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FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 128

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE DOWN TO THE BONE ISSUE

UCLA BRUINS
MARCH SADNESS
SEE PAGE 5



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

PROUD MOMENT: **Santa Monica police officers pose for a picture with Chief Tim Jackman (center) after receiving the SMPD's Lifesaving Medal and Medal of Courage at City Hall on Thursday morning. Also, 30-year veteran Alex Padilla was promoted to the rank of captain.**

SMPD recognizes exemplary work

BY WILL WEISS
Special to the Daily Press

CITY HALL Tales of outstanding service and uncommon valor were hardly uncommon at the Santa Monica Police Department award ceremony Thursday morning, and there was no shortage of stand outs.

"It wasn't my first time in a dangerous situation, but we have a job to do and sometimes things get messy," said Officer Cain Mora, recipient of the department's Medal of Courage.

Mora, along with fellow Officer Enrique Esparza, who also received the same award, responded to a call of a suicidal man, armed with a handgun, in Clover Park this past January.

When Mora ordered him to the ground, the man pulled out a pistol, placed it against his temple and approached Mora, yelling for the officer to shoot him, explained SMPD Chief Tim Jackman to a full house at the ceremony.

Risking their own well-being, Mora and Esparza stepped out of cover to protect the suspect's mother, who was fighting with her son over the weapon. And though they were unable to prevent the suspect from taking his own life, the two are credited with likely saving the life of the man's mother.

"I'm very happy to have been recognized for both my and my partner's work out there," Mora said after the ceremony, attributing the outcome of the situation to what he called the department's excellent training program. "This department is filled with heroes, as we saw today."

Among the nine others honored at the event was Capt. Alex Padilla, who was officially promoted and sworn into said rank before the gathering of his family and peers.

"It is an honor and privilege to be promoted to the rank of captain," Padilla said. "I appreciate the opportunity the chief has given me to represent the department both internally and out in the community."

Padilla, who has been with the Santa

SEE POLICE PAGE 10

City Hall looks for different rail yard locations

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff i demandi Writer

CITY HALL After hearing a flood of concerns from residents in the Pico Neighborhood over the proposed placement of a light rail maintenance yard near homes, Santa Monica city officials will begin exploring alternative locations.

City Hall said on Thursday that it plans to hire a real estate consultant who will be tasked with identifying different properties within phase two of the Exposition Light Rail, which begins at Culver City and passes through West L.A. before arriving in Santa Monica.

The search comes in response to an outpouring of opposition from Pico residents over a recommendation by the Exposition Construction Authority that a rail maintenance facility be placed at the Verizon site on Exposition Boulevard. The City Council last month adopted a position against the location of the rail yard and requested that the authority be vigilant and serious in finding an alternative that is not near residences.

Kate Vernez, the assistant to the city manager for government relations, said that consultants bids will be due on Monday and anticipates that the findings from the search will be presented relatively soon.

"The process will be very quick," she said. "It has to in order not to hold up the EIR [environmental impact report] for the light rail."

City Hall could also hire a second consultant who will specialize in engineering and issues related to the operation of rail maintenance yards. Vernez said the real estate planner is estimated to cost $10,000, which would come from City Hall's Proposition A transit funds. Some of the cost could be shared with the authority.

Expo officials have said they looked at more than 40 different properties from Downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica, searching for sites that would meet the facility's many physical requirements — located on land that is about six to 10 acres and is next to the main line, ideally in an industri-

SEE EXPO PAGE 12



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



'The Secret Garden'
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.
The Santa Monica Theatre Guild presents "The Secret Garden." Based on the beloved children's story by Frances Hodgson Burnett, this Tony Award-winning musical tells the story of a young girl's journey to England and the discovery of a hidden garden, where she brings those around her back to life. Tickets are $23 for general admission and $18 for seniors and students. Call (310) 828-7519.

Salsa the night away
Isabelle's Salsa/Tango/Pole Dance Academy
1334 Lincoln Blvd., 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Friday socials in Santa Monica offer you a friendly, relaxed atmosphere to learn how to dance hot salsa. Two classes are offered for beginners and experienced salsa dancers alike. After class, enjoy a social hour to practice with peers, mingle, enjoy great music and an oak floor. $20 covers the 90 minute class and social practice. Free drinks will be served. Call (310) 392-3493 for more information.

South Asian American Art Festival
Santa Monica Art Studios
3026 Airport Ave., 12 p.m. — 6 p.m.
The 2nd Annual South Asian American Art Festival ends Saturday, April 4. The show, "Dialogue in Art," attempts to articulate how South Asian artists communicate contemporary political, religious, ethnic and identity issues through a variety of mediums. The collection, featuring 25 artists, runs the gamut from photographs and sculpture to video presentations. Admission is free. Call (310) 397-7449 for more information.

Powerful double bill
Powerhouse Theatre
3116 Second St., 8 p.m.
The Los Angeles Times Theatre Ensemble continues critically-acclaimed "War Cycle" with "Survived," which both opened at the Powerhouse Theatre Thursday, April 2. The plot, inspired by a true story, follows the emotional process of scattering the ashes of a soldier who died in Iraq. An unexpected visitor throws a twist in the family's plans as they try to honor and remember their dead son. Tickets are $25. Call (310) 360-3415 for more information.

Saturday, April 4, 2009

Jr. Chefs of America
Sur La Table at the Farmers' Market
6333 Third St., 4 p.m. — 8 p.m.
All aspiring young chefs between ages 10 and 18 are welcome to come to the open casting call for the "Jr. Chefs of America first annual WEBISODE cooking contest." Existing Jr. Chefs will also be present for a special cooking demonstration, along with Top Chef Fabio Viviani. Pre-register at www.jrchefsofamerica.com to reserve your audition time. Auditioning is free, and prizes are worth over $500.

Shot in Santa Monica
Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St., 2 p.m.
Join the Ocean Park Branch Library for a screening of "Nomads," a 1986 film starring Pierce Brosnan and Lesley-Anne Down. Brosnan plays Dr. Charles Pommier, a French anthropologist who dies while in pursuit of other-worldly creatures. With his dying breath, he confides his discoveries to Dr. Eileen Flax (Down). As the movie progresses, keep an eye out for familiar Santa Monica scenery! Call (310) 392-3804 for more information.

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

Yelp sales tactics cause for concern among Santa Monica businesses

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

FOURTH STREET An intriguing phone call came one day to Roll House Sushi last spring, sparking some interest in its owner about advertising opportunities on a business review Web site that was quickly growing in popularity.

"You have a lot of hits on your page and the reviews are great," restaurant owner Charlie Paratunya recalled hearing from a Yelp sales associate. "People love you."

The salesperson reportedly proceeded to ask if there was any interest in advertising opportunities, to which Paratunya responded that he would have to wait because his budget did not permit it, asking that Yelp check back later.

When the associate phoned again months later, Paratunya, after checking with his business partners, declined the offer, saying it wasn't the right time.

By then Paratunya had checked the Roll House Sushi page on Yelp several times, pleased with the number of reviews — about 20 — that had given him five out of a possible five stars. But after the second conversation with the Yelp sales associate, Paratunya said he began noticing that the positive reviews were getting deleted and the negative ones were getting pushed to the top.

Roll House Sushi, along with several local businesses, are among a growing group of merchants making claims that the San Francisco-based Internet company employs questionable sales tactics, including allegations that the associates strong-arm merchants into advertising. Such claims prompted Yelp co-founder and CEO Jeremy Stoppelman into posting an entry on his blog earlier this year listing the top nine myths about the company, much of which covers the advertising concerns.

The blog entry has since been featured on Yelp's site.

SEE YELP PAGE 11



CLOSE CALL

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Santa Monica High School's Ethan Corn attempts to beat the tag of Hawthorne's catcher on Thursday at Samohi. The Vikings won the Ocean League game, 8-7, after falling behind 3-7 early in the contest. With the win, Samohi improves its record to 5-6 on the season and 1-1 in league play. Prior to the victory, the Vikings had lost five in a row.



Photo courtesy of Wendy Perl

BAM! **Samohi's Megan Bradley connects for a home run against Inglewood on Monday.**

Able tosses second no-hitter

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI For the second time this week sophomore Natalie Able tossed a no-hitter.

The most recent gem came at Beverly Hills during a 9-0 victory on Thursday. The previous effort came during the Ocean League opener at Inglewood during a 25-0 romp.

With the win Thursday, the Samohi softball team improved its record to 11-5 and 2-0 in league play. The Vikings have outscored league opponents 34-0 in the pair of victories. Samohi did not allow a single run in 10 league games last season and appear to be on the way to another strong season.

"We're really proud of her effort," Head Coach Debbie Skaggs said following the game. "She has a few things to work on

SEE SAMOHI PAGE 13

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A job well done

Editor:

I thought that [the April Fool's Day] issue was hilarious. Every page was packed with one funny thing after the other. I was trying to figure out which item I liked the most, but it is too hard. The News Of The Weird item about George Clooney was a riot.

The front page story about a 10 percent decrease in rent was a great idea. I would have liked to see the reactions of property owners when they read the joke, not realizing that it was indeed a joke. And the parking meter times limit changed to a five minute maximum was very funny also. And the ads were so funny! Miss Kitty's strip club on Broadway, I'd like to see that! The horse drawn coaches to replace Blue Buses was brilliant. And also the photo of the Santa Monica Pier as the Mystery Photo. That was a nice touch.

I have lived in Santa Monica for almost 40 years so I guess that you might say that I like it. Thank you for making me like Santa Monica all the more.

My best wishes to you and the staff.

Lew Shermonski
Santa Monica

Fooled again

Editor:

Once again, you got me with your April Fool's Day issue. You would think by now that I would be prepared after so many years reading the Santa Monica Daily "Jest," and being taken in, even if only momentarily, by the "jests" on April 1. As I read, I said to myself "What the heck?," but then it finally hit me. I must say, however, the thought of horse-drawn coaches has crossed my mind, not only to replace Blue Buses, but cars in general. Maybe those were really the "good old days" after all. Thanks for keeping me on my toes, and for the humorous issue of the "Jest."

Happy April Fool's Day.

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica

Jacarandas under attack

Editor:

The tree vandals are back. After they decimated the beautiful canopy trees on Second and Fourth streets, they have turned their attentions and their chain saws to the stunning mature jacaranda trees on the promenade.

The reason – the trees are "defective." By this they mean that the trunks do not grow 100 percent perpendicular to the pavement. Well, this is nature, things are crooked. And they feel that somehow this ordinary deviation from the norm is a threat to our well-being.

The reasons given for this wanton destruction are specious. They say that the "defective" trunks press against the metal street grates. So, destroy the trees. This is rather like getting a dog who outgrows his doghouse, and then shooting the dog to fix the problem. Many of the grates have already been adjusted to fit eccentric trunk growth patterns, and the world hasn't ended.

And somehow these improved tree grates are seen as a threat to our safety. Why? Are the current tree grates also a threat? In order to do yourself any damage on a tree grate, you would pretty much have to march right into the tree. ...

