



HOWLAND READIES HIS BOYS
SEE PAGE 18

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE TREE UPDATE ISSUE

Scaling back the original plan



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

STILL STANDING — FOR NOW: Twenty-three ficus trees in Downtown are still scheduled to be removed and turned to mulch because they have been deemed structurally deficient.

City Hall decides to reduce number of trees to be relocated in downtown area

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN City officials have reduced the number of ficus trees to be uprooted and relocated as part of a streetscape improvement project on Second and Fourth streets from 31 trees to seven, according to a flyer being distributed to residents and business owners.

Initially up to 31 trees were targeted for relocation within the project area

and other locations throughout the city, but after surveying underground utilities, seven ficus trees were found to be good candidates for relocation to the proposed Palisades Garden Walk park on the former RAND Corp. site.

The remaining 24 trees will not be touched, joining 120 new ginkgo bilobas and other species for a grand total of 254 trees on eight blocks, said Kate Vernez, assistant to the City Manager.

"We want these trees to thrive," Vernez said.

Twenty-three ficus trees are still scheduled to be removed and turned to mulch because they have been deemed structurally deficient.

The bulk of the streetscape project includes widening and repairing sidewalks and enhancing lighting along the two commercial corridors, however,

the trees have received the most attention from activists and the media.

Santa Monica Treesavers, who are fighting the removals in court, said City Hall's decision to relocate seven trees instead of 31 is a direct result of their activism and their filing of a restraining order in an attempt to save as many trees as possible.

City officials said that is not the case. They contend that 31 was just an estimate and that the real number of trees to be relocated would be determined once workers went underground.

"We're grateful that the city has decided to remove less trees, however, I know the Treesavers would like to see all the trees remain except for those that pose a danger to the public," said

SEE TREES PAGE 13

Special ed issues explode at meeting

BY MELODY HANATANI | Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS In the end, it was a confrontation that appeared to be years in the making.

Tears were shed, accusations were made and private horror stories were shared during an emotion-laden discussion about special education at the Board of Education meeting on Thursday.

It was a conversation based on the highly-anticipated results from an independent evaluation of what has become a controversial piece of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District for more than a year — the issue of settlement agreements and confidentiality clauses in Individualized Education Plans, which outlines specialized services that special ed students receive.

Lou Barber and Associates presented its findings from the nearly four-month-long analysis of the program, concluding there was concern in the district's over-utilization of settlement agreements, fueling a perception of secrecy at the central administration level and leading to a sense of mistrust by parents.

"I think you run a wonderful school system here for most children," Lou Barber said at the meeting. "The problem is there are some children who are not getting the services they should be getting in the program."

Several special education parents have expressed concerns about an alleged culture of fear and hostility con-

SEE MEETING PAGE 11

COMMUNITY



CLEAN TOSS

Group wants funds to keep Venice tidy

STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 14

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

AIMING HIGH: With his friends behind him and the spray paint still drying in the sun on Thursday afternoon, Ryan Diaz drops an empty spray paint can into a trash bin. Residents are asking for community improvement grants to add secured trash bins so that people can't take the used cans and paint on walls not designated for graffiti artists.

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Cinema at the library

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:15 p.m.

Back by popular demand. The Main Library presents another free screening of the delightful musical hit, "Hairspray," this time with closed captions for the hearing impaired, and the lyrics on the screen for anyone wanting to sing along. Seating is first come, first served.

A perfect fit

2627 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m.

"The Hundred Dresses " is a stage adaptation of the 1944 book, a timeless story about the "in" crowd, the painful consequences of teasing, and what is known today as "fashion bullying." Bring the kids to this special theatrical experience.

Santa Monica on two feet

1436 Second St., 10 a.m.

The Santa Monica Conservancy leads a two-hour tour that explores more than 130 years of Santa Monica history from its wild west frontier beginnings to the metropolis of today. Starting from the 1875 Rapp Saloon, the route includes many landmarks and concludes at the 2003 NRDC building. For information, call (310) 496-3146.

Reach out and touch someone

1341 Lake St., Venice, 2 p.m. — 6 p.m.

Planet Social Sports games and matches are followed by team gatherings at local bars, which include discounted food and drinks, along with social activities. Men and women must be 21 to play. Check the Web site for specific times and locations www.planetsocialsports.com.

Sunday, April 6, 2008

Getting together at The Gathering

132 Brooks Ave., Venice, 7 p.m.

Creative, conscious, cutting edge, provocative, these are just some of the words used to describe The Gathering. Born out of a yearning for an oasis for heartfelt expression to converge, thrive, and multiply, Stephen Fiske, has brought together an incredible amount of talent for these upcoming events such as musical acts, poetry, spoken word, art, film and mixed media. For information, call (310) 396-8205.

The other Jerry's kids

1348 14th St., 7 p.m.

Cubensis brings the sights and sounds of a live Grateful Dead concert to 14 Below every Sunday. Cubensis is known for whipping its faithful crowd into a swirling psychedelic mass for three hours straight.

Get it while its fresh

Downtown Mar Vista, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Head out to lovely Mar Vista for the weekly Farmers' Market. Located at the corner of Grandview and Venice boulevards, the market includes fresh fruits and vegetables as well as some prepared foods.

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.



Chiropractor has the moves

Local wins gold medal at major Ju-jitsu tournament

BY JON HABER

Special to the Daily Press

MAIN STREET A chiropractor's job usually involves getting people out of pain, not the other way around. But then again, Charles Mortone is not the typical chiropractor.

Mortone won the gold medal last Saturday at the Pan American Ju-jitsu Championship at California State University, San Dominguez Hills in Carson. The 32-year-old won all five of his matches in the light-weight blue belt masters division to capture the title.

"This is definitely my largest accomplishment ever with [Ju-jitsu]," Mortone said. "It was absolutely amazing. It brought tears to my eyes. It was so much fun to have support from all my friends and my wife. Just an exceptional experience."

Four of Mortone's five matches ended in submissions, meaning his opponents had to tap out before the five-minute round was over. His only other victory came by an opponent's knee injury. Throughout the tournament, not one of the 32 competitors in the blue-belt bracket seemed to stand a chance against the soon-to-be champion.

"After the third or fourth round, [my wife and I] looked at each other, and I said to her 'are we really going to do this?,' and we started cracking up," Mortone said. "Then, into the fourth and fifth rounds, it was just one of those things. Nothing could have stopped us that day."

Last Saturday was Mortone's first time competing in the Pan American tournament, one of the biggest Ju-jitsu competitions in the world. The champion first began competing in small tournaments about eight years ago in South Carolina before deciding to move to Santa Monica in 2003.

SEE GOLD PAGE 12

Local church expands its real estate portfolio

BY CHIARA CANZI | Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN The youth center at the St. Peter and St. Paul Coptic Orthodox Church of Santa Monica will soon get a facelift. The church has purchased an office building adjacent to its current address for close to \$5 million to expand its youth service programs.

Ideal Property LLC sold the property on the 1200 block of Fourth Street to the church. They said the space

SEE CHURCH PAGE 13



ART OF PARTYING

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

Enjoying the many pictures and shoe designs, guests of the 'Warhol On Main' party at the Royal Elastics store on Main Street helped celebrate on Thursday night the launch of the summer Andy Warhol footwear collection. The party welcomed guests with drinks and musical performances by Garth Trinidad featuring Bourgeois and Friends.

Keeping your head on a swivel is a good idea

Editor's note: For the next six weeks, Editor in Chief Kevin Herrera will be writing a first-person account of what it's like to be enrolled in the Santa Monica Police Department's Citizen Police Academy, which is intended to foster better communication between Santa Monicans and police officers, while giving residents a better understanding of what it takes to preserve the peace.

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Editor in Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY In a city where parking is scarce, plenty of drivers have done the bump — and I'm not talking about that lame dance from the '70s.

The bump I'm referring to is that little rub between two bumpers when someone is trying to maneuver in or out of a tight parking space. We've all done it, but did you know that when you tap another person's car, no matter how lightly, it

is considered a traffic collision and you have to get out, contact the driver or at least write a note informing them of your poor parallel parking skills?

If a driver fails to do so, they can be charged with leaving the scene of an accident and face some stiff penalties. Now most officers are not going to be on the hunt for these types of crimes, but it is something to be aware of the next time you hit reverse and prepare to slip into a spot you know is going to give your trouble.

That is just one tidbit of useful information gleaned from my latest session of the Santa Monica Citizens Police Academy, my new favorite thing to do on Wednesday nights — that is if there isn't a Lakers game (Kobe Bryant for MVP).

Another thing I learned was that sucking on a copper penny while blowing into a Breathalyzer will not cause the machine to give a false reading. I heard from so many people

SEE ACADEMY PAGE 12

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Grassroots activism is tough

Editor:

The March 29th article, “Chamber opposes potential initiative,” refers to The Residents Initiative to Fight Traffic, “which has been endorsed by several neighborhood groups and the Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City.”

In fact, the boards of all five active neighborhood groups in Santa Monica have now endorsed the RIFT initiative. On the www.smRIFT.com Web site, there are position statements from Friends of Sunset Park, North of Montana Association, Ocean Park Association, Pico Neighborhood Association, and Wilshire Montana Neighborhood Coalition.

Over 100 volunteers have been out collecting signatures since February. On election day, I spent six hours standing 100 feet away from polling places in order to collect 98 signatures. Since then, some of us have been going door-to-door, some have stood outside grocery stores, some have stood outside schools, some have gone around their apartment or condo buildings, and some have just asked friends – whatever we can do to find registered voters. This is a grassroots, citywide effort. And it’s very time consuming. On election day, I was averaging 15 signatures per hour. At one grocery store, I averaged 10 signatures per hour. At another, only five signatures per hour. So it’s definitely a labor of love for the volunteers.

But you should see the expression on people’s faces as I explain why I’m collecting signatures. When people take time to stop, they listen politely, then it registers on them what I’m saying, then their faces light up, and then they say, “Yes! Finally! Where do I sign?”

Zina Josephs

Santa Monica

Talk to your teens

Editor:

As a country, we continue to make important progress in reducing underage drinking, but much more needs to be done and parental involvement is key. While parents may believe they have no impact on their teens’ behavior, teenagers consistently cite their parents as the most powerful deterrent to drinking illegally.

