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TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 131

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE STILL GOING STRONG ISSUE

FALLING OUT OF FAVOR
SEE PAGE 7

Clarifying their role

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL When it comes to its involvement with the roughly two dozen boards and commissions that advise on matters such as housing and historic preservation, the City Council wants to make sure that all parties are on the same page.

That mutual understanding should come in the form of a letter that is expected to be finalized by the City Council at its meeting tonight, seeking to clarify the role of its liaisons to the boards, commissions and task forces and providing information about special opportunities that the volunteer members have to speak before the elected officials.

The approval of the letter is part of the council's consent calendar, which includes roughly $16 million in spending. There are no significant financial impacts associated with either writing or disseminating the memo.

The council appoints members to approximately 23 boards and commissions whose scope covers matters ranging from architectural review to the Santa Monica Public Library. Several of the boards hold quasi-judicial power, such as the Planning Commission.

While many of the boards and commissions have a councilmember appointed as a liaison, not all of them attend the meetings, tied up with obligations such as day jobs and other commitments.

The letter states that the liaison may neither vote nor chair the commission and is mainly available to provide background information on council policies and discussions. Councilmembers are also not

SEE CONSENT PAGE 9



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

TAKING ADVANTAGE: **Tere Cruz and her son, Andres, jog around the Santa Monica High School track on Monday afternoon. As part of a joint-use agreement with City Hall, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will receive $7.5 million in exchange for allowing residents and City Hall access to ball fields and other facilities on district property.**

Funding hinges on changes in special ed

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Following the conclusion of an 18-month standoff in which the City Council withheld more than $800,000 in financial assistance to the schools because of concerns about special education, district officials are anticipating an increase in funding.

A contingent of representatives from City Hall and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District recently reached an agreement to extend for another three years a contract between the two entities in which the SMMUSD receives millions in city funding in exchange for public use of its facilities.

The proposed contract extension calls for an increase in the base pay of the Masters Facilities Use Agreement from the current level of $7.2 million to $7.5 million effective next year, allowing for increases of between 2 and 4 percent over the next several years to reflect inflation.

The agreement, which will go before the council tonight for approval, will come with a few changes from its original incarnation about five years ago, including the addition of language that would require the SMMUSD to maintain its Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC) and for the Board of Education to hold at least two meetings every year regarding special education policies and programs.

The change came in response to concerns expressed by parents in the special education community in January when the council voted to release a portion of the Masters Facilities Use Agreement funding that it withheld, fearing that the

SEE FUNDING PAGE 8

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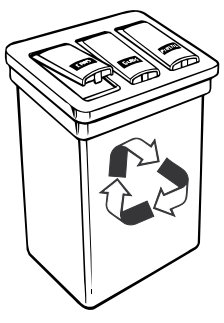
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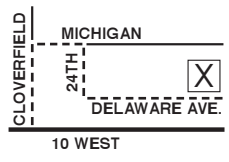


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WHAT'S UP
WESTSIDE
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Sam Cherry Photo Exhibit
Track 16 Gallery
Bergamot Station
2525 Michigan Ave., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Sam Cherry's photographs feature famed Angeleno author Charles Bukowski, San Francisco's Black Cat Cafe and Downtown Los Angeles' Skid Row. The show runs alongside another exhibit, "The Lost Art of Ah POOK IS HERE," that displays paintings, drawings and prints from a seven-year collaboration between artists Malcom McNeill and William S. Burroughs. Call (310) 264-4678 for more information.

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Green Living Workshop
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Be part of the solution. Educate an empower yourself with simple steps that save our environment and keep your hard-earned green in your wallet. This six-week workshop covers water, energy waste, chemicals, transportation/travel, shopping and food. Call (310) 458-8600 for more information

Thursday, April 9, 2008

Laugh a little
717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — Noon
Ready to laugh your socks off? Join Kim Selbert, certified laughter yoga leader, as she teaches you how to use laughter as a form of body-mind exercise. The class is for all ages and fitness levels. For more information, go to her Website www.kimselbert.com Cost is $10 per person. Call (310) 849-4642 for more information.