I respectfully ask the city attorney and the lawyers for the Third Street district to supply me with the exact number of lawsuits filed, pending, or settled by people who have been injured by these tree grates. I suspect the number is zero.

Again, I hope the community rallies against this stupid vandalism.

Robert Barrett
Santa Monica



Your column here

J. Matt Barber — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Lost in the wilderness

AFTER MOSES LED THE ISRAELITES OUT of Egypt, they rebelled against God and were made to wander aimlessly in the desert for 40 years on a needlessly roundabout journey to the Promised Land. God kept the coveted prize out of reach until that rebellious generation passed.

Today we find an improvident Republican Party lost in the political wilderness. As the GOP seeks to find its own Promised Land — a return to majority leadership — it has, to its own detriment, rebelled against the core conservative principles solemnized within its own party platform.

In a "big tent" effort to be all things to all people, the GOP has taken a hard left, hustling along in exactly the wrong direction.

As a result, that elusive Promised Land shrinks in the rearview mirror with every "centrist" capitulation.

Much of the party leadership has become emotionally addicted to the placebo of political pragmatism, swallowing the media-driven misconception that, to voters, ideological "moderation" is somehow the political gold standard.

So, the Grand Old Party has become the Bland Old Party, suffering a largely self-inflicted electoral thumping at the ballot box two election cycles running.

But alas, a defiant elephant refuses to cry "uncle."

Despite the party platform explicitly affirming unborn children's "right to life which cannot be infringed," current RNC Chairman Michael Steele recently chose to parrot the DNC's pro-abortion talking points.

When asked about "abortion rights" in an interview with GQ magazine, Steele said: "I think that's an individual choice." A clearly stunned interviewer followed up: "Are you saying you think women have the right to choose abortion?" Steele: "Yeah. I mean, again, I think that's an individual choice. ... Yeah. Absolutely."

In fairness, Steele later issued a statement insisting that, in fact, he is "pro-life." This, of course, begs the question: "Huh?"

But the enigmatic Steele didn't stop there. While addressing the highly polarizing issue of homosexuality, he flippantly cast aside the GOP's moral values banner, sounding off like a spokesman for the "gay" activist Human Rights Campaign.

Taking a jab at the untold thousands of ex-"gay" Americans who have found freedom from the homosexual lifestyle, he opined, "I don't think I've ever really subscribed to that view that you can turn it on and off like a water tap. You just can't simply say, oh, like, 'Tomorrow morning I'm gonna stop being gay.'"

Then, to a liberal's delight, he wrapped up his pro-"gay" exposé, by falsely equating changeable homosexual behavior to his own immutable skin color, concluding, "It's like saying 'Tomorrow morning I'm gonna stop being black.'"

Even in liberal California, most Democrat-leaning African-Americans disagree with Steele's apples to oranges comparison. Although 96 percent voted for Barack Obama, 70 percent also voted to pass California's Proposition 8, doing away with court invented "same-sex marriage."

Although the marriage issue has, time and again, been a verifiable winner for the GOP, the party treats it like a political third rail.

The American people demand much more. They have forsaken the GOP because it first forsook them. If the GOP ever wishes to reverse its spiral into the abyss of irrelevancy, it must, in word and deed, make a bold, unapologetic return to the fiscally conservative and socially conservative policies that fueled the Reagan revolution.

Still, in what amounts to chronic wishful thinking, the left has prematurely penned the conservative movement's obituary. To borrow from Mark Twain: Reports of our death are, once again, greatly exaggerated.

Liberal Democrats and "moderate" Republicans alike continue to misrepresent voters' ballot box rejection of today's "centrist" GOP as an overall aversion to larger conservatism. Frankly, it's tiresome and a bit embarrassing. In fact, precisely the opposite is true.

An August 2008 Battleground Poll reported that 60 percent of all Americans deem themselves conservative. Evangelical Christians — an estimated 70 million — and other social conservatives make up the base of that 60 percent. Almost universally, social conservatives are also conservative on economic and national security related issues, representing what I call: "The complete conservative."

Yet, as we plunge headlong into the dark age of social and economic Obamunism, the GOP inexplicably continues to treat complete conservatives like that crazy uncle you only have over for Thanksgiving. When election season rolls around, it's all hugs and kisses. After the returns — not even a phone call.

Well, complete conservatives have finally taken their ball and gone home. And, until the GOP finds the moral compass it so long ago tossed in the unforgiving wilderness sand, it'll just have to keep pitching to Independents, liberal Republicans and moderate Democrats.

You know, like John McCain did.

MATT BARBER is director of cultural affairs with both Liberty Counsel and Liberty Alliance Action. He also serves as associate dean of Liberty University School of Law and co-hosts the nationally syndicated "Liberty Live" talk radio program on AFR Talk. Send comments to Matt at jmattbarber@comcast.net.

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

UCLA basketball brings March sadness

HAVE YOU EVER LOOKED FORWARD TO something so much that when it finally arrives you're all the more disappointed? Case in point is tomorrow's semi-finals of the men's NCAA basketball tournament. Unfortunately, UCLA lost in the second round to Villanova by 20 points. (And it wasn't nearly that close.) But, as my friend Mary, retired Santa Monica school teacher/sports maven, points out, we lost to them by three points less than Duke did. Whoopee.

After three straight UCLA Final Fours (2006-2008), and a record-tying 18 overall, for Bruin fans this year's Big Dance was a Big Dud. The Final Four without UCLA is like the Fourth of July without Roman candles, Groundhog Day without the groundhog, or having a bozo two-term president ruin the country. (Obviously, it's nothing like the latter but I couldn't help myself.)

The NCAA tournament starts with 65 teams and ends this Monday night with one, undisputed champion. It's also a TV ratings bonanza. CBS paid $6 billion for the TV rights for 11 years, raising the question, what does the NCAA do with all that money? Hopefully, very little goes to Dick Vitale.

The tournament is also a betting bonanza, greater even than the Super Bowl. Las Vegas reports that over $12 billion was wagered this year, while only $10 billion was for the Super Bowl. (Did I say "only?") Add the untold billions in office pools across the country and you could almost bail out GM. OK, not quite.

Apparently, tournament betting is recession proof (it couldn't be housing, instead). President Obama even filled out a bracket, picking North Carolina to win the championship (to which Rush Limbaugh reportedly said he hoped "North Carolina fails"). Obama also picked UCLA to lose in the first round, which, had I known in advance, I might have voted for McCain. OK, not quite.

There had been so much optimism at UCLA. The Bruins had talented players returning and among the best freshman recruiting classes in the country. So what happened? For starters, the horrendous home loss to ASU didn't help. Up by 11 points with eight minutes to go, Coach Ben Howland, inexplicably, tried to run out the clock. This took the Bruins out of their shooting rhythm and gave the gasping Sun Devils time to rest. Other than that, it was a brilliant strategy.

Two losses in Arizona, plus to WSU (by one point) and to SC, prompted the NCAA Committee to give UCLA a bracket befitting a redheaded stepchild. (In this politically correct world, my apologies to all redheaded step children.) Admitting that I've been spoiled by UCLA's sensational success over the years (check) and that I'm a rather poor loser (check) let the finger pointing begin.

Given how Howland has turned UCLA's program around, I realize it's blasphemy to criticize him. Apparently, I'm not letting that stop me.

In real estate it's "location, location, location." In Howland's basketball it's "defense, defense, defense." Even his offense is defense (most points are scored off turnovers). After the Villanova loss, when tentatively questioned by reporters if he might ever employ a zone, Howland snapped, "No!" as though the zone was somehow unsportsman-like. He appeared defensive about being defensive.

Yes, defense wins games, but despite popular theory, it generally doesn't win championships. Before the turn of the century, when L.A. had a professional football team known as the Rams, one of their more successful coaches was Chuck Knox's whose nickname was "Ground Chuck." This moniker stemmed from his style of grinding opponents into submission, while his offense was woefully unimaginative. The Rams won numerous division titles but in the playoffs, they always turned into hamburgers.

Whom I feel sorriest for about the Bruin season (other than Mary and me) are the players. Instead of turning pro, Darren Collison came back for his senior year; Alfred Aboya, who already graduated, also came back; and Josh Shipp, who endured two hip surgeries over the years, returned, hoping to go out in a blaze of glory. It wasn't exactly a blaze. It was more like a heat lamp.

One habit of Howland's that drives me insane is when UCLA has just gone on a demoralizing scoring spurt, suddenly he'll call a momentum killing timeout! He says it's to organize his defense, but it also gives the beleaguered opponent a desperately needed breather. Fortunately, if I throw anything at the TV I make sure it's Styrofoam.

Of course in the big picture, my obsession with UCLA basketball is embarrassingly childish. We've got two wars, the worst economy since the Depression, our infrastructure is crumbling, the polar icecaps are melting, and international terrorism is actually on the rise. On the other hand, if Jrue Holiday comes back for one more year, and Howland gets a big, shot-blocking rebounder, who knows?

When he isn't analyzing UCLA basketball's next year's recruiting class, JACK can be reached at Jackneworth@yahoo.com.

The Q Line

More student bodies?

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District officials are considering increasing class sizes to cover budget shortfalls.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you feel that increased class sizes would negatively impact students or do you believe that it is necessary in light of the current economic situation?

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


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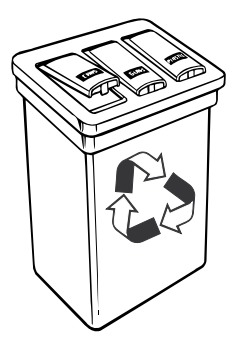
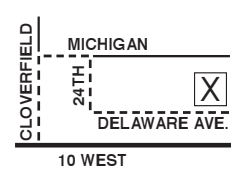
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA LANDMARKS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Public hearings will be held by the Landmarks Commission on the following applications:

829 Broadway, LC-09CA-004, Zoning: BCD (Broadway Commercial) District. The City Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider Certificate of appropriateness 09CA-004 for design approval of the proposed rehabilitation of the Landmark Quonset Hut located at 829 Broadway. The Landmarks Commission will determine whether the proposed project is appropriate and architecturally compatible for the structure. Applicant: Killefer Flammang Architects. Owner: NM Broadway Studios, LLC.

380 Santa Monica Pier, LC-09CA-007, Zoning: RVC (Resident-Visitor-Commercial) District. The City Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider Certificate of appropriateness 09CA-007 for design approval of a proposed retractable shade structure over the bumper cars at Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier. The Landmarks Commission will determine whether the proposed project is appropriate and architecturally compatible for the Landmark Santa Monica Pier. Applicant: Santa Monica Amusements, LLC. Owner: City of Santa Monica.

200 Santa Monica Pier, LC-09CA-009 and 09ARB-161, Zoning: RVC (Resident-Visitor-Commercial) District. The City Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider Certificate of Appropriateness 09CA-009 and Sign Adjustment 09ARB-161 for signage and exterior modifications to the northeast corner of the Looff Hippodrome Carousel Building associated with tenant improvements for a new ice cream/soda fountain vendor. The Landmarks Commission will determine whether the proposed project is appropriate and architecturally compatible for the Landmark Santa Monica Pier. Applicant: Kevin McCarthy. Owner: City of Santa Monica.