Parents are often surprised to learn where teens are getting alcohol. According to scientific research, most youth who drink obtain alcohol primarily through non-commercial sources such as parents, family, friends and other adults over 21. They are sneaking alcohol from their parents’ homes; having older friends buy it; or are obtaining it at parties.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. Use this opportunity to have a serious discussion with your teen about alcohol. Tools for parents are available through The Century Council, www.centurycouncil.org, a not-for-profit organization funded by America’s leading distillers, and through the Federal Trade Commission’s campaign to prevent underage drinking, “We Don’t Serve Teens” (www.dontserveteens.com).

Underage drinking is not inevitable. Parents and the entire community working together can make a difference.

Peter H. Cressy

President and CEO
Distilled Spirits Council

Long-term viability

Editor:

Parkinson’s Law live again! One of Cyril Parkinson’s famous “laws” satirizing government bureaucracies can be paraphrased as, “The less work there is to do, the more people it takes to do it.” So it is with Special Ed in Santa Monica. A recently-completed analysis reported in the April 3 edition (“Special Ed costs are on the rise,” page 1) concluded that though the special ed population has declined from 2001 to 2008, special ed expenditures have increased by about \$6 million during that time. We have to seriously wonder whether the district can afford a continued reduction of special ed students.

Paul Bergman

Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

UCLA and I make the Final Four again

EVERYBODY WHO IS EVEN REMOTELY interested in sports knows that this is the weekend for the NCAA college basketball Final Four. This year, the teams are UCLA, North Carolina, Memphis, and Kansas. UCLA is in the Final Four for the third-year in a row, and I’m at the Final Four for the fifth consecutive year. Why do I keep coming back? What makes me want to travel on crowded flights to stay in noisy hotels just to watch some games I could see better at home on TV?

I didn’t go to UCLA. Neither of my alma maters — Cal and Northwestern — have been in any of the Final Fours that I’ve attended, and their meeting in a championship game anytime soon is about as likely as the Obamas inviting the Clintons over for dinner. So why do I get so much joy out of going to this event? It’s the same reason that perfectly sane adults — doctors, lawyers, truck drivers, waitresses, and people from every other walk of life — dress in ridiculous outfits and scream for a few hours, and then go back to their regular lives. We do it to escape. We do it to get away from the real world. We do it to take a break from thinking about work, our personal problems, or the war.

Sports have been criticized for being too commercial, too ready to coddle egomaniacal athletes, and too full of drugs. Amateur sports are seen as a sham in which the college or Olympic participant is not really an amateur. I can’t argue with any of these criticisms. Sports are all of these things. But they are something else, too — they are really fun to watch. And as the war continues with no end in sight, and as the dollar will soon buy a quarter of a gallon of gasoline, it seems like a pretty good time for fun.

The excitement of attending this year’s Final Four started on the flight to San Antonio. The plane was filled with people making the pilgrimage. College songs were sung, bets were made, and friendships were forged, all at 30,000 feet.

When we landed, we were inundated with signs and friendly faces, all welcoming us to “San Antonio, Home of the 2008 NCAA Final Four.” Before I even got my luggage, volunteers walked over to me, asking if I needed any directions. You see, it’s not just the Alamodome that will house excitement. All of San Antonio seems exhilarated.

Historically, sports have often provided a much-needed respite from cruel reality. I remember reading stories about the Civil War in which some soldiers from the North and South took a break from fighting to play baseball with each other. Similarly, the Philippine army and the insurgents recently held a seven-hour truce so they could watch local hero Manny Pacquiao fight for the super featherweight title.

Unfortunately, in all of these kinds of cases, after the sporting events were over, the participants went back to trying to kill each other. So as far as I’m concerned, our society doesn’t suffer from too much sport, but not enough.

It never bothers me when a president welcomes athletes to the White House or calls to congratulate a team that has won a championship. It’s fine with me if politicians are big sports fans. Others may ask, “Don’t our leaders have more important things to do?” My answer is, “Not necessarily.” The more hours that those in power spend dealing with sports means there are fewer hours that they have to mess up some foreign or domestic policy.

UNFORTUNATELY, IN ALL OF THESE KINDS OF CASES, AFTER THE SPORTING EVENTS WERE OVER, THE PARTICIPANTS WENT BACK TO TRYING TO KILL EACH OTHER. SO AS FAR AS I’M CONCERNED, OUR SOCIETY DOESN’T SUFFER FROM TOO MUCH SPORT, BUT NOT ENOUGH.

If George Bush’s psyche had pushed him to compete with his father as an athlete rather than as a statesman, how much different might the world be today?

Perhaps that’s too serious of a question to ponder just now. This weekend is a time for taking a break, watching the games, and having fun. It’s more appropriate to ponder whether all those UCLA fans who color their faces blue will be able to remove that paint before they return to work next week. After Monday night, we can go back to solving the problems of the world.

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from “Sesame Street” to “Family Ties” to “Home Improvement” to “Frasier.” He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his website at lloydgarver.com

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STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

“We’ve become much more elitist [in housing], which is not what Santa Monica is about.”

— Eileen Fogarty, the planning and community development director for City Hall, regarding the need to create workforce housing in the city.

“Nuclear power plants are so risky that for the last 50 years the federal government has had to provide liability protection for plant operators to cover potential disasters. That’s not very comforting in a state like California that is laced with earthquake faults.”

— Assemblyman Llyod Levine (D-Woodland Hills) wrote in a guest commentary.

“They are more richly staffed with speech therapists and psychologists than the state average. They have more administrative support than the state average.”

— Lou Barber, head of Lou Barber and Associates, said of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District’s special education program.

“The situation is frustrating. Not for me, of course, as the money and prestige that accompany the award have no bearing on why I write my heart out for the world to read each week. No, it’s just so disappointing for the followers of this column whose support and praise for my artful expressions continues to pour in like a stick of butter on corn flakes. I don’t want to brag, but if the accolades of my devotees are any indication, I would have been a shoo-in.”

— SMDP columnist Meredith C. Carroll wrote about her desire to win an 2008 Pulitzer Prizes in “Meredith Pro Tem.”

“The Pacific Wheel has been a great source of pride for Santa Monicans so we wanted to create a comprehensive memory book of experiences and photos. Guests will stop by our offices, call or e-mail to share stories about milestone celebrations relating to the Pacific Wheel. ”

— Jeff Klocke, director of marketing and sales at Pacific Park, regarding the creation of an online blog where people can post memories about the Pacific Wheel, which is slated to be replaced later this year.

“I’ve finally come to terms with never moving back to Boston because Santa Monica is clearly the best place in the world. I never get tired of saying the words, 70 degrees and sunny with a little breeze off the ocean’ to my snowbound friends back home.”

— SMDP columnist SMDP Kenny Mack wrote in “Word in Edgewise.”

Quotations captured and compiled with care by Daniel Archuleta.



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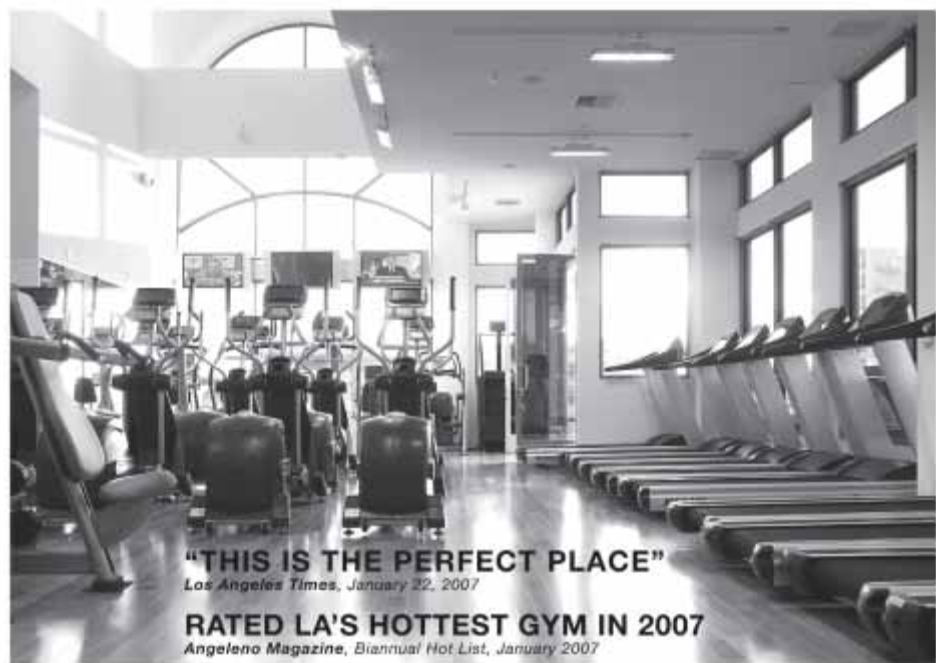
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The QLine

FEELING SAFE IN SANTA MONICA

This past week, Q-line asked:

The City Council last week passed a ban of the largest and fastest jets that operate out of the Santa Monica Airport. The Federal Aviation Administration has vowed to challenge the ruling. Do you think the city should stand its ground and take the FAA on or do you believe the city should seek a compromise?

Here are your responses:

"I THINK THAT THE CITY SHOULD FIGHT the FAA and get these jets out of Santa Monica Airport."

"HOW MUCH LONGER IS THIS INSANITY going to go on? It's like Playing Russian roulette."

"OVER THE YEARS., THE CITY OF SANTA Monica has seemingly attempted to function autonomously away from higher levels of government. Exercising what I refer to as the David against Goliath syndrome. It is not just the FAA that the city will have to contend with. The city will also have to contend with those wealthy folks and corporate giants who fly in those multi-million dollar jet. The street adage that money talks and flies and poop walks. As I stroll across Ocean Boulevard and hear poop flying overhead I say to myself there flies wealth. There flies wealth, then I continue to poop along. Both the FAA and the city of Santa Monica should sit down together and present the facts and then as it is said get real, keeping in mind that right has might."

"THE AIRPORT WASN'T DESIGNED FOR those (large jets). Perhaps they shouldn't be allowed because they are too noisy and too dangerous. One of these days there's going to be a crash and people are going to be killed and there's going to be a ton of lawsuits."

"THE CITY COUNCIL SHOULD DEFINITELY stand its ground on this issue. We really need our local leaders to take on the FAA and close down this menace."

"THE PEOPLE WHO FLY IN THESE JETS are multi-millionaires. They could care less about your home, your family, your health and the vile smell and noise. They have as much as common with you as you do to an ant. The City Council will soon enact another district assessment tax like the one on the central business district onto the surrounding airport homeowners pretending to fight the FAA. They won't use any money from the \$462 million budget because that would take much needed welfare payments used to support the idle, foul, lazy, corrupt non-artistic self promoters, mass transit, dimwitted education and high density buildings. Good luck with the City Council on your side."