Getting together
First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica
1008 11th St., 6 p.m. — 7 p.m.
The community is invited to this new worship experience at First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica on Thursday nights at 6 p.m. in their chapel. Quiet reflection, a retreat from the work-week, peace, meditation, prayer song are all elements of the gathering. Cost: Free. For more information go to (310) 393-8258.

Creative comments
Novel Cafe
212 Pier Ave., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Every Thursday join contributors to FORTH magazine for a poetry and prose reading. Everyone is welcome, including all genres (poetry, fiction, non-fiction). There is a 1,000 word maximum per reader. It is a forum for writers to get exposure and feedback from literary industry professionals. For more information go to www.forthmagazine.com, or call (310) 396-8566.

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.



Whole Foods gives to local radio station

BY CATHERINE CAIN
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN When you buy organic foods Wednesday to maintain your health, you will also be helping a local radio station live a long and fruitful life.

That's because Whole Foods Markets in Santa Monica and other nearby locations are donating 5 percent of their net sales Wednesday to public radio station 89.9 FM — KCRW.

"KCRW shares many of the same values as Whole Foods Market, such as supporting the local community, educating our stakeholders, and an appreciation and love for food and the arts. We are so proud to be partners in this venture." said Marci Frumkin, marketing director for Whole Foods Market.

Whole Foods Market provides several "5% Community Giving Days" throughout the year in an effort to continue supporting each individual store's local community and nonprofit organizations. Stores are allowed to decide for themselves which local nonprofits to support. They are encouraged to choose organizations that hold importance to many shoppers and neighbors in the area.

The company has a reputation for community support. In addition to contributing to nonprofits, Whole Foods often donates food to nearby pantries and shelters, and team members often volunteer their time and knowledge to local organizations.

KCRW, a public service of Santa Monica College, is the leading public radio station in Southern California and reaches audiences around the world. As a public station, most of KCRW's support comes from listeners, many of whom have been affected by the economic downturn. The businesses that support and underwrite the station have also had to pull back recently, putting KCRW at risk for going under, said KCRW's Assistant General Manager Jennifer Ferro

"As newspapers and commercial radio stations struggle to survive, we are especially grateful for this vote of confidence in our mission to provide the highest quality news, information, music and cultural programming to our listeners," Ferro said. "Whole Foods Market's recognition of the importance of our station in these times really matters, and the portion of the money generated by in-store sales will be put directly to work in continuing that mission."

news@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

PCH crash the result of hit-and-run

Police believe the driver of a black SUV is responsible for a pileup on Pacific Coast Highway that left one victim dead and five others injured.

Investigators with the Santa Monica Police Department are asking for the public's help in identifying and locating a vehicle that was involved in the felony hit-and-run collision that occurred on March 26, at approximately 9:05 p.m. in the 500 block of PCH.

Police said an unidentified person was driving the black SUV northbound in the no. 2 lane of PCH when the driver suddenly swerved to the left and made contact with a silver Lexus RX330 in the no. 1 lane. The contact caused the Lexus to lose control and cross into the southbound lanes of traffic, where it struck a Honda Accord head-on. This collision caused another wreck involving a vehicle traveling southbound. The driver of the black SUV fled the scene without rendering aid or identifying themselves.

As a result of the injuries sustained in the collisions, one person died at a local hospital. Five others sustained minor to moderate injuries.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Investigator Chris Dawson at (310) 458-8954 or Sgt. Larry Horn at (310) 458-8950. For those calling after hours, contact the Watch Commander at (310) 458-8427. This is the second fatal hit-and-run accident to occur within Santa Monica this year, Dawson said. There have been roughly 140 hit-and-run accidents since Jan. 1, with an average of 600 annually. DAILY PRESS

DOWNTOWN

Image database gets upgrade

The Santa Monica Public Library debuted a new database for its Library Image Archives Monday that allows users more flexibility in their searches.

The database contains images from 1875 to the present, consisting of photograph collections, slides, postcards and other images. It also links to the Palisades Historical Collection, adding another 1000 images to the mix so far.

Cynni Murphy, the Image Archives Librarian, said that the new database has vastly improved search capabilities that allow users to find images with greater ease.