When: **Monday, April 13, 2009 at 7:00 pm**

Where: City Council Chambers, City Hall, Room 213
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

Questions/Comments
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment on this and other projects. You or your representative, or any other persons may comment on the application at the Public Hearing, or by writing a letter addressed to Roxanne Tanemori, AICP, Senior Planner, City Planning Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, California, 90401-3295. Or, you may contact Ms. Tanemori by phone at (310) 458-8341 or by email at roxanne.tanemori@smgov.net.

More Information
The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation requests, please contact (310) 458-8341 or TTY (310) 458-8696 at least three days prior to the event. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Bus Lines 1, 2, 3 and 7 serve City Hall. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the Challenge may be limited only to those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

Espanol
Este es un aviso de una audien cia publica para considerar la designación de una propiedad en la ciudad como un monumento histórico. Para mas información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Shoplifting, drugs occupy officers' time

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, AT 11:30 P.M.,
Santa Monica police officers on patrol in the 1100 block of 10th Street stopped a man who matched the description of a suspect wanted for burglary. Officers learned the man had two outstanding warrants and was possibly wanted in Kentucky. The man was placed under arrest and was searched. Officers said they found him to be in possession of a crack pipe. He was later booked for the outstanding warrants and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was identified as Richard Stephen Withrow, 38, a transient. His bail was set at $966.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, AT 2:45 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 300 block of Colorado Avenue – Sears – regarding a report of a theft in progress. When officers arrived, they made contact with store security who said they observed a woman take $118.99 worth of clothing and walk out of the store, failing to pay for the items. Security detained the woman and later placed her under citizen's arrest. Officers took the suspect into custody. Later, officers said the suspect gave them her sister-in-law's name instead of her own. When officers discovered this, they ran the suspect's real name through a computer and discovered that she had a prior conviction for theft. The woman was later booked for petty theft with a prior, providing false information to a police officer, false impersonation of another person and violation of probation. She was identified as Lisa Marie Ulrich, 26, a transient. Her bail was set at $10,000.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, AT 1:44 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 300 block of Colorado Avenue – Sears – regarding a report of a theft in progress. Store security told officers that they observed, via security cameras, take $343.42 worth of store merchandise and walk out without paying for it. The agent detained the woman once she was outside the store and placed her under citizen's arrest. The woman was later booked for petty theft. She was identified as Maria Gloria Hernandez, 60, from Los Angeles. Her bail was set at $1,000.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, AT 10:30 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2400 block of Lincoln Boulevard – the Ocean Park Inn – after receiving a tip that a suspect wanted in connection with a burglary and grand theft auto was staying at the motel. When officers arrived, they found the suspect in the hotel, along with two men. Officers allegedly discovered contraband in the motel room, including methamphetamines and burglary tools. All three were arrested. One suspect, Kevin Fitzgerald O'Donnell, 30, was booked for grand theft auto, possession of burglary tools, possession of paraphernalia and violation of parole. No bail was set. The second suspect was identified as Norberto Navarro, 28, of Los Angeles, who was booked for possession of a controlled substance and two outstanding warrants and violation of probation. No bail was set. The third suspect was identified as Daniel Joseph McClure, 57, of Los Angeles. He was booked for possession of a controlled substance and violation of probation. No bail was set.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, AT 10 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 1300 block of Second Street – Step Up on Second – regarding a report of a disturbance. When officers arrived, they made contact with an employee at the social service agency who said they confronted a man who had been suspended from the facility and told not to return. The man became confrontational and allegedly poked an employee in the chest. He then fled. Officers and the employee later located the suspect in the 1500 block of Fifth Street. The employee wanted to press charges so the officers placed the suspect under arrest for assault and battery, violation of probation and for outstanding warrants. He was identified as David James Zwirn, 43, a transient. His bail was set at $20,802.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1:05 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 600 block of Wilshire Boulevard regarding a report of an assault with a deadly weapon. When officers arrived, a witnesses told them that a man pulled out a sharp object and tried to strike the witnesses after he told the man to leave his property. Officers said they later learned that the weapon in question was a 6 inch plastic irrigation spike. When officers made contact with the suspect, he allegedly refused to comply and engaged in a brief struggle with officers. He was eventually subdued and arrested for assault with a deadly weapon, resisting arrest, interfering with officers and four outstanding warrants. The suspect was identified as Douglas Mclean, 51, a transient. No bail was set.

Editor in Chief KEVIN HERRERA compiled these reports. news@smdp.com



U.S., Mexico work together to fight notorious cartels

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO
Associated Press Writers

CUERNAVACA, Mexico The U.S. and Mexico are creating a cross-border group to develop strategies for stopping the illegal flow of guns and drugs between the two countries, officials said Thursday.

Emerging from a conference with U.S. officials, Mexican Attorney General Eduardo Medina-Mora said more meetings are needed to develop plans to bring warring drug cartels under control along the border.

Medina-Mora said Mexico planned to begin checking 10 percent of the vehicles entering the country from the U.S. for illegal weapons and will more closely check outgoing vehicles for drugs and money.

Medina-Mora said the new vehicle-inspection measures were part of Mexico's overall $1.4 billion modernization of border customs and crossing points. The first such vehicle checks are already being carried out in Matamoros, across the border from Brownsville, Texas.

Medina-Mora also said there had about 1,600 drug-related killings in Mexico in the first quarter of 2009, about 25 percent less than the last quarter of 2008. He did not give a reason for the decline, but the government says violence has decreased in border cities like Ciudad Juarez after thousands of additional army troops were sent there earlier this year.

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said that, in addition to beefing up border inspections north of the border, "we have to do more to reduce demand for drugs."

Napolitano and U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder met privately for several hours with Medina-Mora and Mexico's Interior Minister Fernando Gomez-Mont and Public Safety Secretary Genaro Garcia Luna.

The officials hammered out an agreement that might be signed when U.S. President Barack Obama visits Mexican President Felipe Calderon later this month.

"We want to take advantage of this moment in time," Napolitano said, referring to the elevated concern on both sides of the border about drug-related killings and kidnappings blamed on the cartels.

Medina-Mora said one point still in negotiation is how to ensure prosecution of anyone violating guns laws, whether they are arrested in Mexico or the United States. In addition, he said, the two countries will create a shared ballistics database to track weapons used in crimes.

Holder said the U.S. is not seeking to change any of its gun laws as part of the effort to curb weapons smuggling.

"I don't think our Second Amendment will stand in the way of what we have begun," he said.

Except to say that "too many weapons are flowing from the United States and into Mexico," Holder did not have a number of how many guns are smuggled across the border. The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives recently reported that up to 95 percent of guns seized at scenes of drug violence in Mexico can be traced to U.S. commercial sources.

Between 2005 and 2008, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents seized 831 weapons along the southwest border.

Until recently, the U.S. did not regularly inspect southbound vehicles, and the Mexicans didn't scan the license plates of cars coming into the country. Facilitating legal trade, not catching gun smugglers, was the prime directive, Mexican officials said.

Sierra snowpack about 80 percent of normal

BY SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

ECHO SUMMIT There's appears to be plenty of snow in the Sierra Nevada, but California water officials said Thursday it falls short of the amount needed to replenish the state's reservoirs.

Across the 400-mile-long mountain range, the snowpack is holding about 81 percent of its usual water content, according to the fourth Sierra snow survey conducted by the Department of Water Resources.

The department's snow chief, Frank Gehrke, says the snowpack needed to be between 120 percent and 130 percent of average by the beginning of April to replenish the state's key reservoirs.

The smaller snowpack follows two previously dry winters and is one reason farmers and cities throughout California have been told they will get less water this year.

"It's not nearly enough to bolster the water supply picture statewide," said Gehrke, after plunging a measuring pole deep into the snow at Phillips Station, a spot along U.S. Route 50 about 15 miles from southwest of Lake Tahoe.

The department monitors the snowfall and water content in the Sierras each winter because California depends on spring snowmelt that supplies roughly two-thirds of the state and farmers in the Central Valley. Hydroelectric plants also rely on snowmelt to produce about a quarter of California's power.

Many water agencies around the state look to the April snow survey to make water delivery decisions because the snow is usually at its peak this time of year in the northern and central Sierras.

"It's the most comprehensive picture of what the snowpack actually is," Gehrke said. "We may have some more storms, but they're not going to change much."

At a meadow near Echo Summit in the northern Sierra Nevada, water officials measured the snow Thursday at 48.7 inches deep. The water content was 22.6 inches, which is 80 of the average for this time of year.

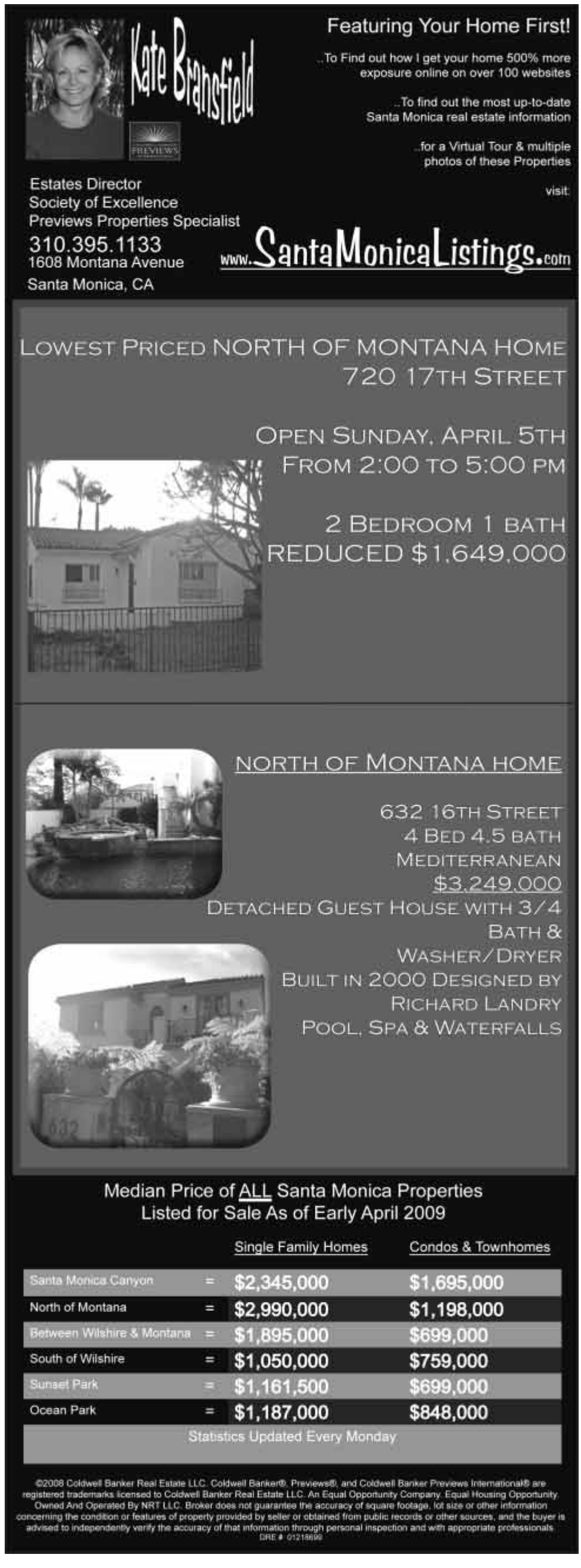
Levels measured about 87 percent of normal for the entire northern region, 80 percent of normal in the central region and 77 percent of normal in the southern region to the Kern River. The readings are compiled from 238 manual surveys and about 130 remote sensors in the Sierras, Gehrke said.

