fight erupted when members of the rapper's group were denied entry to British Airways' first-class lounge at Heathrow Airport.

The case was resolved when police said Broadus accepted responsibility and they declined to take further action.

AP



ARE YOU ENTERTAINING?

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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MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Call theatre for showtimes.

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

I think I love My Wife (R)

11:40a.m., 4:35, 9:40

The Lookout (R)

11:55a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 10:05

Premonition (PG-13)

11:50a.m., 2:30, 5:00, 7:45, 10:00

Pride (PG)

2:00, 7:10

Zodiac (R)

12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA

1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

300 (R)

11:00a.m., 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:10

Blades of Glory (PG-13)

11:35a.m., 12:30, 1:50, 3:00, 4:25, 5:35, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:20

The Last Mimzy (PG)

11:50a.m., 2:20, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50

Reign Over Me (R)

11:10a.m., 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30

TMNT (PG)

11:15a.m., 1:20, 3:35, 5:45, 7:50, 10:00

Wild Hogs (PG-13)

11:55a.m., 2:25, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE

1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Amazing Grace (PG)

2:00, 7:10

First Snow (R)

11:30a.m., 4:30, 10:00

The Wind That Shakes the Barley (NR)

12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 9:55

LAEMMILE'S MONICA FOURPLEX

1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Avenue Montaigne

(Fauteuils d'orchestre) (PG-13)

1:45, 4:30, 7:10

G.I. Jesus (R)

1:55, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

The Host (Gwoemul) (R)

9:45

The Lives of Others (Das Leben der Anderen) (R)

1:10, 4:20, 8:00

The Namesake (PG-13)

1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE

1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

The Hills Have Eyes 2 (R)

12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Meet the Robinsons (G)

11:40a.m., 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

Meet the Robinsons in

Disney Digital (G)

11:00a.m., 1:30, 4:30, 6:30, 9:00

Shooter (R)

11:10a.m., 12:50, 2:00, 3:40, 4:50, 6:40, 7:40, 9:30, 10:30

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
SILVER

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

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

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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

YOU WERE SUCH A GOOD BOY TODAY. WE'LL BE STICKING TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME!

REMEMBER WHAT WE DISCUSSED LAST WEEK: KEEP THOSE FIRST SERVES DOWN

WOW! YOU REALLY CRANKED OUT THOSE HOMERS TODAY. I'M SO PROUD OF YOU!

SHOULD I BE CONCERNED THAT YOU'RE MORE COMMUNICATIVE WITH YOUR SPORTING EQUIPMENT THAN YOU ARE WITH ME?

The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S RIDICULOUS THAT YOU LIVE IN A RENTAL APARTMENT...

...AND YOU WATCH HGTV ALL THE TIME?

YOU WATCH THE FOOD NETWORK AND LIVE ON HOT POCKETS.

LET'S BE HONEST WITH OURSELVES AND WATCH "THE BIGGEST LOSER."

The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside

MY LATE HUSBAND, EARL, WAS AN AVID HUNTER. HE HUNTED DEER, ELK, BEAR, MOOSE, CARIBOU... YOU NAME IT, HE HUNTED IT.

HE WAS ALSO A TERRIBLE SHOT.

Garfield

By Jim Davis

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO FOR A WALK IN THE PARK, LIZ?

YES, I WOULD

COOL!

CAN I COME ALONG?

WHY NOT?

MR. INSECURITY

Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

OH, HE'LL SHOW, DOUG. HE COMES EVERY DAY.

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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF WILLIAM A. STANCHEL, aka WILLIAM STANCHEL, aka W.A. STANCHEL
CASE NO. BP101710
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of WILLIAM A. STANCHEL, aka WILLIAM STANCHEL, aka W.A. STANCHEL A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Denise Weinstock in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Denise Weinstock be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION request the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The Will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed actions.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on April 16, 2007 at 8:30 A.M. in Dept. 11 located at: 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in section 9100 of the California Probate Code. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a formal Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. **Petitioner: Denise Weinstock James M. Cox, SB# 117005 Attorney for Petitioner WISE PEARCE YOCIS & SMITH 249 East Ocean Blvd., Suite 440 P.O. Box 22664 Long Beach, CA 90801-5664 Reporter# 106518 Published in: Santa Monica Daily Press Pub Dates: March 27, 30, April 3, 2007**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR AS NEEDED SECRETERIAL, CLERICAL AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL SERVICES
The Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors (Department) is seeking a qualified and experienced personnel services firm to provide temporary and as needed secretarial, clerical and support personnel services to assist in handling high volume workloads that cannot otherwise be handled by Department staff. Qualified companies may submit a written proposal for a contract to provide such services.