"Software is always changing to newer and better products," Murphy said. "This database is used by a variety of university libraries and other digital management collections ... . It lets you do so much more with regards to accessing records."

The new database allows users more access points to information, meaning that more search terms will lead to a specific image. Queries can be as simple as "pier" or "Santa Monica Pier," or as specific as "breakwaters" and other terms that would previously have revealed fewer search results. It is also easier to update information contained in the database, Murphy said. This will allow users to offer up images or corrections to information and make the system more interactive. The popularity of the previous database, created in 2000, was the driving force behind the upgrade.

"We were responding to what people were saying," Murphy said. "We tried to make it responsive to users and the way they want to get access to images." DP



HANGING ON

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Raymond Koehler, 40, a competitive tandem surfer, carries his girlfriend, Tammy Mowery, 36, at Santa Monica Beach during Project Save Our Surf's Surf-a-thon on Sunday. All proceeds from the Surfathon were donated to Oceana, an international ocean conservation group.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Samohi coach needs to go

Editor:

I love the coverage of the baseball program, but please get the facts correct ("Samohi baseball hopes to end streak," page 1, April 2). The finger pointing should be on the coach! He doesn't prepare these young men to compete! He lacks knowledge of the game and has the kids do the most ridiculous things in games. The comment about Tyler Skaggs is even more ridiculous. He hasn't won a game this season because the coach doesn't put him [in] a situation to win. Two games he got no decisions. In the Royal game he was winning 2-1 when Duron pulled him and the bullpen lost the game. In the Banning game he pitched well but no offense – lost 2-1! In the Hawthorne game he struggled because there was over and hour delay in the game. After warming up three different times and sitting for over an hour, don't you think it would be tough to have your best stuff? Of course Coach Duron didn't give you these little details about the game. Once again the defense and offense failed Skaggs. [I'm] trying to stay positive about the season, but it is going to be a long season with this coach. They should of got rid of this guy a long time ago!

Dan Ramos
Santa Monica

No laughing matter

Editor:

Maybe it's me, but I never find homelessness a joke, nor did I find it an appropriate subject for your lame attempt at an April fool's prank. Maybe the intended humor was in the beginning sentence, "The local homeless population may have to wait a few years ... ." I'm not really sure. Please help me locate my newly lost sense of humor.

Perhaps you believe the word "bum" in and of itself is funny ... up yer bum, tee hee.

But using "bum" and "bearded lady" to describe people that simply don't have a place to sleep is inferior to what I thought Santa Monica stood for, or for what I thought a Santa Monica paper stood for, "equality," "green," "sustainability," "progressive" and all the other P.C. lingo that's thrown around. Hmmm, guess I was wrong, huh? Don't add to the already dim view so many have about becoming homeless, especially when it can happen to anyone. So please leave the funny stuff to the Onion.

V. Campagna
Santa Monica

Don't believe everything you read

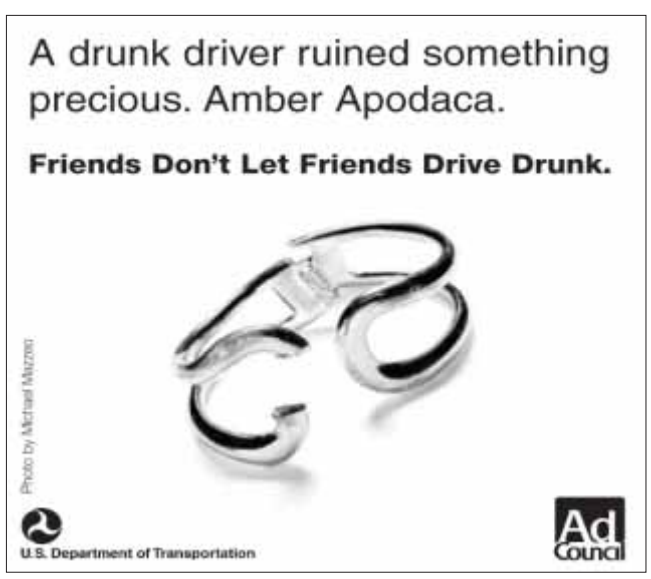
Editor:

I loved your April 1 parody.