Three years of below-average rain and snowfall have drained California's key reservoirs, and court-ordered restrictions on pumping in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta have left dozens of cities and thousands of acres of farmland thirsty for water.

California's largest reservoirs — Shasta and Oroville — are slightly more than half as full as they should be at this time of year.

The state has said it will deliver only 20 percent of the water typically allocated for cities and farms this year.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has said it will not deliver any water this spring to farms south of the delta. Farmers north of the delta can expect to get just 5 percent of their contracted amount.



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

DATE/TIME: April 6, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:
- ARB07-109, 1319 Centinela Avenue: Multi-family Residential
- ARB08-585, 3301 Exposition Boulevard: Commercial
- ARB09-063, 1415 Centinela Avenue: Multi-family Residential
- ARB09-074, 3030 Olympic Boulevard: Commercial
- ARB09-120, 395 Santa Monica Place: Retail
- ARB09-123, 3202 Wilshire Boulevard: Retail
- ARB09-137, 395 Santa Monica Place: Retail

More information is available on-line at http://santa-monica.org/planning/planningcomm/arbagendas.htm or at 310/458-8341 en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail planning@santa-monica.org, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The request a disability-related accommodation, please contact 310-458-8341 or TTY 310-450-8896 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 & 9, serve City Hall.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: **Extension of Interim Ordinance 2238 and 2242 (CCS) to modify development standards in the LMSD and M1 zoning districts**

APPLICANT: City of Santa Monica
LOCATION: LMSD and M1 zoning districts

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following proposed emergency interim ordinance:

An emergency interim ordinance of the City Council of the City of Santa Monica extending Interim Ordinance 2242 (CCS) to require a Development Agreement for projects over 7,500 square feet of floor area or projects containing more than 5 or 15 housing units, artist studio units, or single room occupancy units, respectively for the Industrial Conservation (M1) and Light Manufacturing Studio (LMSD) districts, and for changes in land use over 7,500 square feet on parcels that exceed 32,000 square feet in the LMSD and 15,000 square feet in the M1 district, and to establish exceptions for certain uses and declaring the presence of an emergency

On August 28, 2007, the City Council adopted emergency Interim Ordinance Number 2283 that required Development Agreements for certain projects in the LMSD and M1 zoning districts. On October 23, 2007, the City Council adopted Interim Ordinance 2242 extending for 18 months Ordinance Number 2238. The Council will consider an emergency ordinance to extend these provisions until January 9, 2012.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2009, AT 6:45 PM**

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: Industrial Districts,
Emergency Interim Ordinance
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Travis Page, Associate Planner at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at travis.page@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.santa-monica.org.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 serve City Hall.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si desea más información, favor de llamar a Peter James en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

Blagojevich indicted on federal corruption charges

MIKE ROBINSON
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO Ousted Gov. Rod Blagojevich was indicted Thursday on charges of trying to auction off President Barack Obama's vacant U.S. Senate seat along with new corruption allegations that he tried to extort a congressman.

A sweeping 19-count federal indictment alleges that Blagojevich discussed with aides the possibility of getting a Cabinet post in the new president's administration, substantial fundraising assistance or a high-paying job in exchange for the Senate seat.

Obama's deputy press secretary, Josh Earnest, said the White House would not comment. The indictment does not allege any wrongdoing by Obama or his associates.

Prosecutors also accused Blagojevich and members of his inner circle of scheming to line their pockets with millions of dollars in ill-gotten gains, squeezing contractors, hospital owners and others seeking state business for kickbacks they planned to split after the governor left office.

"I'm saddened and hurt but I am not surprised by the indictment. I am innocent," Blagojevich said in a statement. "I now will fight in the courts to clear my name. I would ask the good people of Illinois to wait for the trial and afford me the presumption of innocence that they would give to all their friends and neighbors."

His brother, two former aides, a former fundraiser and a lobbyist were also indicted. Blagojevich's wife, Patti, was not indicted.

The indictment alleges Blagojevich told an aide he wanted to stall a $2 million state grant to a school that was championed by a congressman until the lawmaker's brother held a political fundraiser for the governor. The congressman's identity wasn't released.

It also says Blagojevich was involved in a corrupt scheme to get a massive kickback in exchange for the refinancing of billions of dollars in state pension funds.

Convicted fixer Tony Rezko paid Blagojevich's wife, Patti, a $14,396 real estate commission "even though she had done no work" to earn it and later hired her at a salary of $12,000 a month plus another $40,000 fee, the indictment said.

And, according to the indictment, Blagojevich told an aide he didn't want executives with two financial institutions getting further state business after he concluded they were not helping his wife get a high-paying job.

Others charged were former chief of staff Alonzo Monk; another former chief of staff, John Harris; brother Robert Blagojevich; onetime chief fundraiser Christopher G. Kelly; and Springfield lobbyist-millionaire William F. Cellini.

Prosecutors said Harris has agreed to cooperate.

Blagojevich was indicted on charges of racketeering conspiracy, wire fraud, extortion conspiracy and attempted extortion, and making false statements. Most of those charges carry a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a $250,000 fine.

Blagojevich, 52, was arrested Dec. 9 on a criminal complaint and U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald had faced a Tuesday deadline supplant it with an indictment handed up by a federal grand jury. The Democrat's arrest led to his political downfall: The Illinois House impeached him Jan. 9. The Senate convicted him and removed him from office Jan. 29.

Blagojevich's administration has been under federal investigation for years and Kelly and Rezko already have been convicted of federal crimes and are awaiting sentencing.

Community Meeting for

710 Wilshire Development Agreement

April 16, 2009 + 7:00 PM

Santa Monica Main Library, 601
Santa Monica Boulevard
Multipurpose Room

Project Location



You are invited to attend a community meeting to review the concept plans for a new mixed-use hotel/residential/commercial project consisting of 284 hotel rooms, 16 rental units, and approximately 25,000 square feet of ground floor commercial space at 710 Wilshire Boulevard. The project also involves the retention and adaptive re-use of the Santa Monica Professional Building, a designated historic Landmark.

This meeting is a new City Planning initiative to solicit comments from the public prior to the project being heard by the Planning Commission. You will have an opportunity to provide direct feedback to the staff and the developer with regards to the concept plans. For further information, please contact Jing Yeo, Special Projects Manager at (310) 458-8341.

RSVP appreciated to (310) 458-8341.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will made to provide the requested accommodation.

ESPANOL
Esto es una noticia de una reunión de la comunidad para revisar el diseño de la applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

Educators decry governor's anti-bailout stance

SEANNA ADCOX
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. Parents and teachers in a state with one of the nation's worst graduation rates are predicting their governor's vow to reject federal cash for schools will cost hundreds of teaching jobs, crowd classrooms and hurt poor children.

Republican Gov. Mark Sanford faces a Friday deadline to decide whether he will refuse $700 million in federal stimulus cash, primarily for education over two years, which he says would be better spent paying down debt.

"I understand the issue of trying to pay down debt. But it's akin to trying to pay off your mortgage while your kids are starving," said Frank Morgan, superintendent of schools in rural Kershaw County, which educates roughly 13,000 children.

Sanford says legislators can write an adequate budget without the money and dismisses a growing chorus of fellow Republicans, editorial writers, former supporters and protesting teachers as victims of political scare tactics.

"In fairness to the teachers, I would be frightened, too," the governor said a day after hundreds of educators rallied outside the Statehouse chanting "Pink slip Sanford."

Detractors counter that Sanford is trying to raise his national profile for a 2012 presidential bid and push an impractical libertarian philosophy that includes using taxpayer money to pay for private schools. He disputes that.

At issue is a portion of the $2.8 billion in stimulus cash intended for this recession-battered state, which had the nation's second-highest unemployment rate in February.

"What kind of message do we send to the rest of nation, not to mention to our own kids, if South Carolina becomes the only state to refuse funds aimed at helping public schools?" state schools chief Jim Rex said Thursday.

The dispute over stimulus money has underscored a fracture between Sanford, who is barred by law from seeking a third term, and the Republicans who control the Legislature and want to take the money.

The governor on Thursday said he believes lawmakers have kept other stimulus money he's already accepted out of their spending plans to make the consequences of his refusing the Washington cash seem even more dire.

But state education officials said that the reality is 5,200 school employees, including 2,700 teachers, will lose their jobs without the stimulus money. There are about 50,000 teachers statewide.

Even with the money, Rex said, districts will still need to eliminate 1,600 jobs.

Ted Zee, a father from Lexington, brought his 10-year-old daughter to a rally at the Statehouse this week to protest Sanford's decision.

"I don't want her school to have 35 kids in a class," Zee said. "You can't educate 35 kids at a time."

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: **Introduction and First Reading of an Interim Ordinance amending Santa Monica Municipal Code Sections 9.04.08.18.020 and 9.04.08.20.020 to add Pawnbrokers as a permitted use in the C3 Downtown Commercial and C3-C Downtown Overlay Districts.**

Location: C3 Downtown Commercial and C3-C Downtown Overlay Districts
APPLICANT: City of Santa Monica

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following request:

Introduction and first reading of an interim ordinance amending Santa Monica Municipal Code Sections 9.04.08.18.020 and 9.04.08.20.020 to add Pawnbrokers as a permitted use in the C3 Downtown Commercial and C3-C Downtown Overlay Districts. Adoption of the interim ordinance would amend the Zoning Ordinance to permit pawnbrokers within the area bound by 1st Court alley, 7TH Court alley, Wilshire Boulevard and Colorado Avenue and the C3 zoned areas north of Wilshire Boulevard and south of Colorado Avenue.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, April 14, 2009 AT 6:45 p.m.**

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: Interim Ordinance - Pawnbrokers
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

City of Santa Monica

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Paul Foley, Principal Planner at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at paul.foley@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.santa-monica.org.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 serve City Hall.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

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APRIL 2009

Helios Dance Theater
FRI | 7:30PM | APR 3, 2009
Laura Gorenstein Miller's extraordinary new work, The Lotus Eaters, performed by Helios Dance Theater, focuses a contemporary lens upon Homer's classic, *The Odyssey*.

Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program at LA Opera
WED | 7:30PM | APR 15, 2009
Created and overseen by Plácido Domingo, the Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program at LA Opera is one of the world's foremost training programs for emerging professional opera singers of potentially international stature.