"COMPROMISE WHAT? THE HEALTH and safety of thousand of residents? I don't think so. Santa Monica should not only stand firm, but they need to pass a stronger ordinance yet, banning all jets and stop all this gambling with human life."

"THE ONLY COMPROMISE THE CITY should settle for would be a compete ban for all jets. It was wrong to allow them in the airport in the first place, as they are a menace to safety and health of Santa Monica Airport neighbors."

"I DO THINK THE CITY OF SANTA Monica should stand its ground and take on the FAA concerning the large jets flying in and out of Santa Monica Airport. The airport was never made for jets, and they started flying in back in '95-'96 when they could land on small runways. This was just a municipal local airport, and everybody liked it. Now, we hate it, and I think we should fight the FAA as much as we can."

"I BELIEVE THE CITY OF SANTA Monica should stand its ground and take the FAA on. I live in West L.A. Again I think

the city should stand its ground and take the FAA on."

"I ABSOLUTELY THINK THE CITY SHOULD take a stand against the FAA. If they give into this issue in regards to Santa Monica Airport, we are essentially saying they can continue to dictate and determine what's in our best interest. And as we all know the FAA is getting their palms greased by somebody. Celebrities love to say that they are taking care of our environment, yet they continue to fly jets out of our residential airport. I think if we don't take a stand with the FAA we will continue to allow the FAA and other people to determine the well being of ourselves, our families and our children. So the city should take a stand."

"SANTA MONICA SHOULD ABSOLUTELY stand its ground against the FAA and make sure the thousand-foot buffer zone is kept at the airport no matter what. Whether its shorten the runway or take smaller jets, they absolutely should stand their ground. And I applaud them for keeping their residents safe, something they did not do at Teeter Borrow Airport in New Jersey."

"THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA MUST stand its ground against the FAA to pass an ordinance. Noise doesn't bother me, I knew about the noise when I moved in, but it doesn't give them any excuse to be a gross polluter with the jet aviation fumes. It's disgusting and harmful to my family's health. Finally, the FAA is in violation of its own rules by having a runway which is too short."

"(JETS) ARE AN ABSOLUTE DISASTER FOR the people that live around the airport. They're also too large for the runway by the FAA's own regulation."

"NOT ONLY SHOULD THE CITY STAND ITS ground, but it should take more stringent measures. Lives are at stake for not just those around the airport, but all of Santa Monica. A large jet in distress could hit any part of Santa Monica."

"THE CITY COUNCIL SHOULD STAND ITS ground and uphold the ban of large jets. I've been a citizen of the West L.A. area since 1982, and things have definitely deteriorated."

"WILL YOU PLEASE SEND THE JETS BACK TO LAX and kick them out of here. I've lived here for 30 years. I cannot stand it

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anymore. Breathing is getting harder and harder. It is unconscionable that a jet should fly into such a small airport. Get them out of here, back to where they belong, and there is no compromise."

"I FEEL THAT THE SANTA MONICA CITY Council did the right thing, and that they should stand their ground against the FAA. The FAA seems to want to be able to push everybody around and dictate policy, even to the detriment of homeowners and citizens in the Santa Monica area."

"WHEN WE ALL PURCHASED OUR residences here, there were small planes only. It is so out of proportion that yes I think we should go ahead and cancel the jets. And not just the large ones, I think the medium size jets as well. So, I think we should go for it, the FAA is actually overruling their own rules on the entire matter."

"I BELIEVE THAT SANTA MONICA SHOULD absolutely fight the FAA and continue to regulate the Santa Monica Airport to the type of airport it was originally. Living near the airport, the large jets are a huge concern both in terms of pollution and danger."

"I BELIEVE THE CITY SHOULD STAND ITS ground and take issue with the FAA, not compromise in any way. The health risks are tremendous. We are breathing in noxious fumes and our eyes water, we're coughing and getting sick. The noise is unbearable. And it's a very serious situation that needs to be changed immediately."

"I WANT TO ENCOURAGE THE CITY

Council to keep firm with the ruling that they passed to prohibit the largest and fastest jets at the Santa Monica Airport. These jets are exceedingly dangerous. Their pollution is atrocious. The noise is deafening, and it's a huge safety factor for the community. Thank you, council, for staying firm."

"THE FAA THAT I SAW LAST WEEK AT THE Santa Monica City Council meeting should be renamed the Federal Antagonistic Association. Of course the city should stand its ground and take the FAA on. The city should also be working closer with the groups like concerned residents against airport pollution and make sure that health and safety issues are interrelated."

"I'M GRATEFUL THAT THE CITY COUNCIL chose to ban the large jets at Santa Monica Airport and I hope and expect them to fight the FAA as they bring their challenge. They made the right decision in the first place and they should stand by it and defend it, and we're grateful to them for doing that."

"I FEEL THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA should stand its ground against the FAA regarding ruling out certain jets into the Santa Monica Airport. I hope they stick to their ruling."

"IT'S UNCONSCIONABLE TO CONTINUE bringing large jets right over the tree tops of homes. That is unsafe."

"THE CITY DEFINITELY SHOULD STAND its ground and take on the FAA because otherwise we'll just be run over."

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Guilty pleasures

IT HAPPENS EVERY MARCH WITHOUT fail. It has nothing to do with age, experience or will-power. You order them out of habit and there they are — Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs and Do-Si-Dos. You empty box after box and consume, thousands upon thousands of calories.

March is known in this country as Girl Scout Cookie month. It is also National Nutrition Month. Coincidence? I think not. In 1933, the Girl Scouts held their first “home-made” cookie sale and 40 years later the dietitians created National Nutrition Month. As a dietitian, it is my duty to educate. OK, here goes, “Those cookies are not very healthy, please limit your intake.”

Still got a craving for a cookie or two? Well that's simple to satisfy by making your own from the same ingredients. Simply start with sugar, add enriched flour (a.k.a. processed flour without any naturally occurring nutrients), some more sugar disguised as corn syrup, followed by “vegetable shortening” which could be any combination of tropical fats, plus some sweetened condensed milk (milk and more sugar) intertwined with high fructose corn syrup (sugar) and then cocoa, but it is processed with alkali, a.k.a. “dutched” cocoa which negates the health benefits. To top it all off, a list of not one, not two, but four artificial colors, dyes. WOW! With all that sugar and artificial stuff, I need to recover just from writing about them.

You might think I should just offer up a more

calorie friendly cookie recipe, but frankly, when it comes to cookies, portion control is the underlying issue. Portion control is usually the issue for most foods and for people with weight problems. Research has shown that it is sheer volume (big portions) that we seek when we eat. The best way to meet your flavor needs and be truly satisfied is to fill up on fluid filled foods, such as fruits, vegetables, soups, salads and shakes where the “bulk” macro-nutrient is water. And water will never add “bulk” to your bod. Maybe that is why cookies and milk are so much more satisfying than just the cookies alone.

The most popular Girl Scout cookie in terms of sales is the Thin Mint, followed by Samoas and Tagalongs. Here is my Chocolate “Make You Thin” Mint Recovery Shake for recovering from cookie overdose, and suggestions for adapting it to a Tagalong, which in the shake form is called a “Fat-Be-Gone.” Both shakes are chock full of fluids, for filling and hydrating, plus protein for post workout muscle recovery, good carbs for repletion of glycogen stores, and a host of vitamins, minerals and antioxidant nutrients to facilitate energy pathways and protect precious cells.

Alkaline-free cocoa is rich in catechins, a class of antioxidants like those found in tea, red wine and pomegranates. Catechins may help protect against certain cancers and aid in the prevention of heart disease. Mint leaves are rich in a natural anti-inflammatory agent known as rosmarinic acid. Mint leaves and most leafy greens are also rich in carotenoids, typically thought of as the

Chocolate ‘Make You Thin’ Mint Recovery Shake

1 cup almond or organic milk of your choice

6-8 ice cubes

1 Tbsp unsweetened, Alkali Free or Non-Dutched cocoa powder (Dagoba: organic, or Chatfield's)

30 fresh mint leaves (If available, buy chocolate mint from Maggie's at the Farmer's Market)

1 cup protein powder such as Whey

1-2 tsp blackstrap molasses

1 tsp cinnamon

To make a Peanut Butter “Fat-Be-Gone” instead, omit mint leaves and add 1-2 tsp natural organic peanut butter or raw almond butter

1. Pour milk in the blender.

2. Add the ice cubes.

3. Throw in the powdered stuff and cinnamon

4. Add the molasses and the mint leaves (or peanut butter)

5. Blend

6. Add ice cubes gradually and more liquid as needed to reach a milkshake consistency

7. Pour, drink and enjoy!

Per serving: 230 calories, 6g fat, 20g carbs, 6g fiber, 33g protein, 10 percent DV Vitamin A, 6 percent Vitamin C, 25 percent Calcium, 36 percent Iron.

yellow-orange pigment in particular fruits and vegetables. The 450 known carotenoids offer a plethora of protection such as the prevention of heart disease, cancer and macular degeneration; the leading cause of blindness. Mint leaves are also a good source of vitamin C.

Cinnamon offers some more disease fighting protection in the form of an antioxidant known as cinnamaldehyde which helps to reduce blood clotting thereby reducing the risk for heart attacks and strokes. Cinnamon has also been shown to reduce the rate at which the

stomach empties after a meal and can in-effect aid blood sugar control. Plus, cinnamon enhances sweetness, especially in chocolate (cocoa) and fruits.

Simply follow the recipe, blend and enjoy. Guilt free, energy enhancing and disease preventing, as eating and drinking should be.

Elizabeth Brown is a registered dietitian, certified holistic chef and weight management specialist in Santa Monica. She can be reached at eat2liv@earthlink.net.

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Parents tell horror stories of special education encounters

FROM MEETING PAGE 1

cerning the settlement agreements and confidentiality clauses, which are entered into when there is an impasse in negotiations for the IEP. These parents claim the agreements are made behind closed doors, feeling pressured into signing a document with which they didn't agree. Further exacerbating the issue is the confidentiality clauses, which bar parents from speaking to a third-party about the services received within the settlement agreements. Administrators have said the settlement agreements is a cost-saving measure, keeping legal costs down.

"You're not doing anything to help special ed kids move in and be a part of society," Meredith Hyde, one parent, said. "Shame on you."