I actually believed the first story I read about Santa Monica reducing [parking] meters to 5 minutes, until I read the ridiculous story about vegetable marauders.

Good for you for having a brilliant sense of humor and for reminding us not to believe everything we read!

Jason Clark
Santa Monica





Back to Nature

Reese Halter

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dead wood brings life

DECOMPOSITION OF TREES REPRESENTS a vital link in ensuring life for streams, rivers and oceans. In fact, the remarkable relationship between the land, its fresh waterways and tidal estuaries along the west coast of North America depends upon a constant source of big, dead trees.

Known as driftwood, the trunk, roots and large branches of dead trees form dams and pools, creating backwater areas along streams and rivers. Driftwood provides nutrients and becomes the foundation for biological activities that spread energy throughout the water, trapping newly-created sediments.

These big trees may topple along the stream bank due to undercutting. They might enter the waterway from areas of wind throw, along ridge tops, carried by landslides and massive stream erosion during major floods. Other trees are felled by beavers, adding thousands of tons of wood to coastal streams annually.

Once driftwood enters fresh water, fungus, bacteria and spineless insects called invertebrates go to work. They shred, gouge, scrape, graze, collect and even devour the decomposing wood. In the process, their fecal content feeds the sediment beneath the water's surface. Larger insects like caddis and stone-flies eat wood infested with nitrogen-rich fungus. In turn, the streamside trout devour these flies.

Driftwood controls water flow, temperature and maintains trout and salmon egg-laying habitats, and habitat for survival of young fish. Pools are created by slowing currents which cause deep depressions to be formed along the banks. This provides secure habitat where fish are able to hide from predators. Deep pools allow different species as well as different ages of the same species to coexist. These pools are crucial over-wintering habitat for stream-residing fish. Driftwood creates critical diversity.

Every 20 years or so, a massive flood event relocates large amounts of driftwood downstream onto flood plains. The driftwood then becomes essential habitat for small mammals including dear mice, voles and chipmunks, and soon draws predators like weasels and minks. Mergansers, Harlequin ducks, spotted sandpipers and night hawks use the driftwood for nesting, while song sparrows, violet green swallows, robins and cedar waxwings use it for perches. Bald eagles and blue herons use it as feeding grounds.

Eventually driftwood moves once again to the mouth of the river where the ocean's arm will meet it. Vast amounts of stored carbon — collectively called wood — is broken down and serves as the basis of the saline aquatic food pyramid.

There are two main ocean wood-borers that undertake this initial decomposition process. Gribbles are tiny and begin to overtake the driftwood by shear numbers. However, as the first wave of the invasion they are only able to penetrate a few millimeters into the driftwood. The second and final wave is undertaken by the gruesome shipworms, some of which can attain lengths in excess of 5 feet. Captain James Cook had good reason to demand that his crafts always had double hulls, for shipworms could easily plow through a single hull, as a hot knife going through butter.

Because shipworms bore to grow, much of the wood is not digested but rather flushed directly out of their tunnel as fecal pellets. These pellets serve as an important food source for flatworms, roundworms and predatory snails.

DRIFTWOOD CONTROLS WATER FLOW, TEMPERATURE AND MAINTAINS TROUT AND SALMON EGG-LAYING HABITATS, AND HABITAT FOR SURVIVAL OF YOUNG FISH.

Larger mammals rely upon driftwood too. Harbor seals use it as rafts to climb out of the water and rest, while spotted skunks prefer to excavate their dens under large, buried and beached driftwood.

Much of the driftwood in the North Pacific remains inshore due to oscillating currents. However some large western red cedar, Sitka spruce and Douglas-fir enter the open ocean and the great North Pacific gyre, a vast circular vortex, which carries driftwood as far as the Hawaiian Islands, and beyond.

Driftwood at sea is heavily populated with plants and animals including the only known insect to successfully invade the open ocean — the ocean strider. It lacks wings so it alternately floats and skates on the surface of the sea and attaches its eggs to floating driftwood.