The Pine Leaf Boys
SAT | 7:30PM | APR 25, 2009
Inflecting their own inimitable brand of traditional Cajun and Creole music with youthful exuberance and Southern gusto, the Pine Leaf Boys give a lively and contemporary twist to their repertoire of old dance hall standards and updated songs by past masters.

MAY 2009

Kent Nagano/Soloists from the Montreal Symphony
SAT | 7:30PM | MAY 16, 2009
The internationally celebrated conductor Kent Nagano leads soloists from the Montreal Symphony in the American premiere of an extraordinary new work by Alexina Louie showcasing Inuit throat singers.

Chanticleer
TUE | 7:30PM | MAY 19, 2009
The Grammy-winning all-male a capella ensemble celebrates the 300th anniversary of the first American song in a profound and moving journey through homegrown music called "Wondrous Free".

For a complete listing of performances go to www.TheBroadStage.com
Box Office: 310.434.3200

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Theater Address: 1310 11th St, Santa Monica, CA 90401
Mailing Address: 1900 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90405-1628
www.TheBroadStage.com

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Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

MOVING UP IN THE WORLD: **Stella Padilla pins her husband, Capt. Alex Padilla, with his new badge while their son, Michael, 15, looks on during an awards and promotions ceremony at the City Council Chambers on Thursday. Padilla's career in the SMPD began in 1978 as a cadet.**

Padilla promoted to rank of captain

FROM **POLICE** PAGE 1

Monica police for three decades, was praised by those who attended.

"He's a man that's passionate not only about his family but about his career as well; his 30 years of dedication prove that," said Padilla's nephew Hector, who joined the captain's wife Stella, and children Alex, Michael, and Priscilla.

"He's a very hard-working man and we're very proud of him," Michael said. "He's a leader in the household and in the community."

Five officers were awarded the department's Lifesaving Medal.

Sgt. John Hudson and Officers David Alvarez and Steve Perez were recognized for their efforts as first responders when a man suffered a heart attack in the Building and Safety Division office last December.

Officer Brian Spencer was honored for his work last November when he performed CPR on a 3-year-old boy who was unconscious and not breathing.

Officer Thomas Mastin, like Spencer, provided primary care to a drowning swimmer, but was called into action while on vacation in Hawaii when he and his wife saw a woman pulling an unrespiring man from the ocean.

"It's a very nice award and I appreciate the acknowledgment," Mastin said, adding that his reaction can be largely attributed to the experience and training he has had on the job. "I shifted into work mode and took action. It seemed like all the gears went into motion and it came out with a happy result."

The department also awarded Carolin Larson the Medal of Merit for her leadership in the Criminal Investigations Division, and recognized long-time Santa Monica resident Shawn Nadery with the Citizen Involvement Award for his assistance in the apprehension of a serial burglar who targeted the Sunset Park neighborhood.

After the event, the chief spoke of the accomplishments and talent of the department as a whole.

"All of our employees are like these; circumstances dictated a different outcome for these individuals," Jackman said. "This caliber of employee reflects our department and community. You can't have a good police department without a good community."

news@smdp.com



Santa Monica businesses have complaints about Yelp

FROM YELP PAGE 3

"The allegations are false and at the core of what Yelp is about is connecting consumers with great businesses," said Stephanie Ichinose, the company spokeswoman. "The way we do it is safeguarding the integrity of reviews you find on a business profile page and making sure that the reviews there represent a true kind of customer experience for that business."

Among the myths that Yelp attempts to dispel is that a nonadvertising business' positive reviews are deleted. Stoppelman in his post said that the reviews might have been deleted for several reasons, including through Yelp's automated review filter, which keeps an eye out for suspicious activity, including "anonymous rants and raves you see on other sites."

The review could have also been deleted by the writer or been flagged by another user for violating the company's guidelines.

"We're vigilant in making sure that (the review) is accurate a reflection as possible and not necessarily what the business owner and their extended group of family and friends may think of them," Ichinose said.

Yelp has also addressed the accusation that sales associates manipulates reviews for possible advertisers, including removing negative write ups or threatening to delete positive ones if spurned by a business.

Sales people do not have access to a system that can manage reviews and are held to an agreement with the company that they will not write any while employed by Yelp. Once a business signs on, they are assigned to an account manager who confirms that the reviews are separate from advertising, the company said.

Paying advertisers do have the option of promoting a favorite review at the top of their Yelp page but cannot reorder the other posts, according to the company.

Ichinose also said that the company does have paid reviewers whenever it goes into a new market. Yelp most recently launched in the United Kingdom and had a handful of marketing assistants, identified with a "scout badge" who uploaded several reviews and posted photos of businesses.

But some businesses continue to question Yelp's sales practices, including a local merchant who said they have been contacted by the company 15 times over the past year, much of which has taken place over the last few weeks.

The business owner, who asked that they remain anonymous out of fear of retaliation from Yelp, said they were never concerned with advertising on the site because of a plethora of positive reviews.

The merchant was originally contacted about a year ago and declined to advertise. There was no communication until about several weeks ago when a sales associate contacted the business again.

After declining to advertise, the business owner checked the Yelp page again and noticed that at least 10 positive reviews had disappeared while a few negative ones had been posted.

"(The experiences) seemed to be not true because the customers were talking about things that happened that no one in the store remembered," the business owner, who is now considering advertising, said.

They estimate that at least 20 positive reviews have been deleted from the site since the conversation with Yelp about three weeks ago.

But Danny Leclair, the owner of hair salon Studio DNA on Broadway and a Yelp advertiser, said he has never seen the bad reviews suppressed or disappear.

"What I do see is if someone goes on and writes a review, good or bad, and doesn't write it again and doesn't put a picture up, they will eventually disappear," he said. "But if a reviewer goes on and writes a few reviews and remains an active member, their review I can tell stays at the exact same place in date and order on my site."

He said that the salon received a bad review from the roommate of a stylist who decided to get back by posting a "scathing" write-up. Leclair contacted Yelp about removing the post, pointing out that the roommate had never been in the salon, learning that the company could do nothing about the review.

The post eventually disappeared since the user remained inactive on Yelp, he said.

The Yelp issue has been receiving press lately from several media outlets, including the New York Times, NPR and the San Jose Mercury News, all reporting similar allegations against the Bay Area company.

In a recent column on the San Jose Mercury News, writer Chris O'Brien said the Yelp controversy is a result of a digital culture clash, noting that less than half of small businesses have a Web site and that the Internet has for the most part been a nonfactor in their operations, leading to frustration when dealing with customer reviews from new media.

The company has experienced rapid growth since it launched in October 2004. The site had 7.5 million unique visitors in January 2008. In the past 30 days, it has had 20 million unique visitors.

"There are businesses that are going to be pleased with the conversation consumers are having and others that aren't as happy about the reviews that are popping up on the site," Ichinose said. "As Yelp reviews have gained in influence, business owners are now starting to take notice and really take a hard look at their business profile page and what customers are saying."

Paratunya, who said that his site has gone from 20 reviews with five stars to about 18 since he was contacted by Yelp, still has questions about the company's practices, dissatisfied with the excuse he received that some of the posts were not legitimate. One deleted entry was posted by a user who had written only one review and had no registered friends, Paratunya said.

He said that the sales associate had promised to put a favorite review on top and the bad ones on the bottom, but never threatened to push a negative one up if the restaurant refused to advertise.

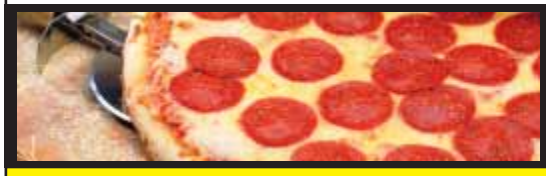
"Yelp is a good company and has a good concept," he said. "They have high potential but they're just shady.

"It could be just like YouTube (in terms of success) if they could do it right."

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: **08APP-005 (Appeal of Landmark Designation 07LM-011)**
3030-3060 Nebraska Avenue

APPLICANT: City of Santa Monica Landmarks Commission
APPELLANT: NMS Properties & Nebraska Studios, LLC
PROPERTY OWNER: NMS Properties & Nebraska Studios, LLC

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following request:

Appeal of the Landmarks Commission designation of the former industrial building at 3030-3060 Nebraska Avenue as a City Landmark. The property was constructed in 1951 and was the initial home of the Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc) upon the school's founding in 1972 through its departure from the site in 1992. The Landmarks Commission filed the designation application on November 12, 2007 and unanimously voted to designate the property on February 11, 2008.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, April 14, 2009, AT 6:45 p.m.**

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: 08APP-005
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Roxanne Tanemori, AICP, Senior Planner, at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at roxanne.tanemori@smgov.net. The Landmark Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.santa-monica.org.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and the Tide Ride serve City Hall.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

Rail yard opposition prompts City Hall to seek alternatives

FROM **EXPO** PAGE 1

al area away from homes, providing enough parking for employees and have a reasonable shape to accommodate the tracks.

The criteria narrowed the list to a few viable candidates, including Bergamot Station and the Casden property off Sepulveda Boulevard in Los Angeles, the latter of which was taken out of consideration because its size was deemed inadequate. Bergamot, which is known as Southern California's premier arts and cultural center, was also taken off the table not only because its size and shape were deemed inefficient for a maintenance facility, but because of its reputation.

Bergamot, which is slated to be one of a handful of Expo stops in Santa Monica, was purchased by City Hall in 1989 for rail car storage and a light maintenance yard. The former ice-making plant and water heater manufacturer was transformed into an arts center in 1994.

Monica Born, the project director for phase two, said the authority will aid City Hall in an advisory capacity. The idea is to remain west of the 405 Freeway, Born said.

"If we're able to find another site that meets our needs, I would think we would be open to it," Born said. "We did a very good effort of trying to find locations of the maintenance facility and if they're able to find another one, that would be great."

Several groups have written letters to Expo about the maintenance yard, including Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, which is opposed to the facility being placed in the Pico Neighborhood, and a group of gallery owners and artists at Bergamot, which has requested that the station be taken out of consideration.