The report, which was mandated by the City Council last year in order for the district to receive a half million dollar increase in city aid, encompassed several areas of special education outside of settlement agreements, including programmatic and financial elements. While the study did state there were concerns with the agreements, it also commended the district for the quality of the actual services the students receive, praising SMMUSD for delivering a wide-ranging array of quality service in a well-funded program staffed with highly-qualified personnel.

"Taking (the report) at face value indicates we are performing quite well," Superintendent Dianne Talarico said during the meeting.

The report answered a total of 17 questions ranging from whether the district's written policies are consistent with state and federal regulations to whether contracted services are cost-effective. Talarico pointed

out that most of the questions were answered in the affirmative.

"We will celebrate the commendations and take the recommendations into serious consideration," Talarico said.

The suggestion Barber made to the board was that it take a close look at transparency and opening the line of communication with parents, a resounding issue that he heard from the approximately 100 parents interviewed for the report.

The consultant also recommended that control be decentralized and that the individual school sites be empowered when it comes to dictating the special education services that the children receive, noting that too much seems to be occurring at the administrative level and not enough by those who directly deliver the services.

"The district procedure is to run things from the district office," Barber said. "That is not the way you build a team approach to solving the educational needs of all children."

The report concluded that settlement agreements — the catalyst for the evaluation — was legal and used by districts across the state in varying degrees, some reporting they had issued about 10 or 15 in the past year, some reporting they had not entered into any in several years. The SMMUSD on the other hand has entered into more than 140 in the past three years.

One concerning issue with the settlement agreements was the failure to incorporate the services in the IEP, which means teachers do not have a true record of the services that the student has received in the past, according to Tamara VonBuck, an attorney who conducted a legal analyses of the agreements for the report.

VonBuck added there is a sentiment that

parents are not allowed to talk to each other because of the confidentiality clauses and recommended that the district encourage that dialogue to occur.

Most of the school districts interviewed for the report agreed that when used on a limited basis, settlement agreements provide a way to resolve conflicts without going into a due process hearing. But it wasn't a practice ever touched by the consultant.

Barber said he operated three of the largest special education units in the state and never once used a settlement agreement.

"A settlement agreement is not a good process, the question is was it a legal process?" Barber said. "I think you use settlement agreements when you can't (take) the time to resolve those issues in a face-to-face (meeting)."

The report also found that while the student education population has declined or flattened over the past few years, spending has actually gone up, which can be attributable directly to staffing. Francie Heim, who worked on the report, said special ed in the state is seriously underfunded.

Parents gave impassioned speech after impassioned speech, some whose children have long graduated from the school district, some who never had any students in special education. The unifying theme among these speeches was that there needed to be changes in both policy and mindset, some parents saying there is bullying going on by both students and teachers. To these parents, the report seemed to confirm their feelings the past few years.

Sheila Forsander, the past president of John Adams Middle School's PTA, said there needs to be an attitude that encourages building bridges and of parents and teachers working collaboratively.

Forsander, who had two children in gen-

eral education, spoke on behalf of the parents who were afraid to speak.

"This atmosphere is not in the interest of children or families," Forsander said, adding that she continues to hear stories of harassment. "I heard just one week ago of a staff member making inappropriate comments about her own status in a way to use intimidation."

The school board members assured parents that the report would not be shelved and that it would be acted upon as soon as possible, pointing out the Talarico was expected to respond to several of the recommendations with an action plan at the next board meeting later this month.

"I do think it's important that all the elements of the report are taken into account," school board Vice President Jose Escarce said.

Board President Oscar de la Torre said he found the it troubling that the district has somehow lost empathy, taking partial responsibility that the board had not acted on the accusations sooner. The Special Education District Advisory Council brought up the settlement agreements in 2006.

De la Torre also pointed out that though the board last summer passed a moratorium on the confidentiality clauses until the report was completed, that hasn't necessarily been the case.

"We have not curtailed the use of confidentiality clauses since that moratorium," he said.

The board president suggested that the district put in an orientation program for new parents of special education, informing them of various support groups that exists.

"I would like for us to create a school district that has empathy for people," he said. "Find a process to be supportive."

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Getting drunk for a good reason

FROM ACADEMY PAGE 3

growing up that if I was ever caught drinking as a teen that I could just throw a penny in my mouth and blow. The machine would either read "0" or give some ridiculous number that would allow me to argue that the machine was malfunctioning.

Well, thanks to a tipsy Lauralee Asch, I know that piece of advice was nothing but an urban legend. I say thanks to Lauralee because the community relations and crime prevention specialist who has been our guide for the last six weeks put her health on the line and drank nearly a full glass of white wine during our class so that we could see how alcohol dulls one's senses.

I believe I learned enough of that while in college, but it was fun to watch her sip on that plastic cup, her cheeks getting redder and redder as the night went on.

At first, the class was treated to a presentation from investigator Chris Dawson, an SMPD veteran who is in charge of investigating just about every single serious, and sometimes not-so-serious, accident that occur in Santa Monica, and from looking at the numbers, Dawson and his team are busy.

There were roughly 1,800 to 1,900 crashes in this congested city where it seems everyone drives impatiently even though they know most of our streets are overloaded, narrow and surrounded by pedestrians who like to cut across wherever, whenever.

Of those crashes, 558 were hit and runs, "ridiculous for a city this small," Dawson said.

"That's a sad commentary," Dawson added. "For me, those numbers show that we are a society that doesn't want to take responsibility for our actions."

Dawson proceeded to show the class gruesome photos of victims involved in car

accidents. If you haven't seen someone who has been struck by a car, you're lucky. It's not a pretty sight. Limbs are bent back in ways that just aren't normal, and sometimes, faces are smashed in, forcing some of my classmates to cringe and look away.

I thought it was great. Not because I like gore, but rather because it made me stop and think about what I do behind the wheel and how in an instant my life can change forever. Will it make me drive a little slower? Hopefully. We'll just have to wait and see. I already drive slow enough. I get heckled by my passengers all the time for driving Miss Daisy. But what is a man to do in Santa Monica. You can rarely drive faster than 25 mph any way, and I have a convertible, so why not cruise.

Anyway, I digress. Dawson showed us the formulas he uses to calculate the speed of a vehicle involved in the accident and the position of the victim when hit. He also warned about the new cell phone law that will go into effect in July. For those who are not familiar, the law prevents drivers from using a hand-held device while on the road. Bluetooths are cool as are other hands-free devices for adults. Juveniles are not allowed to drive with either.

Another important thing to remember, Dawson said, is to never let your guard down while crossing the street, even if you are in a crosswalk. Just because you are in the crosswalk doesn't mean cars are going to stop for you.

"People think there is this barrier protecting them," Dawson said. "They have this false sense of security. This is how accidents happen."

Accidents also happen when seniors and kids get behind the wheel. Kids easily get distracted and are inexperienced. Seniors lose some of their reflexes and may not be able to

see very well.

Dawson told us of a story about an 85-year-old woman who was legally blind but still driving to the market on occasion. Dawson was called to her house after receiving a complaint from the woman's neighbor. The neighbor said they saw the elderly woman's car and it had several scrapes and dents along the sides. They were concerned about her safety. Dawson went to investigate and sure enough, the woman was using walls, trash cans and other objects as bumpers to keep her on the road.

The hard part is getting some of these drivers to give up their license.

"Some elderly drivers feel that you are trying to take away their independence," Dawson said.

In addition to talking about accidents, Dawson also ran through an officer involved shooting in which he wounded a suspect who had just fired off several rounds. The suspect was mentally disturbed and didn't hit anyone, however, he did walk down Nebraska Avenue near Stewart Street with a wheel gun in hand and would not surrender to Dawson when he arrived on scene. Dawson had to follow in his squad car, order bystanders to get back and still keep his gun pointed at the suspect.

After following the suspect for about five minutes, all the while yelling for him to drop his weapon, Dawson made a decision. He aimed high, knowing that the bullet would fall at that distance. It did, striking the suspect under the buttocks, sending him to the floor. He made the right call considering the suspect was close to reaching a residential area where he could have run into an apartment and held people hostage.

Dawson received a nice round of applause and left for the evening. He was fol-

lowed by officers Phillbo Rubish and Rob Dawson, who are experts in DUI investigations. They actually train other departments in the proper ways to spot a drunk, and it's not having them count backwards from 100 or recite the alphabet.

Instead officers are trained to look at the eyes and look for what is known as horizontal gaze nystagmus, which is essentially the twitching of the eyes when a suspect is asked to track the movement of an object, usually an officer's pen. It is by far the most accurate sobriety test administered.

Lauralee volunteered to drink and have herself tested. It was a riot. She was cracking jokes left and right, which is what she does normally, but this time they were pretty funny (just teasing, Lauralee). In all seriousness, you could tell she was three sheets to the wind. A Breathalyzer test would later confirm this, as she blew a .11. The legal limit is .08.

As soon as Officer Rubish moved his pen from left to right, it was obvious that she was impaired. Her eyes did not follow the pen smoothly. Instead, they jerked.

The officers then had her do the heel-to-toe routine where she had to walk in a straight line and turn. She couldn't. Officer Rob Dawson stood behind her to catch her if she fell, standard operating procedure in the field.

In the end, it was really entertaining, but also a serious lesson in how alcohol can affect one's body. It's a valuable lesson to learn and I thank Lauree for drinking the cheap wine to demonstrate. I know the next time I drink, I'll remember watching Rubish moving that pen and call a cab to pick me up. There's no reason to risk it.

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Mortone eyes next challenge

FROM GOLD PAGE 3

Once he arrived in Southern California, Mortone started training at Street Sports Ju-jitsu Santa Monica on Ocean Park Boulevard under the direction of Coach Renato Magno.

In 2006, Mortone began working as a chiropractor at Dedicated Wellness on 2210 Main Street, but he never let go of his hobby.

This past December, Mortone decided he would compete in the Pan American tournament. Within the next three-and-a-half months, the fighter dropped 10 pounds so he could compete in lightweight division.

"I had to basically fast and do tons of nutrition. The lightweight division is 167.5 pounds and under, so I had to lose some weight. Regardless, I train about six days a week during the year," Mortone said.

After losing the weight, Mortone entered the competition with Magno right by his side.

"Renato was coaching me the entire time. He really gave me an edge," Mortone said. "He was shouting body positions and things like that from the sideline and kept me aware of where I needed to be position-wise."

Upon receiving his gold medal, Mortone earned a purple rank from his coach, which will place Mortone in a tougher field for future competitions.