An individual piece of driftwood can have in excess of 100 species of invertebrates and some 130 species of fish are known to congregate on and around it.

Having collected plankton and attached first small fish and then larger predatory fish, such as dorado and tunas, the combined weight of its associated tunas alone may reach as much as 94 tons. Although the tuna and other predatory fish deplete their available prey quickly, they move away, but use the driftwood as a point of reference and return to it.

Tuna time their migration to the North Pacific Continental Shelf for spawning to coincide with the onset of monsoon (December to March) rains. In turn, the resulting floods, carry new driftwood to the ocean arriving as the young tuna hatch from their eggs.

Over-harvesting of big trees and deliberate removal of large driftwood by harbor patrols has significantly reduced tuna habitat. Environmentally, what needs to be understood is that dead trees inexorably link the forest to the sea, sustaining thousands of unique species in many different ecosystems.

DR. REESE HALTER is an Los Angeles-based public speaker and founder of the international conservation institute Global Forest Science. He can be contacted through www.DrReese.com.

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Taylor Van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Ryan Hyatt, Steve Breen, Elizabeth Brown, Merv Hecht, Ron Scott Smith Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp Mariel Howsepian, Cynthia Citron, Amanda Cushman, Steve Parker and Phyllis Chavez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

NEWS INTERNS
Catherine Cain, Ashley Archibald, Rob Lawrence, Teddy Leshnick
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Raymond Solano, Rachel Dardashti
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Julie Martinez
juliem@smdp.com

Robert Hertel
roberth@smdp.com

Grace Wang
gracew@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Robert Summa
summa@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
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410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The three P's divorced fathers need to know

IN AUGUST OF LAST YEAR I WROTE about my belief that parents should be forced to take an equal division of time in their children's care. I don't think it's fair or equitable that the lion's share of child rearing falls to the mother. Fathers should be required by law to take their children 50 percent of the time.

Those Republican poster-children, Bristol Palin and Levi Johnston, had a child out of wedlock, and are now going through the negotiation process of how much access Levi is to have with his son. He says that Bristol, she of the "Family Values" family, wont let him take his son. We see this type of controlling behavior all too often in our practice, and it is a detriment to the father/child bonding.

I understand that the Johnston child is only a few months old, but that is no excuse in this day and age for a father to be denied solo parenting time. Frequently the mom claims that the father is not a good parent, or too immature, or too uneducated on how to provide for a newborn. I think those are weak arguments at best and disingenuous at worst. If a man is old enough to father a child, to be required to pay child support, then he should be old enough to take up the mantel of parenting.

Today, as it stands, fathers who want to obtain, or increase, their visitation and custody orders need to keep in mind the following — proximity, paperwork and persistence. They can make or break your chances of getting the orders issued by the judge. Most fathers start out a custody case at a disadvantage. When dad moves out, the children are left with mom, and that becomes the way the court is inclined to keep the situation. The moment that dad moves out of the family home, is the moment that mom gains an advantage in child custody hearings.

Here's why, the courts don't want to upset the children's living environment. They focus on keeping the child stable, and that means in their historical home.

So how then does a man recover from the mistake of moving out of the house? He must show to the court that he can effectively parent the child, with as little disruption to the child's routine as possible.

PROXIMITY

This means how far or close dad lives to the child's home and school. This is a major factor in increasing, or acquiring, custody and visitation. The closer dad is to the home and school, the more easily he can be present for the child, and the courts give this great weight. If the choice is for a child to be in a car for five minutes getting from mom's home to school or a 25 minute drive from dad's home, the court is going to prefer mom's home. It is also more likely that the child's friends and social network are close to the school they attend, which is a factor for the court.

PAPERWORK

Cases are won or lost on documentation. Dads should keep a calendar or a diary of all the time that they are with their child. In any contested case, mom has something that she will use to show the court how little time dad spends with the kids.

A simple calendar which shows the days that dad took his child, and what they did on those days can make all the difference for a change in custody. If dad keeps the receipts for what he did with his child, it will allow his lawyer to prove that he took the child to see the movie "Cars" on a day when mom says he didn't visit. This is a crucial credibility issue, and one that with a little bit of work by dad, can yield big gains. The court will see that dad is truthful, and he's come a long way towards winning the credibility wars, and that can lead to more time with his child.