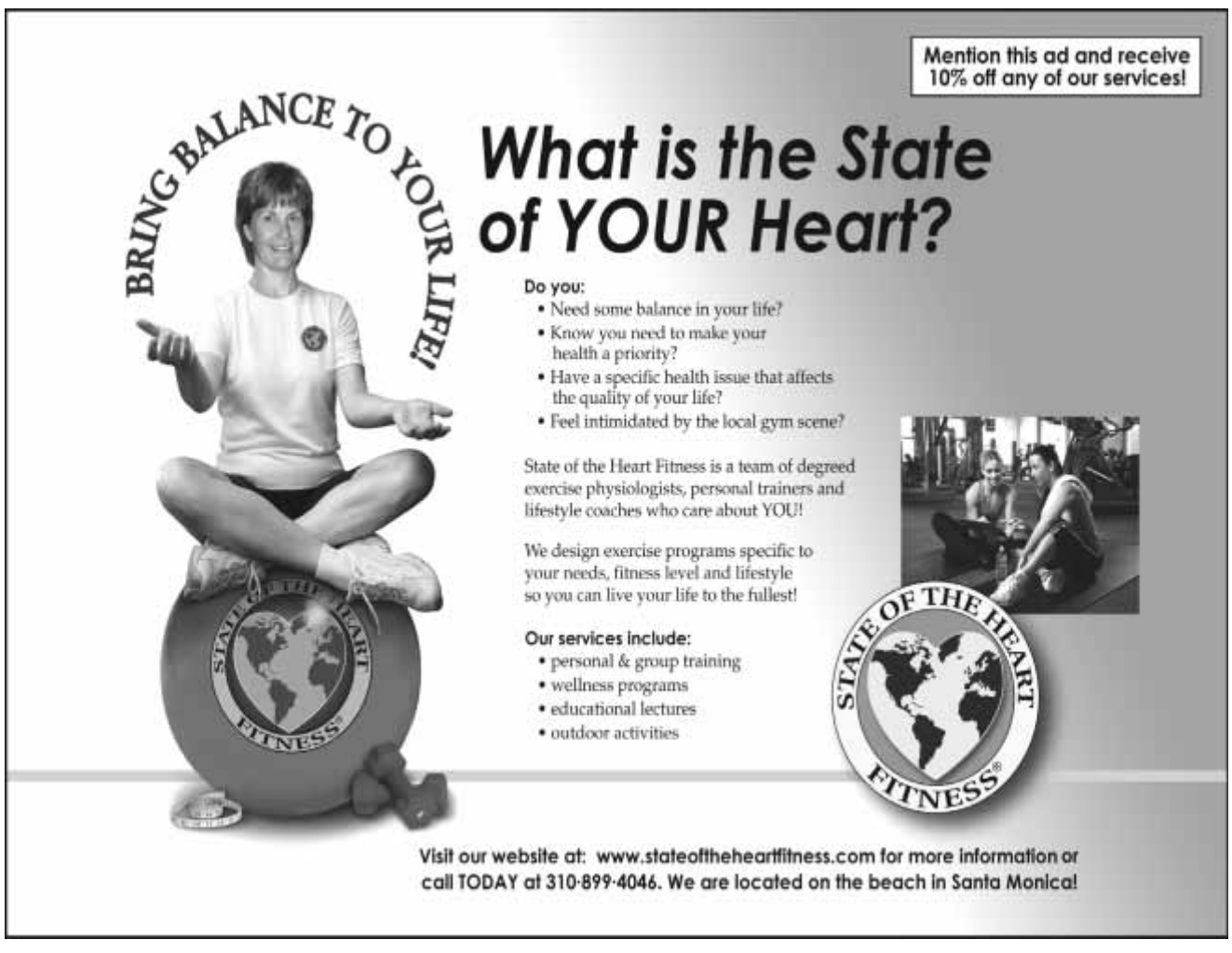
The Verizon site is about 6 acres and would be just off the Expo line, which is proposed to travel along Colorado Avenue. The Expo board was expected to vote on the Colorado alternative during the Expo board meeting on Thursday afternoon.

Vernez said the consultant will look for properties whose shape is conducive to storage and maintenance, has relatively flat topography and is under single or limited ownership.

"What we have to be sure is we're looking at commercial and industrial areas," Vernez said.

melodyh@smdp.com

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Samohi softball off to impressive start

FROM **SAMOHI** PAGE 3

mechanic wise, but she's doing a great job for us."

Skaggs added that the emergence of Able gives her team a formidable one-two punch.

Staff ace Celisha Walker, who had missed the past couple of weeks due to an oblique strain, returned to action. While she didn't take the mound, she went 3 for 4 with a double and two singles. She also scored a run. Skaggs expects her to take the mound following spring break, which begins next week.

GOING THE DISTANCE

Megan Bradley became just the fourth softball player in school history to hit a home run over the fence at home against Palos Verdes Peninsula on Tuesday.

Samohi won the game, 6-0.

Head Coach Debbie Skaggs, who has coached the team for the past 22 years, said that it was the first homer to clear the right field fence in varsity history.

"She really got a hold of it," Skaggs said. "It doesn't happen very often, so yeah, it's pretty special."

The right field fence is 170 feet away from home plate, but is guarded by a 20-foot high fence, making the feat a tough one.

daniela@smdp.com

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EASTER 2009 MASSES & SERVICES

MONDAY – WEDNESDAY
Monday, April 6th
Tuesday, April 7th
Wednesday, April 8th
+ 6:30 a.m. + 8:00 a.m. +
+ 12:10 p.m. + 6:00 p.m. +

HOLY THURSDAY
April 9th
Mass of the Lord's Supper
+ 7:30 p.m. +

Adoration at the Altar of Repose
+ After the 7:30 p.m. Mass until
Midnight in the Auditorium
+ Night Prayer at 12:00 Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY
April 10th
Solemn Liturgy, Holy Communion,
& Veneration of the Cross
+ 12:00 p.m. +
Stations of the Cross
+ 2:30 p.m. +
Solemn Liturgy, Holy Communion,
& Veneration of the Cross
+ 7:30 p.m. +

HOLY SATURDAY
April 11th
Easter Vigil Liturgy
+ 7:30 p.m. +
There will not be a 5:30 p.m. Mass on this Saturday.

EASTER SUNDAY
April 12th
Mass in the Church
+ 6:30 a.m. +
+ 8:00 a.m. +
+ 9:30 a.m. +
+ 11:30 a.m. +
+ 1:15 p.m. +
Mass in the Gymnasium
+ 9:30 a.m. +
+ 11:30 a.m. +
Mass in the Auditorium
+ 9:45 a.m. +
+ 1:15 p.m. +
There will not be a 5:30 p.m. Mass on this Sunday.

Extra parking will be available at Crown Parking, 1211 7th Street, south of Wilshire Blvd.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD BY THE SANTA MONICA ZONING ADMINISTRATOR ON APPLICATIONS FOR VARIANCES

TIME: **10:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 14, 2009**

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Room 213, Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

A Public Hearing will be held by the Zoning Administrator of the City of Santa Monica at the above noted time and place in regard to the following requests:

SUBJECT OF HEARING:

Fence/Wall Modification 09FWHM-0002, 2004 La Mesa Drive. The applicant requests approval of a height modification to construct two driveway gates six-feet in height within the required front yard setback. The proposed gates measure 6'H x 11'W and 6'H x 12'-4"W and are located approximately 5-feet from the front property line. Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.10.02.080 specifies that fences, walls, or hedges cannot exceed the maximum height of 42-inches in the front yard area. Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.10.02.080(e), the owner may request that the Zoning Administrator grant a modification to the height limitations in the front yard area. [Planner: Grace Cho] **APPLICANT: Michael & Joan Adams. PROPERTY OWNER: Michael & Joan Adams.**

Use Permit 09-002, 355 22nd Street. The applicant requests Use Permit approval to construct a two-story accessory building. The project will include changing the existing roof line of a 19.58-foot high garage to construct a new second story consisting of a 250 square foot accessory room above the existing non-conforming two-car garage. The proposed accessory building is approximately 23.66-feet in height. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.04.08.02.040(c), approval of a Use Permit is required to construct a two-story accessory building when located in the R1 Single Family Residential District north of Montana Avenue. (Planner: Gina Szilak) **APPLICANT/PROPERTY OWNER: Ian & Megan Epstein.**

Variance 09-004, 2428 Main Street. The applicant requests approval of a parking variance to construct a new two-story, 1,274 square foot commercial building on the subject parcel without providing the four required on-site parking spaces on the subject property. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.20.10.030(b), the applicant may request a variance to modify the off-street parking requirements through a variance application. (Planner: Tony Kim) **APPLICANT: Tim Petersen Associates. PROPERTY OWNER: David Jarvis.**

Any person may comment at the Public Hearing, or by writing a letter to the City Planning Division, Room 212, P.O. Box 2220, Santa Monica, CA 90407-2220. Plans are available for public review at the City Planning Division. For more information, please contact the City Planning Division at (310) 458-8341. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 64009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing. The meeting facility is accessible. If you have any disabilities related request, contact at (310) 458-8341 or TTY (310) 458-8696 at least three (3) days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, #4, #7 and #8 serve the City Hall.

*Esto es un aviso sobre una audiencia publica para revisar applicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Esto puede ser de interes para usted. Si desea mas informacion, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la Division de Planificacion al numero (310) 458-8341.

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: A Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on the following:

Conditional Use Permit 08-010, 2901 Ocean Park Boulevard. The applicant is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow the on-site sale of beer and wine in conjunction with a new 49-seat restaurant (Pizza Fusion) located in the C2 (Neighborhood Commercial) zoning district. The proposed restaurant will occupy 1,937 square feet on the ground floor near the interior courtyard of the east, two-story mixed-use building adjacent to Ocean Park Boulevard. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.10.16.040(e), a CUP is required for the on-site sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages at restaurants located in the C2 district which have 50 seats or fewer. [Planner: Gina Szilak] **APPLICANT: Pizza Fusion. PROPERTY OWNER: Heron Trust. (Robert D. Heron and Claire Heron).**

Design Compatibility Permit 08-001; Tract Map 08-020, 3214-3218 Highland Avenue. The applicant requests approval of a Design Compatibility Permit and Tentative Tract Map No. 70209 to subdivide one lot into six airspace parcels in conjunction with a proposed two-story, six-unit residential condominium project. The applicant is applying for a 6-unit airspace subdivision pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.20.06.040 and a Design Compatibility Permit for the 6-unit condominium pursuant to Section 9.04.20.15.020. [Planner: Lily Yegazu] **APPLICANT/PROPERTY OWNER: Highland Group L.P.**

WHEN: **Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.**

WHERE: Council Chambers, City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