Mortone is currently training harder than ever before to compete in the World Ju-jitsu Games in Long Beach this summer. And although Mortone knows purple-belt competition will be a tougher challenge than he has ever faced before, he still has high expectations.



Photo courtesy

WINNER: Santa Monica resident Charles Martone, a chiropractor on Main Street, stands with his coach, Renato Magno of Street Sports Ju-jitsu, after taking home the gold medal in the sport at the Pan American Games at Cal State Dominguez Hills last week. Martone beat out other competitors in the blue belt bracket.

"I really want to get that first place again," he said. "I feel confident I can do it if I train right."

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Number of ficus to be removed drops

FROM TREES PAGE 1

Tom Nitti, attorney for the Treesavers.

Nitti and City Hall are awaiting a decision from the state Court of Appeal on whether or not the restraining order preventing removal and relocation will remain in place or be dissolved. City Hall is also seeking permission from the court to remove the 23 unstable trees as soon as possible.

City officials essentially maintain the same position that they have held in previous court hearings, arguing that the statute of limitations during which the streetscape project could be challenged expired 180 days after the project was ruled exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act in 2005. City Hall ruled on the environmental elements of the project, not once, but twice, according to court documents.

The Downtown Urban Design Plan, of which the beautification street plan is a part, was first analyzed under CEQA and approved in 1997 and City Hall was not mandated to rule it CEQA exempt in 2005.

As for the flyer, Vernez said the City Manager's Office felt it was necessary to spend \$22,500 printing 65,000 of them so that the public could be informed about the streetscape project. Vernez said plenty of misinformation has circulated throughout the community and City Hall is looking to set the record straight.

The streetscape project is also a public improvement project and therefore City Hall has a duty to keep the public informed, just as it did with the Transmit Mall project in Downtown, Vernez said.

The streetscape project is intended to improve pedestrian safety, provide necessary access for the elderly and disabled by repairing sidewalks and curbs, and enhance the downtown area by providing better lighting and more visible crosswalks, the flyer states.

Nitti said the flyer is, "City Hall propaganda to make the city look green to the public."

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Church purchases property to expand current programs

FROM CHURCH PAGE 3

had been vacant for the past seven months due to maintenance problems.

"The building has some deferred maintenance," said Real Estate Agent Stanley Gerlach, who represented both the seller and the buyer. "There were issues with the city and the owner recognized that and discounted the price."

Gerlach, of Coldwell Banker Richard Ellis, said the property was put on the market for \$5.25 million but the church paid \$4.33 million for the property.

"The seller had more lucrative offers, but he decided to go with the church," Gerlach said. "We had offers from an Indonesian group and a permanent supportive housing group and he could have gotten more money."

But Gerlach said the decision to accept the church's offer was an easy one.

"The owner wanted to support the church and their efforts in the community," he said.

Since 1993 St. Peter and St. Paul Coptic Orthodox Church opened its doors to families in Santa Monica and the Westside. The congregation grew steadily throughout the years from 60 families in the early '90s to the current 250.

"We bought the property next door mainly for the expansion of the church's services," said Father Mina, who has been with the church since it was first opened. "The bishop already came to bless the building."

The purchased property is a 6,640-square-foot office building and was built in 1937. Father Mina said the church has big plans for the space.

"We want to build a youth center, a senior center and possibly, if we can get permits from the city, we would like to also have a day care," he said.

The church already has a youth center in the back of its current location, but the idea is to expand it and make it even more appealing to Santa Monica and Westside youth.

"It's more of a youth lounge," said Father Mina. "We have a big screen TV, and sofas for boys and girls who want to come and hang out



Alexis Hawkins news@smdp.com

SOLD: St. Peter and St. Paul Coptic Orthodox Church of Santa Monica bought this property to expand its youth programs.

with their friends after school in a safe zone."

Father Mina and other representatives from the church met with the owner before the final transaction was made and explained the intended use of the property.

"He saw our mission for the youth in the community and decided he wanted to help out," he said.

The owner settled for less than the amount he asked for knowing that most of the money for the down payment came from donations and private donor loans.

"The down payment was a collaborative effort," Father Mina said. "We have issues with the ventilation and air conditioning that we have to straighten out with the city, but other than that, we are ready to open."

The proposed youth center is scheduled to open in August.

Another multi-million dollar properties was purchased in Santa Monica on Monday. An investment group led by Dowd Family Trust sold an apartment complex for \$7.5 million.

Ocean View Plaza LLC purchased the 31-unit apartment complex at 2727 Sixth St. Each of the units were priced at \$241,000. The complex contains 13 two-bedroom/one-bath units.

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Venetians helping Venice stay tidy

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

VENICE Stash Maleski is one of the true-blue Venetians, holding a hard-fast loyalty to his home of 16 years that many residents of this bohemian West Los Angeles neighborhood share.

When the Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) announced last month it was seeking applications for several community improvement grants, it only felt natural that Maleski would throw his name in the hat.

On Thursday evening at the Westminster Elementary School, Maleski was among the 30 Venice residents and non-profit organizations that presented their proposals to improve the community using grants worth up to \$5,000, each making a case to better the quality of life in the neighborhood, whether it be adding more art and landscaping or funding existing programs that benefit the public.

It was a community meeting that included a diverse array of ideas on how roughly \$40,000 in the VNC's bank account for community improvement should be used, the money provided by the city of Los Angeles three years ago and set to head back to City Hall if unallocated by the end of the fiscal year. Those diverse array of ideas was a reflection of the diverse array of personalities that has made Venice world renown.

"Venice has a unique reputation but part of that is there are lots of individuals who have very different ideas," Robin Murez, the founder of the Venice Public Art Forum and grant applicant, said on Friday.

Murez submitted two applications — one to improve landscaping along Venice Boulevard and another to restore the historic colonnades that line Windward Avenue. Murez, an artist who is seasoned at filling out grant applications, said Los Angeles City Hall invested in a landscape project for Venice Boulevard about a decade ago, but that portions were never worked on and remain eyesores.

"What should be a major artery to the beach that all of Los Angeles should be proud of is a depressing eyesore," Murez said. "It's important to the quality of all our lives to have green spaces and those green spaces should be in the most prominent areas."

The Venetian-style columns were installed in the early 1900s by community founder Abbot Kinney and have deteriorated over the past century. While there were originally at least 80 columns on Windward, only 20 remain.

"Some are in terrible states of disrepair and they're eyesores and potential hazards," she said.

About 41 organizations — including schools — and individuals submitted an application for the grants, which required that projects must be done on public property and benefit a large number of people, according to Linda Lucks,



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

ENJOYING A STROLL DOWN BY THE WATER: Taking their time to enjoy life, a couple from Russia walks along one of the canals in Venice. Venice residents want to increase access to the canals by using a community improvement grant.

the vice chairman of the VNC and the chair of the neighborhood subcommittee.

The proposals were presented to the neighborhood committee on Thursday and members of the public in attendance were asked to rank their favorites. The subcommittee is expected to make a recommendation to the VNC, which will award the grants to the winning projects before the end of the fiscal year.

"There's a lot of really good people involved," Lucks said. "This particular opportunity is great because it is not limited to non-profits and there are a lot of individuals who came up with some creative ideas to benefit the community."

Among the organizations that participated was Santa Monica-based Chrysalis, which helps homeless individuals connect with employment opportunities. Rick Stoff, who filed the grant application for Chrysalis, said the organization is seeking funding to clean up Lincoln Boulevard from

Rose Avenue to Washington Boulevard for six weeks. The organization often works with individuals in West Los Angeles. Cleaning crew positions will be offered to the organization's clients.

"My ultimate mission is to start moving people who haven't worked into jobs," Stoff said in an interview on Thursday.

Stoff pointed out that the Venice community has raised concerns about the homeless problem and that the grant could be used to address that issue.

"This is now using their money to create jobs," he said.

Maleski also intends to use the grant to help solve another long-standing issue in the community — graffiti.

The Venice resident helps run a program called ICU, which curates the Venice Art Walls on the beach. Maleski said the grant money would buy signage that would inform artists that a permit is needed to paint on the walls. The grant would also purchase a secured bin that would hold disposed spray cans, helping to prevent vandals from gaining access to spray cans to tag the neighborhoods. There are currently two such bins at the art walls.

"I love Venice and I love the creative spirit of Venice and the innocence of the collective community in Venice," he said on Thursday. "The grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council tries to represent that spirit in what they pursue."

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Labels partner with MySpace

BY ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES MySpace, which has lured millions of big acts and garage bands alike to build profiles on the popular social networking hub to attract fans, said Thursday it will turn those pages into portals for selling music, merchandise and more.

Helping back the new MySpace Music are three of the biggest recording companies — Vivendi SA's Universal Music Group, Sony BMG Music Entertainment and Warner Music Group Corp.

Financial terms of the partnership were not disclosed, but each of the music companies will receive an unspecified equity stake in the new company, said Chris DeWolfe, MySpace co-founder and chief executive.

The fourth-largest music company, EMI Group PLC, is not part of the deal.

DeWolfe said MySpace is in licensing talks with "everyone" but declined to say where discussions stand with EMI, home to artists such as Coldplay and Norah Jones.

MySpace Music, which will roll out gradually in coming months, will enable artists to sell music downloads, concert tickets and merchandise such as T-shirts through their profile pages and to offer ringtones through a unit of MySpace parent News Corp.

"We believe that the Web is becoming increasingly more social," DeWolfe said during a conference call. "MySpace Music is a new way of experiencing music online that everyone can participate in."

Fans also will be able stream audio and video for free through musical artists' profile pages.

DeWolfe said some tracks will be sold without copy-protection safeguards but noted that the major labels had committed only to experimenting with offering content in an unrestricted format.

Selling music without the copy protections that make such tracks incompatible with Apple Inc.'s iPod music players could place MySpace Music in direct competition with existing digital music stores such as Apple's iTunes, Amazon.com, Napster Inc. and others, analysts said.

"It's definitely got a lot of potential to it, but how much it really changes the game is yet to be determined," said Michael

Gartenberg, vice president and research director for JupiterResearch. "This is one of those important events in the history of digital music and it has a lot of potential going forward."

MySpace may also be looking for ways to maintain its lead on rival social network Facebook, which has been gaining in popularity.

James McQuivey, digital music analyst for Forrester Research, noted that the venture is wisely aiming to serve as a one-stop portal for music fans.

"A MySpace music store is exactly the right step to get the music industry to the next level because it recognizes that consumers don't just buy music, they experience it ... That's what people do with music already on MySpace, it's what has made Last.FM and iMeem.com so popular so quickly," he said.