PERSISTENCE

The biggest factor that effects whether or not a dad will win more visitation or even equal custody, is his ability to come back, time and time again. The successful dad in family court is the dad who never gave up, and was willing to do whatever it takes, no matter how difficult it was, or how long it took, to prove to the court that he wants and is capable of being a loving, attentive and present father.

The successful dad who wants to increase his custody and visitation, will live close to his child, keep good records, and never give up when dealt a bad hand.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

The Q Line

Making room

After hearing a flood of complaints from residents, the City Council has decided to look for an alternative location for the Expo Light Rail maintenance yard.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Where do you feel is the most suitable location for the yard?

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









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Among 4-year-olds, 1 in 5 obese, study finds

LINDSEY TANNER
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO A striking new study says almost 1 in 5 American 4-year-olds is obese, and the rate is alarmingly higher among American Indian children, with nearly a third of them obese.

Researchers were surprised to see differences by race at so early an age.

Overall, more than half a million 4-year-olds are obese, the study suggests. Obesity is more common in Hispanic and black youngsters, too, but the disparity is most startling in American Indians, whose rate is almost double that of whites.

The lead author said that rate is worrisome among children so young, even in a population at higher risk for obesity because of other health problems and economic disadvantages.

"The magnitude of these differences was larger than we expected, and it is surprising to see differences by racial groups present so early in childhood," said Sarah Anderson, an Ohio State University public health researcher. She conducted the research with Temple University's Dr. Robert Whitaker.

Dr. Glenn Flores, a pediatrics and public health professor at University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, said the research is an important contribution to studies documenting racial and ethnic disparities in children's weight.

"The cumulative evidence is alarming because within just a few decades, America will become a 'minority majority' nation," he said. Without interventions, the next generation "will be at very high risk" for heart disease, high blood pressure, cancers, joint diseases and other problems connected with obesity, said Flores, who was not involved in the new research.

The study is an analysis of nationally representative height and weight data on 8,550 preschoolers born in 2001. Children were measured in their homes and were part of a study conducted by the government's National Center for Educational Statistics. The results appear in Monday's Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine.

Almost 13 percent of Asian children were obese, along with 16 percent of whites, almost 21 percent of blacks, 22 percent of Hispanics, and 31 percent of American Indians.

Children were considered obese if their body-mass index, a height-weight ratio, was in the 95th percentile or higher based on government BMI growth charts. For 4-year-olds, that would be a BMI of about 18.

For example, a girl who is 4Ω years old, 40 inches tall and 42 pounds would have a BMI of about 18, weighing 4 pounds more than the government's upper limit for that age, height and gender.

Some previous studies of young children did not distinguish between kids who were merely overweight versus obese, or they examined fewer racial groups.

The current study looked only at obesity and a specific age group. Anderson called it the first analysis of national obesity rates in preschool kids in the five ethnic or racial groups.

The researchers did not examine reasons for the disparities, but others offered several theories.

Flores cited higher rates of diabetes in American Indians, and also Hispanics, which scientists believe may be due to genetic differences.

Also, other factors that can increase obesity risks tend to be more common among minorities, including poverty, less educated parents, and diets high in fat and calories, Flores said.

Jessica Burger, a member of the Little River Ottawa tribe and health director of a tribal clinic in Manistee, Mich., said many children at her clinic are overweight or obese, including preschoolers.

Burger, a nurse, said one culprit is gestational diabetes, which occurs during a mother's pregnancy. That increases children's chances of becoming overweight and is almost twice as common in American Indian women, compared with whites.

She also blamed the federal commodity program for low-income people that many American Indian families receive. The offerings include lots of pastas, rice and other high-carbohydrate foods that contribute to what Burger said is often called a "commod bod."

"When that's the predominant dietary base in a household without access to fresh fruits and vegetables, that really creates a better chance of a person becoming obese," she said.

Also, Burger noted that exercise is not a priority in many American Indian families struggling to make ends meet, with parents feeling stressed just to provide basic necessities.