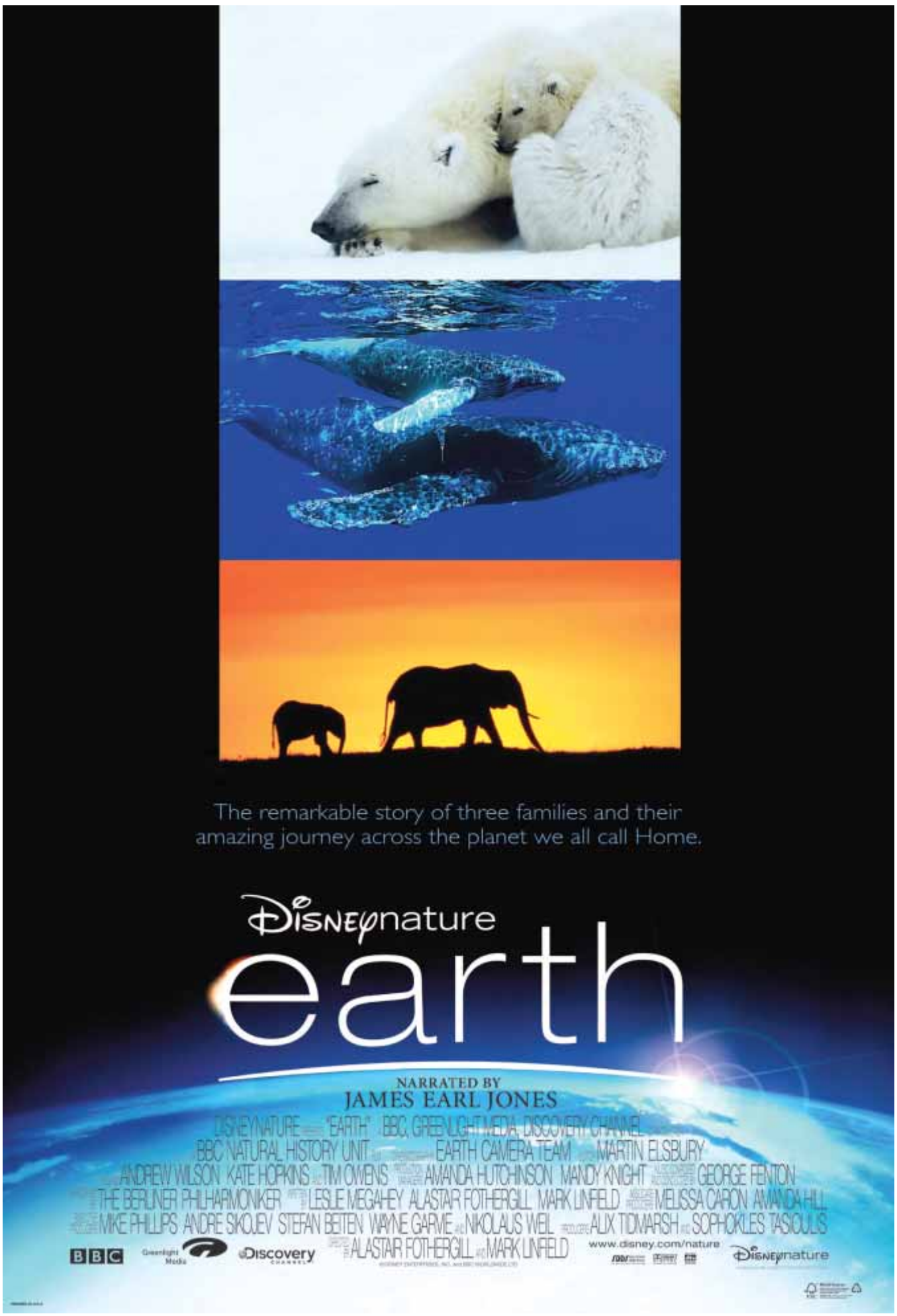
MORE INFORMATION

If you want additional information about this project or wish to review the project, please contact the Project Planner (310) 458-8341. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours or available on the City's web site at www.smgov.net. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation request, please contact (310) 458-8341, or TYY Number: (310) 458-8696 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #7, #8, #9 and the Tide Ride service the City Hall. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

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Westside Subway Extension Public Scoping Meetings

Draft Environmental Impact Study/ Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS/EIR)

You are invited to a public scoping meeting to initiate the Westside Subway Extension project, the next phase of Metro's study evaluating ways to improve mobility on the Westside of Los Angeles. These meetings start the Draft EIS/EIR process. Moving forward for analysis in the Draft EIS/EIR are two Build alternatives – a Wilshire Subway (Alternative 1) and a Wilshire/West Hollywood Subway (Alternative 11) – as well as a No Build alternative and a Transportation Systems Management alternative. The public scoping meetings will provide the public an opportunity to comment on the project purpose, alternatives, and the potential effects of construction and operation that should be considered in the Draft EIS/EIR.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, West
Monday, April 13

West Hollywood Plummer Park
Tuesday, April 14

Beverly Hills Public Library
Thursday, April 16

Westwood Presbyterian Church
Monday, April 20

Santa Monica Public Library
Thursday, April 23

All meetings are 6 – 8pm. Content at each meeting will be identical.

For additional information or questions, please visit the Westside Subway Extension project website at *metro.net/westside* or contact the project information line at 213.922.6934.

Metro and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be preparing a joint document that meets the requirements of both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Metro

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

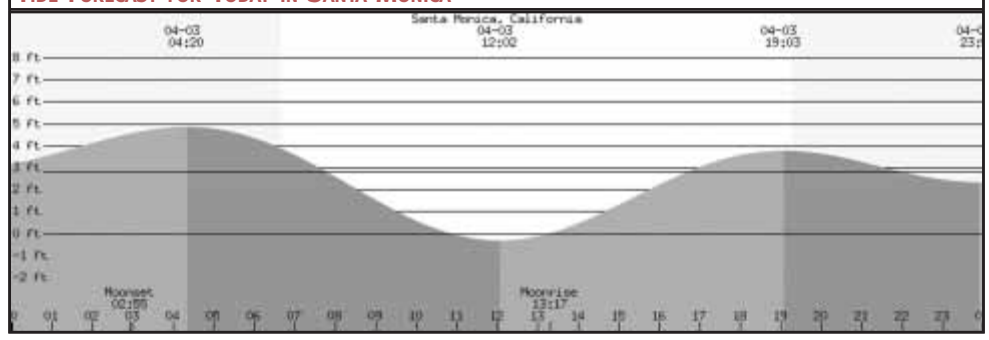
Swell Forecast (5-7 FT)

We should see quite an increase in NW wind swell. This will be steep from 310-320, but breaks that can work this precipitous NW angle can expect chest to head high waves.

Long Range Synopsis

Saturday the 4th is looking like a rather wind-swellish day. The AM should see the peak of the wind swell with chest to head high waves around west facing breaks able to work thesteep 310+.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **March 24, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 2
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / 8

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos 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	F	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	F	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	C	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	C	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	F	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

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	A+	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	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	F	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	D	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	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	B	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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

The Decameron & Salo: Or the 120 Days of Sodom
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Bart Got a Room (PG-13) 1hr 20min
11:00 a.m., 1:00, 3:10, 5:15, 7:30, 10:00

Fast & Furious
11:00 a.m., 1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

Last House on the Left, The (R) 1hr 49min
11:20 a.m., 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55

Taken (PG-13) 1hr 33min
11:05 a.m., 1:15, 3:35, 5:50, 8:15, 10:30

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

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

Sunshine Cleaning (R) 1hr 42min
11:00am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

Fast & Furious (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:45am, 12:45, 2:20, 3:30, 5:00, 6:15, 7:45, 9:00, 10:30

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) 1hr 34min
11:55 a.m.

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) 1hr 34min
Closed Captions
2:45, 5:15, 7:55, 10:20

Race to Witch Mountain (PG) 1hr 39min
11:15am, 1:50, 4:20, 6:40, 9:15

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

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

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

The Education of Charlie Banks (R) 1hr 40min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

Tokyo Sonata (PG-13) 1hr 59min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

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

I Love You, Man (R) 1hr 50min
11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50, 12:00am

Knowing (PG-13)
1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Watchmen (R) 2hrs 43min
1:20, 5:00, 8:30

The Haunting in Connecticut (PG-13) 1hr 32min
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00

12 Rounds (PG-13) 1hr 48min
11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40, 12:20am

Haunting in Connecticut, The (PG-13) 1hr 32min
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10, 12:30am

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
11:10am, 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30

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

Network away, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Stepping back has taught you a lot. Now, step forward and apply new information or perspectives. What emerges will be delightful and invigorating in some manner. Still, a boss or responsibilities exist. Tonight: Make merry.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Speak your mind. Be aware of the power of the mind and of its children: ideas. Invest in an idea that deeply appeals to you. Though on some level you retreat midday, it doesn't mean that a commitment is over. Tonight: Happy at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Don't expect others to see eye to eye with you. Many feel squeezed financially, so absorb a new perspective and a different outlook. Ease up on having things your way. Do a better job of listening and sharing. Tonight: Out with cohorts.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Mood swings are nothing new for you, but you could be shocked by how quickly security can become the issue this afternoon. Consider backing off from a difficult but key person in your life. Tonight: Enjoy friends without raiding your bank account.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ This afternoon, you transform into the Leo power we all would prefer to have on our team. Your magnetism and sunny style make many feel comfortable. Tonight: Find that person who makes your heart sing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Accomplish all that you can by high noon, when you enter a reclusive and reflective phase. If you are to continue on the same path, times of thought and centering will be necessary. Don't fight the inevitable. Tonight: Shhh ... you don't have to tell all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Taking a stand is not always your strong point. Feeling overwhelmed happens too often for your taste. Consider delegating more. Opportunity strikes when you least anticipate it. A meeting proves to be the fertile bed of many ideas. Tonight: Network away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Read between the lines and examine what you feel are the possibilities. Is someone missing a key opportunity? Help others see the multifaceted possibilities of an event or discussion. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Working with an associate or partner might be exhausting, especially as you might be hitting ground zero and facts remain facts. Be inspired in the afternoon and seek out many who don't think like you. Tonight: Consider a spontaneous invitation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ What you believed you knew about the people around you could prove to be way off. Though you don't need to beat yourself up, do be aware. People change and transform. Honor that fact. Tonight: Make togetherness a theme.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Listen to news that wings your way. Though you might shake your head, use this information to your highest good. Network this afternoon, after you have cleared off your desk and returned all calls. Tonight: What starts as a conversation could turn into dinner out.

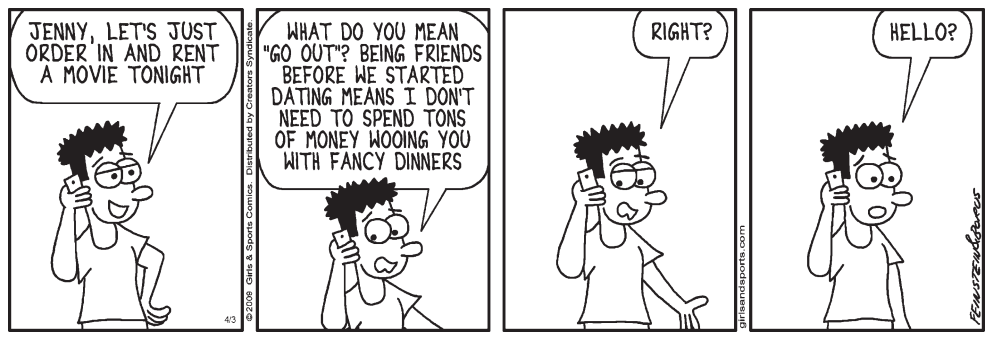
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Funnel your ideas and try to be more practical. Though it is nice to be a visionary of sorts, what might be even better is to find a reality-based application for your thoughts. Tonight: Head home if you're tired.