The company declined to discuss pricing or other revenue details.

In 2006, MySpace began letting artists sell music from their profile pages using a third-party technology, but that capability never was integrated into the site the way MySpace Music's storefront will be, DeWolfe said.

MySpace, which boasts more than 110 million monthly users, has more than 5 million profile pages showcasing major label artists, independents and unsigned acts. All those artists would eventually be able to take advantage of MySpace Music's offerings, the company said.

MySpace Music will operate as a separate company, with a president who reports to DeWolfe and to a board of directors that will include representatives from the recording companies.

MySpace had been discussing the venture with music companies for several months, during which MySpace and Universal Music overcame a major hurdle — a copyright infringement lawsuit Universal brought against MySpace in 2006 over alleged illegal music sharing.

The two companies settled the dispute when MySpace agreed to pay Universal \$100 million, according to a person familiar with the settlement who spoke on condition of anonymity because the terms are confidential.

Police wound gunman during protracted standoff at cemetery

By the Associated Press

GLENDALE An armed man who may have killed his wife was shot and wounded Friday during a pre-dawn standoff with police officers in a cemetery, authorities said.

Rene Munoz, 38, of Los Angeles, was hospitalized in serious but stable condition, Glendale and Los Angeles police said.

Munoz was suspected of shooting his wife, Kelly McCowen, 37, during a dispute in a bowling alley parking lot in Los Angeles' Wilshire area about 8 p.m. Thursday, Los Angeles Officer Kate Lopez said.

McCowen died at a hospital, Lopez said.

Less than two hours later, a report of shots being fired sent Glendale police to Forest Lawn Memorial Park, which straddles the suburb's border with Los Angeles, Glendale Officer John Balian said.

Forest Lawn security guards told arriving officers there was a black Cadillac Escalade parked on grass next to graves, Balian said.

A shot was fired as officers approached the car. Police then sealed off the cemetery, he said.

A short time later, a family friend arrived and reported that the man in the car was suicidal and heavily armed, and he gave them the man's cellular telephone number, Balian said.

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Birth control choices abound

BY MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA Birth control options are growing for women 40 and older — a group that once viewed its choices as pretty much limited to tube-tying surgery and condoms.

For them, the pill is back. So is the IUD. The reason is that both are safer. There's even a nonsurgical method of tube-tying.

Such options have long been needed, experts say, because 40- and 50-somethings are a complex group. Some have had several children and are willing to have sterilization surgery. Others may want children, but not right now.

Traditionally, women 40 and older are the least likely to use birth control. Along with adolescents, they have the highest rates of abortion. At the same time, these women are more experienced at using contraception and follow instructions better.

When it comes to contraceptives for women 40 and older, "one size definitely does not fit all," said Dr. Vanessa Cullins, vice president for medical affairs of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

A review of the current science of contra-

ception and women 40 and older was published recently in the New England Journal of Medicine. The author, University of Florida gynecologist Dr. Andrew Kaunitz, noted that the risk of dangerous blood clots rises sharply at age 40 for women who take birth control pills containing estrogen.

The risk is even greater for overweight women, who also are more likely to have high blood pressure and diabetes.

But the dosage of estrogen in current birth control pills has been dramatically reduced. The pill is now considered a safe alternative for lean, healthy, older women Kaunitz and other experts said.

"It may not be well known that the current low-dose formulations are a reasonable option for healthy women in their 40s," said Dr. JoAnn Manson, a Harvard endocrinologist who wrote a book on menopausal hormone therapy.

The pill may be preferable for some women, because it can help control irregular menstrual bleeding and hot flashes and has been shown to reduce hip fractures and ovarian cancer, wrote Kaunitz. He has received fees or grants from several companies that make oral contraceptives.

But middle-aged women who are obese, smoke, have migraines, high blood pressure

or certain other risk factors should be steered toward IUDs or progestin-only treatments like "mini-pills," experts said.

Higher breast cancer rates have been reported in older women who took estrogen-progestin pills for menopause. However, studies did not find an increased breast cancer risk in women 35 and older who took oral contraceptives.

The most common form of contraception for women 40 and older continues to be sterilization — a category that counts tubal ligations (tube-tying) in women as well as vasectomies in their male partners.

Increasingly, gynecologists are offering a newer type of tubal ligation that is non-surgical. The procedure, called Essure, was approved by the government in 2002. Instead of cutting through the abdomen to cut and tie the fallopian tubes, a doctor works through the cervix, using a thin tube to thread small devices into each fallopian tube. These cause scarring, which in about three months plugs the tubes, stopping eggs from the ovaries from reaching the uterus.

Also relatively new is a product called Implanon, approved by the government in 2006. It's a matchstick-sized plastic rod, placed under the skin of the upper arm, that

is a more modern cousin of Norplant and can last about three years.

"Things have definitely changed. There are a lot more options for older women than there used to be," said Dr. Erika Banks, director of gynecology at New York City's Montefiore Medical Center.

Choosing the right contraception can be a bit of an odyssey, said Lisa Riley, a 44-year-old who works in Banks' medical practice. Last week, Riley got a new IUD.

When she was younger, she took the pill. It worked, but she stopped it to have kids — twins — in 1993. She was nervous about returning to the pill because of worries about a possible cancer risk. For about a year, she and her husband used condoms, but he got tired of that, Riley said.

She had friends on IUDs so she chose that option. It worked well for several years until it began to cause heavy menstrual bleeding. After Banks advised her to get a new one, she chose Mirena, a version that releases hormones and should last for five years.

For now, Riley doesn't plan any more children. But she wasn't ready for sterilization. "It's too permanent for me," she said.

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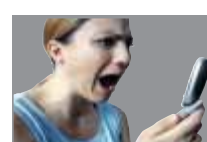
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Prime minister freezes all raids

BY HAMID AHMED

Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD Iraq's prime minister on Friday ordered a nationwide freeze on raids against suspected Shiite militants after the leader of the biggest militia complained that arrests were continuing even after he ordered fighters off the streets.

The announcement was a major shift from comments Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki made a day earlier, and came after Shiite leader Muqtada al-Sadr — whose Mahdi Army militia fought government troops in the southern city of Basra and in Baghdad last week — hinted at retaliation if arrests of his followers did not stop.

Meanwhile, a suicide bomber killed at least 15 people and wounded eight when he blew himself up during a policeman's funeral north of Baghdad on Friday, police said.

And in continuing combat in Basra, Iraqi troops killed seven militants and detained 16 Thursday in three separate incidents, a U.S. military statement said Friday.

Al-Sadr on Sunday ordered his militia-men off the streets in a move that ended the weeklong fighting. He also demanded that the government stop arresting his followers and free detainees held without charge.

Al-Maliki's statement did not mention the Mahdi Army by name or give a time-frame for the freeze, saying only that the move is designed to give a "chance to those who repented and want to lay down their arms."

Al-Maliki's move appeared to be a goodwill gesture toward al-Sadr and his followers. But it was also a dramatic turnabout: He said Thursday that he intended to launch security operations against Mahdi Army strongholds in Baghdad, including Sadr City, home to some 2.5 million Shiites and the militia's largest base.

Al-Maliki said last week that gunmen in Basra had until April 8 to surrender their heavy weapons, but Friday's statement made no mention of that deadline.

"Those who lay down their arms and participated in the recent acts of violence will not be prosecuted," said the statement. He also ordered the repatriation of families forced to flee their homes because of the latest fighting and cash donations to the families of those killed or wounded in the violence.

He said Iraqis whose property has been damaged in the fighting would also be compensated.

Despite a drop in fighting, Iraqi officials insist that the Basra crackdown will continue until it breaks the stronghold that armed

groups have had on the city since 2005.

Maj. Tom Holloway, a British military spokesman, said a roadside bomb targeted a British force "supporting an Iraqi-led operation at the very fringes of Basra." He said the British were "mentoring and monitoring" the Iraqi operation, but provided no further details.

Meanwhile on Friday, The New York Times reported that more than 1,000 Iraqi soldiers and police refused to fight or abandoned their posts during the fighting in Basra, citing an unnamed senior Iraqi government official.

Iraqi military officials said the group included at least two senior field commanders and dozens of officers.

The desertions cast new doubt on the effectiveness of U.S.-trained Iraqi security forces. The White House has conditioned further U.S. troop withdrawals on the readiness of the Iraqi military and police.

The Baghdad attacker detonated an explosives vest in the midst of mourners attending the funeral of a Sunni policeman who was shot Thursday night, said an officer who declined to be identified because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The attack occurred in Sadiyah, a town 60 miles north of Baghdad in the volatile Diyala province.

Most of the victims of the attack — the deadliest in Diyala this year — appeared to be relatives of the dead policemen, the officer said.

In Basra, Iraqi special forces captured a suspected militant leader who has been rallying insurgents in Basra to fight against coalition forces, the military statement said.

"Intelligence reports have linked the man to the kidnapping and murder of Iraqi Army and ISOF soldiers. He is also believed to be involved in oil smuggling and foreign fighter networks," said the statement, which did not provide any further details.

In a separate firefight, a coalition warplane was used to bomb insurgents engaging Iraqi special forces in the city. The air strike killed two militants, the statement said.

Elsewhere, a roadside bomb killed four policemen and wounded one early Friday in Hillah, a town 60 miles south of Baghdad, a police spokesman said.

The United Nations on Friday appealed for \$265 million to improve the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Iraq.

U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes said in Jordan that the funds would cover food, health, shelter, water sanitation, education and agriculture.

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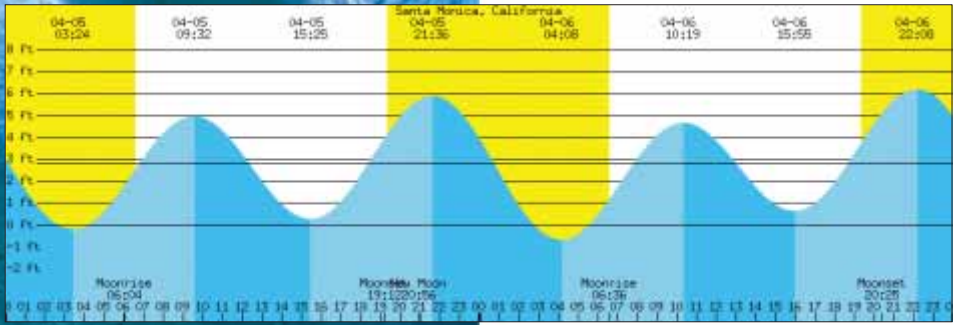


SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 53-59°**

SWELL FORECAST (4-6 FT)
Today looks like a chest high SW day. Some NW wind swell is expected to increase, but this will likely only keep size at west facing breaks around waist high. The NW wind swell though is also linked to an increasing NW flow, which could create onshore winds quite early, and rather strong in the afternoon. Air temps should drop a bit from the NW flow as well

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
SW CONTINUES INTO WEEKEND...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA





NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 0

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

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / ns

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

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

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A - F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken



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

Heal the Bay

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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.