To address the problem, her clinic has created activities for young Indian children, including summer camps and a winter break "outdoor day" that had kids braving 8-degree temperatures to play games including "snowsnake." That's a traditional American Indian contest in which players throw long, carved wooden "snakes" along a snow or ice trail to see whose lands the farthest.

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Little League loses kids when they hit teen years

BETH J. HARPAZ
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Nothing beats the start of baseball season, and I don't mean the big leagues. I'm talking about Little League kids picking up mitts and bats for the first time in months, getting to know new teammates and coaches, and looking sharp in clean uniforms, before the inevitable grass stains sully those white pants and their cleats get caked with mud.

Parents love the fresh start, too. There's nothing I'd rather do on a sunny spring day than watch my son play baseball. That first game in April always fills me with hope that this might be the best team ever, with the best coach ever, playing the best season ever.

There's just one problem. My son is 11, and before he even met his team this year, he announced that this would be his last season.

He's not alone in veering away from youth baseball as he nears adolescence. Two million kids ages 5-12 play Little League, but only 240,000 kids ages 13-18 play, according to Little League Baseball spokesman Christopher Downs. Downs says the organization is working on retaining older players and on involving teenagers in other ways, as volunteer coaches and umpires. Little League has also worked with ESPN to televise teenage divisions' World Series.

But maybe it's inevitable that kids' priorities change as they mature. They have more homework, new social lives and don't always love baseball enough to put in long hours of practice and play. If they also play basketball, soccer or football, they often start specializing in one sport by middle school, rather than alternating with the seasons. My son plays basketball too, and prefers the quicker pace to baseball.

Sid Fernando, a coach in my neighborhood whose two sons play, says the game also gets more competitive as kids age. For one thing, the diamond gets bigger, with more ground to cover between bases and between the pitcher and batter.

Some kids can make the transition, but "you get a lot of kids, if they're not in the top level, they start to get pushed out," Fernando said.

Even good players face hard choices if they want to play on a high school team. "Colleges start to scout you very early on," Fernando said. Juggling practices and games with homework and friends outside the team requires strong time-management skills. "If they're not that great at the sport, why pursue it? Even for the kids who have a shot at making it, it's a very difficult adjustment," he said.

I asked users of Kiwibox.com, a social networking site for teens and 20-somethings, why kids drop sports when they hit high school, and got this comment among others: "I played a lot of sports in lower and middle school, but they were just too competitive in high school," wrote Chelsea Doyle, 24. "I wanted to have fun, but there was all the drama over who would get picked for varsity or JV, and then this whole new hierarchy of who was 'better' because they got on the better team. Plus winning became the entire point of playing the game, and it just stopped being fun."

Still, I was surprised by how sad I felt about my son's announcement that this would be his last season. I don't follow professional sports, and I was never on a team growing up. But I see how much more kids get out of baseball than just learning to play. They learn to value fitness. They see that practice and hard work pay off with improved performance. And if they have a good coach, they can learn as much about life as they do about the game.

> **"I WANTED TO HAVE FUN, BUT THERE WAS ALL THE DRAMA OVER WHO WOULD GET PICKED FOR VARSITY OR JV, AND THEN THIS WHOLE NEW HIERARCHY OF WHO WAS 'BETTER' BECAUSE THEY GOT ON THE BETTER TEAM. PLUS WINNING BECAME THE ENTIRE POINT OF PLAYING THE GAME, AND IT JUST STOPPED BEING FUN."**
>
> Chelsea Doyle, 24

A few years ago, my son had a coach named Mike Colt who was especially good at giving advice that resonated beyond the field. "Cheer for your teammates, but don't dis the other guy," he'd tell the kids. "Don't just stand there, be a hitter! And when you strike out, don't blame yourself. Tip your hat to the other team's pitcher for a job well done."

I loved Mike's emphasis on honor, effort and grace. Not surprisingly, his approach inspired a lot of wins, and when the kids didn't win, they had fun anyway.