Notices

Proposals must be in the form described in the RFP. Selection of a contractor will be based on the qualifications of the firms submitting proposals as well as their prices for performing the work.

An informational meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday April 18, 2007, at the Chace Park Community Building, 13650 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. The deadline for submitting proposals will be 5:00 p.m., Wednesday May 2, 2007.

Contractors submitting proposals must have a minimum of five years' experience in providing temporary personnel services to governmental agencies or private organizations. The County may require additional minimum qualifications. The contract will be subject to the County's Living Wage Ordinance, County Code Chapter 2.201.

To receive a copy of the RFP, either telephone (310) 306-0495, send an e-mail with TEMPORARY PERSONNEL SERVICES in the subject line to dpritchett@bh.lacounty.gov, visit http://lacounty.info/doing_business/main_db.htm, or write:
Department of Beaches and Harbors
Temporary Personnel Services RFP
13837 Fiji Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
Fax: (310) 821-8155

The County reserves the right to cancel the RFP and to modify any and all terms and conditions of the RFP, including minimum requirements. For further information, call Debra Pritchett at (310) 306-0495.
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN773825 T19542-75 Apr 3, 2007

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE
(Sections. 6104-6105 U.C.C.)
Escrow No. 47074-EM
Notice is hereby given to creditors of the within named seller that a bulk sale is about to be made of the assets described below.
The name(s) and business address(s) of the seller are:
Leonard Rosenaur and Gabriel Nazarian, 2720 Neilson Way, Santa Monica, CA 90405
The location in California of the chief executive office of the seller is: Same
As listed by the seller, all other business names and addresses used by the seller within three years before the date such list was sent or delivered to the buyer are: NONE
The name(s) and business address of the buyer are:
Farooq Nazat Shah, 2720 Neilson Way, Santa Monica, CA 90405.
The assets to be sold are described in general as: Furniture, fixtures, equipment, goodwill, trade-name, leasehold, improvement and interest, and covenant not to compete and is located at: 2720 Neilson Way, Santa Monica, CA 90405.
The business name used by the seller(s) at that location is: SHORES MARKET & DELI.
The anticipated date of the bulk sale is April 19, 2007 at the office of United Escrow Co., 3440 Wilshire Blvd., #600, Los Angeles, CA 90010. This bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.
If so subject, the name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is United Escrow Co., 3440 Wilshire Blvd., #600, Los Angeles, CA 90010, and the last date for filing claims shall be April 18, 2007, which is the business day before the sale date specified above.
Dated: March 26, 2007
Farooq Nazat Shah
4/3/07
CNS-1113213#
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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Chevy Suburban
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'98 Passat WGN .. \$8,995
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'04 Scion XB \$12,900
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'05 Liberty \$12,995
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Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'00 Passport \$6,995
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'07 Caliber SXT ... \$12,995
Chrome Wheels (7051079)
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'04 Jetta GLS Turbo .. \$14,995
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Vehicles for sale



'06 Accent \$11,995
Auto, A/C, CD (6U003215)
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'02 Explorer Spt .. \$8,995
Automatic, CD, A/C, Alloys & Full Power (2U037397)
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'03 Galant \$9,995
(3E212783)
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'06 Solara Red \$17,788
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'04 Hybrid Civic \$12,995
Auto, AC, Car Pool (4S007972)
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Auto, AC & More! (3M115974)
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'03 Infiniti FX45 4D (ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
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Telescope wheel, Traction, ABS
(P1554) \$16,892

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'03 Infiniti G35 Sedan 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Auto, RWD, Bose
Sound, Air Bags, ABS (P1520A)
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'06 Chrysler 300C Sedan 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V8 5.7L HEMI, Leather, Traction,
Moon roof, Premium Wheels
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'04 BMW M3 Coupe
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Leather, Alloy Wheels (P1557)
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al is placed after 5 days of ad expiration, advertiser must pay full price.
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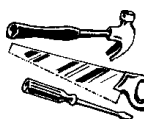
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