NCAA BASKETBALL

UCLA pits defense against Memphis

BY BEN WALKER
AP National Writer

SAN ANTONIO Should be easy to tell who wins the UCLA-Memphis game. Just look at the scoreboard.

If Memphis puts up 80 points, the Tigers are in good shape. At 90, they're pretty much set. At 100, it's a virtual lock.

As much as the Final Four matchup will become a showcase for freshmen Derrick Rose and Kevin Love, the first of Saturday's semifinals also will be a test of tactics.

Can coach John Calipari's suddenly chic "dribble drive motion" offense break down UCLA's coach Ben Howland's rugged defense?

"All we're going to do is have fun," Calipari said Thursday. "If it leads us to something good on Monday night, have at it, we're going to have a ball. I want these kids to feel nothing but, 'Let's go play, show what we're about. Let's make statements.'"

"But the biggest thing is when they watch us we're hugging each other, we're smiling," he said. "If they're out there and you watch them and you say, 'Wow, that team has more fun than any other team,' then I've done my job. That's what I'm trying to do."

That, and help lead the Tigers (37-1) to their first NCAA men's basketball championship.

Memphis looks to score in a hurry, either off the break or its normal set, leaving the middle open and encouraging Rose, All-America guard Chris Douglas-Roberts or anyone to take the ball to the basket and create a play.

"Calipari, I think, said they're kind of like Princeton on steroids. They're going to be very tough to defend," Love said.

It's worked well for them this season, with the Tigers scoring 90 points on eight occasions and topping 100 three times.

UCLA, meanwhile, has not reached 100 points in a game since December 2002. The Bruins never even scored 90 this season.

That's fine with Love, Darren Collison and their teammates. UCLA (35-3) is making its third straight appearance in the Final Four, and the Bruins have done it mostly by jamming up their opponents—two weeks ago, they held overmatched Mississippi Valley State to 29 points, the fewest in the

NCAA tournament since 1946.

Witness what happened two seasons ago when UCLA twice played Memphis. In November at Madison Square Garden, the Tigers won 88-80; that March in a regional final, the Bruins won 50-45.

"The key between those two games was our defensive effort. We didn't play nearly as good defense when we played in the Garden against them. That's why the score was so high," Collison said this week.

"In the tournament, we played extremely well on the defensive end and the score was low. That was one of the games that identified us as a defensive team. That's the type of effort we're going to need to win this game," he said.

UCLA did fine Thursday, at least in a test run. While the teams practiced at gyms elsewhere, workers at the Alamodome checked out the scoreboard. When the horn went off after a first-half time trial, it showed the Bruins leading 41-30.

Come Saturday, UCLA will get its first look at Rose. A third-team All-America guard, he probably will play his final college game in the next few days. Extremely athletic at 6-foot-3, he already has an NBA body and skills.

UCLA prefers to play man-to-man much more than zone, and Collison will likely start out guarding Rose. Russell Westbrook and others should get a turn, too.

"He reminds me of Jason Kidd. He has a Jason Kidd-type body, he's so strong and physical," Howland said. "He defends like Kidd and he's a much better shooter at the same stage. I can't think of higher praise because I love Kidd."

If and when Rose breaks clear, the 6-foot-10 Love figures to be waiting for him in the lane.

They have different games, but Love and Rose share one trait: While freshmen often wear down during a long season, they've gotten better through March and into April.

From far away, Love has managed to monitor Rose.

"He's been doing a great job. I watched a couple interviews with him earlier in the year. He mentioned that at first there was a little bit of jealousy and he didn't know really where he fit in," he said. "But hey, he blossomed, no pun intended with the rose thing."

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The Bank Job (R) 1hr 50min

2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:15

Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day
(PG-13) 1hr 32min

1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

The Other Boleyn Girl (PG-13) 1hr
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AMC 7 SANTA MONICA

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(G) 1hr 28min

11:40 a.m., 1:55, 4:20, 6:50, 9:15

Under the Same Moon (PG-13)
1hr 49min

11:30 a.m., 2:10, 4:40, 7:20,
10:00

21 (PG-13) 2hrs 03min

11:10 a.m., 12:40, 2:00, 3:40,
5:00, 6:40, 7:50, 9:40, 10:40

Stop-Loss (R) 1hr 53min

11:20 a.m., 2:05, 4:55, 7:40,
10:30

Nim's Island (PG) 1hr 35min

11:05 a.m., 1:35, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30

The Ruins (R) 1hr 31min

12:20, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

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1, 3:10, 5:20, 7:40, 10

The Band's Visit (PG-13) 1hr
29min

2:45, 2:55, 5:10, 7:30, 9:45

The Counterfeiters (NR) 1hr
38min

1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

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11:40 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:50

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12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

Run Fat Boy Run (PG-13) 1hr
40min

11:50 a.m., 2:40, 5:20, 7:50,
10:30

Superhero Movie (PG-13) 1hr
25min

12:30, 2:50, 5:00, 7:20, 9:30

Leatherheads (PG-13) 1hr 54min

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

Shine a Light (PG-13) 2hrs 02min

1:00, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00

More information email news@smdp.com

Just show up, Cancer

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You are a power among your immediate friends right now. Act like one, and you might be amazed at what you can bypass. Is a family member a touch irritated? You can change that too if you don a smile. Tonight: As you like.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Speaking your mind might not always be your style. Much is going on behind the scenes. You could take matters or statements the wrong way and overreact. Tonight: Do your thing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Reach out for someone you care about. You might want to look at your desires. Investigate what you want with an eye to bringing friends together. Tonight: A new friend could arrive on the scene.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Take a chance and make a statement. Others can only say yes or no. Bolster yourself and get past fear or a need to have agreement. You might be surprised at what a softer, more caring attitude draws. Tonight: A must appearance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Reach out for those at a distance. On the same level, reach out for different types of thinking. You could be self-destructive if you're not careful. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Work with others more directly, and you'll see what you might not have before. A friendship could develop to a new plateau, if you allow. A male friend could be more of an irritant than a plus. Think positively. Tonight: Say yes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Others suddenly see you in a new light. You also might not want to push too hard. An authority figure is demanding, but a different approach might be more effective. Tonight: Yes is the only way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Do rather than indulge this morning. You can accomplish an amazing amount, though somehow you could also include plans for a retreat or vacation. Someone might be pushing you harder than you would like. Tonight: Take it easy.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Allow your imagination to let loose. You will find that when challenged, the natural solution brews forward. How nice is that? You often feel pressured to produce more than need be. This is your natural self. Tonight: Share more.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ You come from a place of centering or understanding. Investigate options that surround your personal or family life. If you want to move forward, do just that. You don't have to go far.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Make calls. Return messages as quickly as possible. Above all, do not forget to make some great plans for this afternoon. Tonight: Talk up a storm.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Impulsiveness earmarks your decisions, especially when wanting to please someone. You might want to rethink an attitude or try something differently. Do more than in the past. Tonight: Make no quick decisions.

Happy birthday

For every action, there is a reaction. Your life this year could be a study in this very theory. You could make waves. Claim your power, allowing many more opportunities to head in your direction. Realize when you have had enough of a situation, and walk away from it gracefully. Often, there could be hard words or difficult situations if you don't claim your power. A move or change in your domestic environment is possible. If you are single, your magnetism remains high, creating quite a portfolio of admirers. If you are attached, be slightly less me-oriented. A fellow ARIES reads you cold.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★ Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

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- Line 3 summer service
- Update on New Facility & Buses

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- Resident of 17th St.
- SMC Student or Staff Member
- JAMS Parent or Staff Member

When and Where:

Wednesday, April 2 Virginia Park (Thelma Terry Center)
6-8 PM 2200 Virginia Ave. at 22nd St.

Saturday, April 5 Ken Edwards Center (Room 100 A-B)
10 AM-12 PM 1527 4th St. at Broadway

Monday, April 7 Santa Monica Main Library
6-8 PM (Multi-Purpose Room, 2nd Floor)
601 Santa Monica Blvd. at 7th St.

Tuesday, April 8 UCLA (Ackerman/Viewpoint
12-2 PM Community Room A201)
Westwood Plaza, north of Strathmore

Tuesday, April 8 Fairview Branch Library
6-8 PM 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. at 21st St.

If you cannot attend a meeting, you may submit written comments to the Big Blue Bus Customer Relations Manager, 1660 7th St., Santa Monica, CA 90401.

For additional information contact Linda Gamberg, Public Information Coordinator at (310) 458-2201 ext. 6326.

Big Blue Bus strives to ensure that all persons wishing to benefit from its services and participate in its programs are given equal opportunity to do so. To this end, we make every effort to ensure meetings are held in accessible venues and will provide translation services if requested at least 72 hours prior to each meeting.