Happy birthday

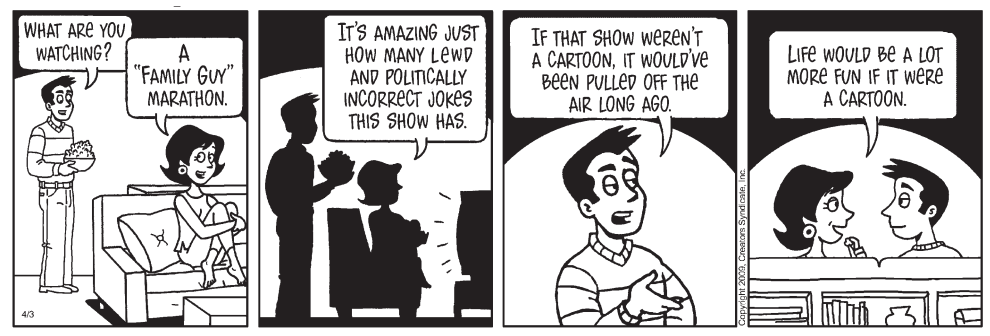
This year, greet the world with a big smile, confident and sure of yourself. Often, you will rethink a decision or center yourself once more. During these periods, you reconfirm in your mind that you have found your yellow brick road, not someone else's. Your creativity merges with power, creating a force to be dealt with in whatever arena you so choose. If you are single, high charisma defines your social life. A torrid love affair awaits those who are ready. If you are attached, the love temperature could sizzle. Invest in a good fan! LEO loves your passion.

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

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



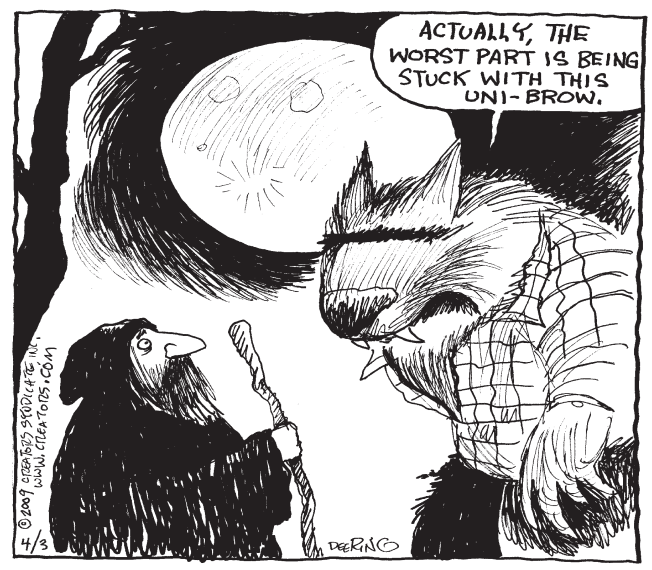
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

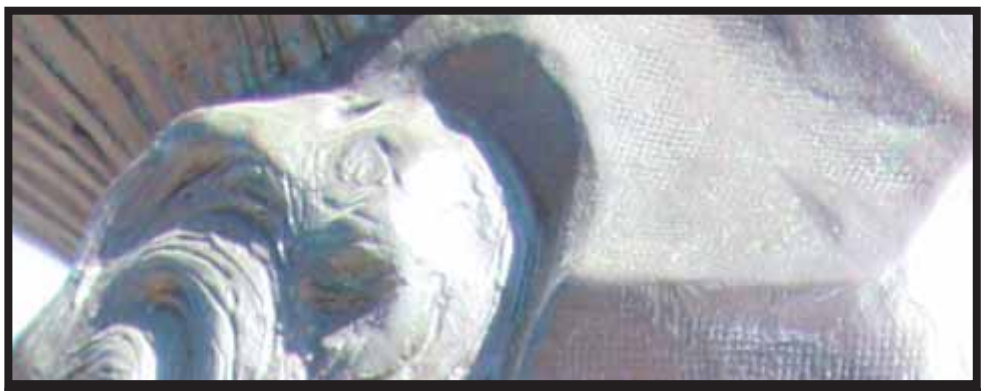
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Patch up
5 Flat floater
9 African lilies
11 Steer clear of
13 Stagger
14 Baseball manager Joe
15 USN bigwig
16 Action movie of 2008
18 Austin Powers exclamation
20 Spots
21 Obsequious
22 Hightail it
23 Wall climber
24 — polloi
25 Stunned state
27 Tokyo shopping district
29 Writer Levin
30 Play-things for Zeus and Hera
32 End of "Hamlet"
34 Playing marble
35 Water nymph
36 Job reward
38 Kitchen output
39 Feed the fire
40 Wallet fillers
41 Med. subj.

DOWN

1 Kuala Lumpur native
2 Avoids
3 Return to usual conditions
4 Last mo.
5 Finger
6 Stratford's river
7 Giving legal status
8 Rant
10 Shake
12 Slow-witted
17 Jamie Foxx film
19 Worker's home
22 Type-setting choice
24 Personnel workers
25 Hunting goddess
26 Citation's jockey
27 State head: Abbr.
28 Nome's home
30 He had gilt feelings
31 Adorable
33 Renown
37 One-time link

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

Yesterday's answer

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

1	2	3	4	■	■	5	6	7	8	■
9				10	■	11				12
13					■	14				
15			■	16	17					
18			19				■	20		
■	21					■	22			
■	■	23			■	24			■	■
25	26			■	27				28	■
29			■	30						31
32			33				■	34		
35					■	36	37			
38					■	39				
■	40				■	■	41			

4-3

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 14 39 47 48 53
Meganumber: 29
Jackpot: $54M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 4 7 17 31 33
Meganumber: 1
Jackpot: $35M

FANTASY 5: 6 15 29 30 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 3 3
EVENING: 7 8 4

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1.40.38

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ **Semi-Clever Perverts:** (1) The Court of Appeal in Brisbane, Australia, rejected in March the challenge of the man convicted last year for having sex with his underage stepdaughter but who had tried to protect himself by having her sign a "contract" of consent. (When arrested, the incredulous stepfather indignantly asked the police, "Did you not see the (expletive) contract?") (2) Schoolteacher Andrew Melville, 48, was sentenced in January in Scotland's Edinburgh Sheriff Court for possession of child pornography after the tribunal heard that Melville had initially sought to cover up word of his March 2008 arrest by buying up all copies of the newspapers in his hometown of Gullane.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1946 Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma, the Japanese commander responsible for the Bataan Death March, was executed by firing squad outside Manila, Philippines.

1948 President Harry S. Truman signed into law the Marshall Plan, designed to help European allies rebuild after World War II and resist Communism.

1968 the day before he was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his famous "mountaintop" speech to a rally of striking sanitation workers. North Vietnam agreed to meet with U.S. representatives to set up preliminary peace talks.

1974 deadly tornadoes struck wide parts of the South and Midwest before jumping across the border into Canada; more than 300 fatalities resulted.

1979 Jane M. Byrne was elected mayor of Chicago, defeating Republican Wallace D. Johnson.

1996 an Air Force jetliner carrying Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and American business executives crashed in Croatia, killing all 35 people aboard.

WORD UP!

gambol \GAM-buhl\, *intransitive verb*:
1. To dance and skip about in play; to frolic.
noun:
1. A skipping or leaping about in frolic.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Miscellaneous

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Employment

GIVE OF YOURSELF American Cancer Society Discovery Shop needs volunteer sales help. You can contribute by spending 4 hours per week Thurs., Fri., or Sat.assisting in our up-scale resale shop in Santa Monica. Conact Terry or Shaunnah at (310) 458-4490.

IMMEDIATE POSITIONS available in the Housekeeping Department. Hospital experience preferred. Must speak English, Call (310)829-8431 for interview.

Line Cook with valid drivers license for catering delivery Must speak English. Please call (310)985-0080

Help Wanted

DRIVER - West Coast Regional NEW HIRING AREA. Newest equipment on the road. Competitive Pay. Run the Western 11 States. On Site - Full Service Maintenance Shop. Reasonable Home Time. Western Express - 22 yrs. old. Good MVR, EOE, CDL-A, 1 yr. OTR. Call Edna Today! 1-866-863-4112. (Cal-SCAN)

Business Opps

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Yard Sales

Santa Monica Multi family yard sale
2326 11th St. Saturday 9-1

MULTI-FAMILY YARD SALE
on April 4-5th from 8am to 5pm.
724 Pacific Street, cross street Lincoln Blvd. Everything must go! Clothes, furniture, kitchenware toys. Get your shoppy shop on!!!

Travel & Vacation

A BED and Breakfast in the middle of the Paso Robles Wine Area. Treat yourself.
Contact Kim or Dick Rogers at Hollyhock Farms. hollyhock@tcsn.net
www.hollyhock-farm.com

For Rent

1248 11TH st. 2bdrm/1bath,remodeled with granite countertops, new carpet stove, blinds, laundry, parking, no pets.on site manager $1650.(310)393-6322 www.jkwproperties.com

501 N. Venice unit 10 single, $1100/mo $400 off move-in stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

Run your personals here!
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For Rent

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

833 5TH St. SM upper unit 206 single $1395 stove, carpet, blinds, swimming pool, laundry, granite countertops, wood/tile floors, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. $500 off move-in (310)393-2547 www.jkwproperties.com

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sullivan-dituri.com

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. Unit 205 1bdrm/1bath, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $1050/mo $400 off move-in on site manager (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

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HOWARD MANAGEMENT GROUP
(310)869-7901

1037 5th St. #2 2+2 $1895

1214 Idaho Ave. #9 3+3 $2995 Townhouse

2104 Ocean Park Blvd. #2 $1950 2+1

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Top floor loft bedroom with ocean views, vaulted ceiling, king bed, gas fireplace, and sitting area with desk DirectTV with HBO, DVD/VCR in both living room and bedroom Local phone line, Wireless DSL All housewares and linens, Free laundry facilities, Parking 11 19th at West of Pacific Rates: $2400 - Week Golda 310-770-4490

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

PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #205 $1075 1+1 upper, stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets.$400 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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Santa Monica $1695.00 2 Bdrms, 2 Bath , w/appliances, NO pets, parking, dshwshr, fireplace, balcony, 2535 Kansas Ave., #205 Open daily for viewing 8am-8pm. Additional info in unit. Move-in-special-available. Manager in unit #101

Santa Monica $1650.00 2 Bdrms, 1Bath NO pets, stove, refrigerator, parking 1935 Cloverfield Blvd., #15 Open daily for viewing 8am-8pm. Additional info in unit. Manager in unit #19. Move-in-special-available

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For Rent

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

SANTA MONICA / Mar Vista/Palms Adj. $1200.00 to $2150.00 1 Bdrm, 2 Bdrms, w/appliances, parking For list of our vacancies, see manager at : 1935 Cloverfield Blvd. #19, Santa Monica move-in-special available

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WESTCHESTER 6707 W. 86th place B, 2+ 2 upper, bright unit, newly remodeled hardwood floors, tile, carpet d/w microwave,blinds, laundry, tandem gated parking no pets $1595 (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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Marina Del Rey ADJ 7000 square feet great for creative office, design studio, sound studio, retail, or manufacturing. dividable $1 per square feet for preview call 310-995-5136

PRIME SANTA MONICA 1430 Colorado Ave. Architectural offices/ great design layout 3000 square feet $6200 for preview contact Charles (310)995-5136

SANTA Monica Airport Creative and Office space for lease 317 – 6640 Square Feet $1.20 - $2.39/Square Foot Call Deena at 310/434-2630

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