For more information, see www.bigbluebus.com

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Difficulty
GOLD

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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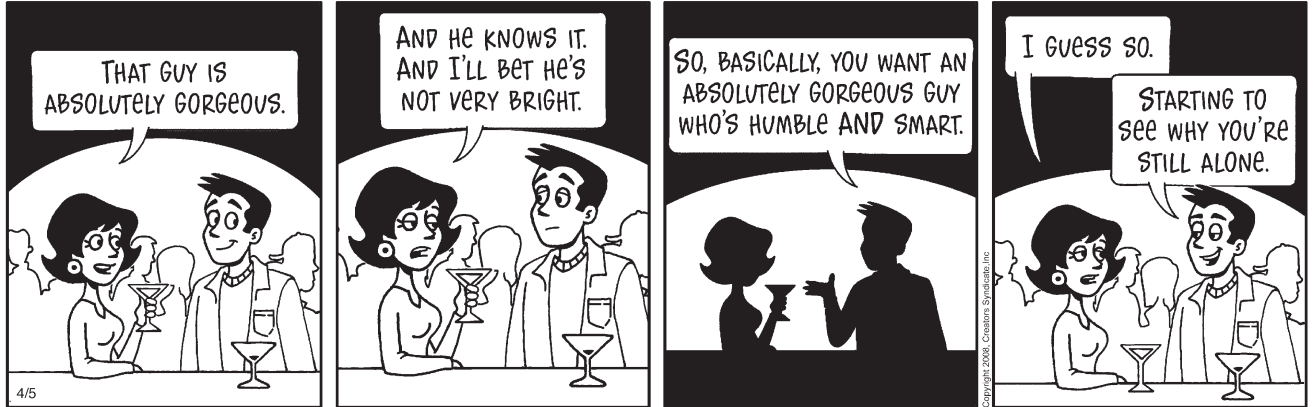
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis

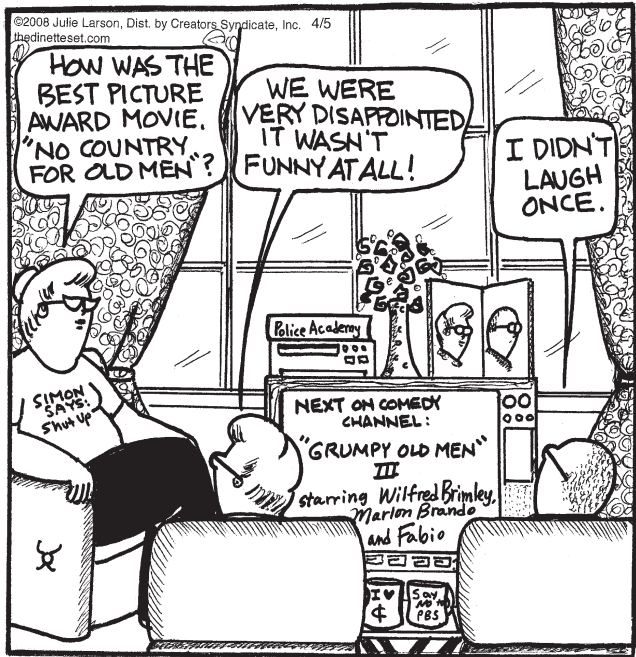


Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

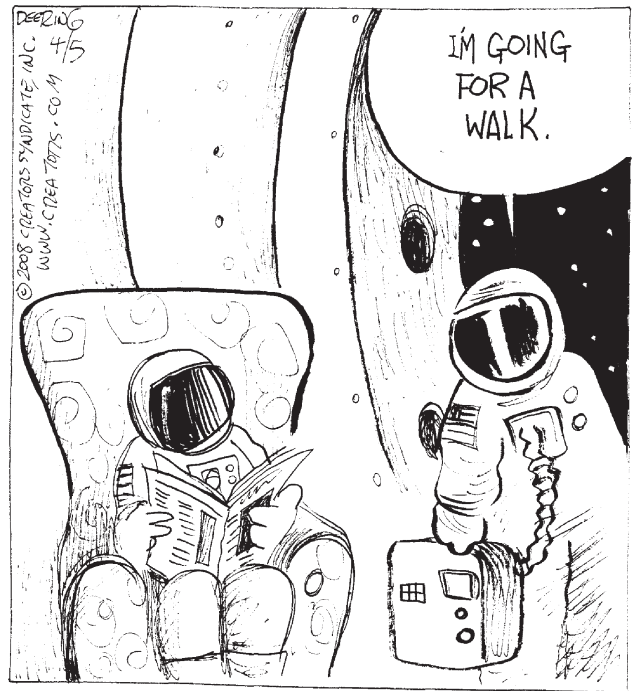


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



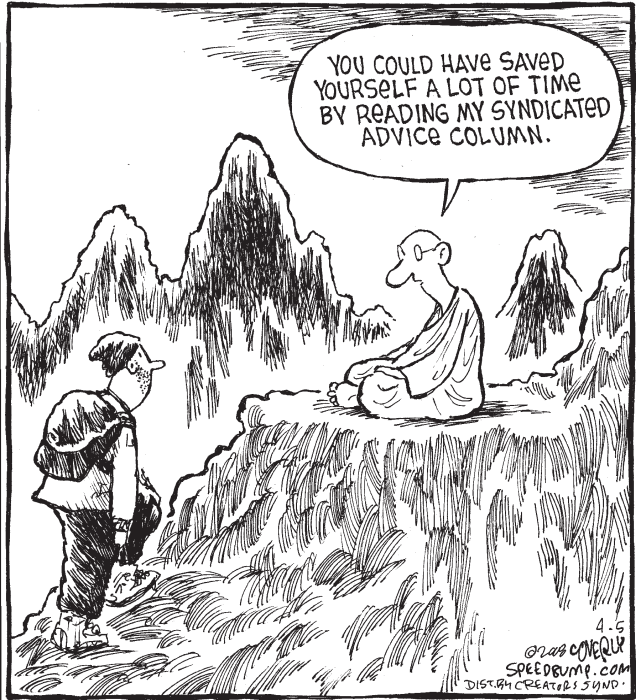
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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Soup setting
- 5 Diplomatic skill
- 9 Asian peninsula
- 10 Cager Shaquille
- 12 Modify
- 13 Skylit lobbies
- 14 Some mail
- 16 Print units
- 17 Swelled head
- 18 Pol backers
- 20 Pitcher Don
- 22 To boot
- 23 Bounds
- 25 Stocking color
- 28 Gauges
- 32 Racing vehicle
- 34 Chicken tender
- 35 Hightail it
- 36 Downhill need
- 38 Entangled
- 40 Dutch symbol
- 41 Uptight
- 42 Pole workers
- 43 Plane fixture
- 44 Coaster

DOWN

- 1 Grocery store
- 2 Clay, for one
- 3 Blubbered
- 4 Library penalty
- 5 BLT base
- 6 Busy worker
- 7 First course, perhaps
- 8 Pollutes
- 9 Super-man's real name
- 11 Ranch rope
- 15 Went wild

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

Yesterday's answer

- 19 Group of players
- 21 Talk drunk-enly
- 24 Some dresses
- 25 Dazzle
- 26 Irritates
- 27 Music producer Phil
- 29 Change over time
- 30 De-pended
- 31 Flight makeup
- 33 Key
- 37 Influence
- 39 Olym-pics chant

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		1		2		3		4			5		6		7		8		
9											10							11	
12											13								
14										15						16			
17								18							19				
20						21									22				
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25	26	27								28					29	30	31		
32								33							34				
35								36						37					
38						39						40							
41												42							
												43							
												44							

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Super LOTTO	5 7 21 29 43 Meganumber: 22 Jackpot: \$28M
Fantasy 5	6 9 10 14 38
DAILY 3	MIDDAY: 7 5 7 EVENING: 9 4 5
DAILY DERRY	1st: 07 Eureka 2nd: 05 California Classic 3rd: 08 Gorgeous George RACE TIME: 1.49.45

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Two Atlanta-area schools began a pilot program in January paying students \$8 an hour, plus a possible performance bonus, to study math and science harder in special study halls (as an alternative for students whose financial need forces them into after-school jobs).

■ The Times of London reported in January that the British government, in considering programs to reduce the number of overweight children, is studying one option of handing out shopping vouchers to kids who lose weight and keep it off.

■ Two ex-employees of Sioux Manufacturing Corp. revealed in a 2006 whistle-blower lawsuit that the company had been shorting the quality of the Kevlar in more than 2 million combat helmets sold to the Pentagon during 1994-2006, and in February 2008, Sioux agreed to pay \$2 million to settle the dispute. The company did not contest that the Kevlar threading was lighter than the contract required, but the Pentagon said it knew of no troop injuries linked to the substandard threading. In August 2007, however, while the Pentagon was still investigating, the U.S. Air Force nonetheless contracted with Sioux to produce new Kevlar combat helmets.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1614 Pocahontas, daughter of the leader of the Powhatan tribe, married English colonist John Rolfe in Virginia. (Having converted to Christianity, she went by the name Lady Rebecca.)

1621 the Mayflower sailed from Plymouth, Mass., on a return trip to England.

1887 British historian Lord Acton wrote in a letter, "All power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men."

1887 in Tuscumbia, Ala., teacher Anne Sullivan achieved a breakthrough as her blind and deaf pupil Helen Keller learned the meaning of the word "water" as spelled out in the Manual Alphabet.

1895 Oscar Wilde lost his criminal libel case against the Marquess of Queensberry, who'd accused the writer of homosexual practices.

1908 actress Bette Davis was born in Lowell, Mass.; conductor Herbert von Karajan was born in Salzburg, Austria.

WORD UP!

ostentation \os-ten-TAY-shuhn\, *noun*: Excessive or pretentious display; boastful showiness.

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* High school diploma
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* Minimum typing speed 50 WPM
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Jenny Bec's is one of the finest toy and family furnishings boutiques in the world. We are passionate about helping customers find just the right item, and we're dedicated to creating an inviting workplace employees can call home. We offer a fun, friendly environment, along with good pay and attractive business hours, plus generous employee discounts and the stability of a full-time, salaried position. To apply, please contact Amy Stark at 323-692-2530 or astark@hyrian.com Jenny Bec's is an equal opportunity employer. M/F/D/V.

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MAR VISTA, 11621 Braddock Dr. unit 9, 2bdrm. 1.5 bath, \$1400, townhouse style, stove, carpt, w/d hookup, patio, gated parking, carpet, intercom entry, no pets. (310)967-4471 www.jkwproperties.com

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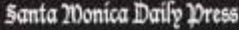
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Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
 Date of Filing Application: JANUARY 23, 2008
 To Whom it may concern:
 The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: TASTING ROOM LLC THE.
 The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 312 WILSHIRE BLVD, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401-1312.
 Type of License(s) Applied for: 47 - ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE.
 Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control INGLEDWOOD.
 SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 2008

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080279170 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as VIRTUAL FITNESS, 79163/4 2ND ST. DOWNEY, CA. 90241, LOS ANGELES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : CARL CAUSLY, 7916 3/4 2ND ST. DOWNEY, CA. 90241 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: CARL CAUSLY
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 2/15/2008. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq. Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 3/15/2008, 3/22/2008, 3/29/2008, 4/5/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080399542 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LIMOUSINE 2000, LIMO 2000, 2240 CRENSHAW BLVD, LA, CA 90016; LA COUNTY. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : CHARLES BENNETTE, 2240 CRENSHAW BLVD, LA, CA 90016 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: CHARLES BENNETTE
 This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/7/2008. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq. Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 4/5/2008, 4/12/2008, 4/19/2008, 4/26/2008

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South of Wilshire	=	\$ 862,300	\$ 751,083
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