Rick McBride, who blogs about coaching at TheLittleLeagueCoach.com, says the best thing adults can do to keep teenagers playing "is to keep the game fun and simple. Notice I didn't say 'noncompetitive,' just inviting and friendly. Kids want to be part of something, they need to belong and be accepted. It is up to us as adults to create welcoming environments where they are not chastised or ridiculed. If they are not superstars, they can be encouraged, and positive reinforcement will build character and self-confidence."

My son's new coach does all that and more. At the first game, he gave constructive advice when the kids messed up, and cheered them on, without gloating, when they succeeded. They won, 11-6, and every kid went home feeling that he'd contributed.

And guess what? My son changed his mind about quitting baseball. I think he'd forgotten, over the long winter, just how good it feels to hit the ball, steal a base or pitch a strike. This may or may not be his best season ever, but at least, he tells me, it won't be his last.

BETH HARPAZ is the author of several books, including "13 Is the New 18."



City Hall agrees to continue district funding

FROM FUNDING PAGE 1

district would pull back on special education reform since it met the requirements of city officials to receive the money.

"I think all acknowledge that there has been some improvement but just about everyone recognizes there is more to go," Mayor Ken Genser said. "I thought it was important that we reflect that, to ensure … there be a commitment that there will be opportunities for a stakeholders' committee to independently evaluate district policies and report to the board."

A committee consisting of the respective heads of each organization, including the superintendent, city manager and elected officials, convened in January to begin renegotiating the terms of the contract, just weeks after the council voted to release the funds due to the district.

While it's a slight increase, the bump in funding is expected to help the district which is facing more than $10 million in cuts next year from the state.

The council originally withheld about $530,000 from the district, representing the increase in base pay the SMMUSD was set to receive in its contract starting in 2007-08.

That figure rose to $804,470 this year, which includes the original $530,000 plus an increase for the current fiscal year.

"I think we recognized there were deep concerns how the special education program was being run," Board of Education President Ralph Mechur said. "It's in the interest of the city to make sure the public parents have the ability to be involved in the reorganization of how we provide those services."

> **"I THINK WE RECOGNIZED THERE WERE DEEP CONCERNS HOW THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM WAS BEING RUN."**
>
> **Ralph Mechur**
> Board of Education President

The district has made changes in special education since the issue first arose several years ago, including imposing a moratorium on confidentiality clauses in individualized education plans for students, which was the biggest concern among parents who called them "gag orders."

A working group responsible for putting together a list of recommended actions and policies was also assembled. The group is expected to present those recommendations soon.

Superintendent Tim Cuneo said he understands the council's interest in affixing a special education component to the contract.

"We felt we were able to work out language that fits with our district practices and policies … and meets the interest and the intent of council," Cuneo said.

Ken Haker, the co-chair of SEDAC, said the contract amendment shows that SEDAC has brought attention to the issues in special education and the goal of all parents to provide a "first-class education" to all students.

"It also signals the development of a more trusting and cooperative relationship between the city, the Board of Education, and SEDAC," he said. "More importantly, it will ensure that the Board of Education continues making significant improvement toward creating a culture of transparency, cooperation and respect between district staff, board members and parents of children with special needs."

The contract will also come with another change that requires both parties to convene each January to discuss possible adjustments to the base pay depending on the financial situation of both institutions.

"We're going to carefully review both the city and the district's financial conditions on an annual basis as opposed to longer periods of time," Mechur said.

City Manager Lamont Ewell said that if there are opportunities to decrease or increase the contract, those decisions would be referred back to the council and school board.

The decision to convene annually was made in response to the current economic hardships facing City Hall and the school district.

"If the city is in a better position, (an increase) is something we can look at," he said. "It also works the opposite way too given the deterioration of city revenues."

The agreement came in response to the state budget cuts to education in 2003 that resulted in more than 200 layoffs in SMMUSD alone, prompting parents to begin seeking a more consistent stream of funding from City Hall.

Parents eventually launched a campaign to push a controversial charter amendment that would have specifically identified ongoing revenue for the schools, eventually gathering more than 15,000 signatures.

Just as organizers were about to submit the petitions to have the measure placed on the ballot, the City Council narrowly agreed to a compromise in May 2004, leading to the Master Facilities Use Agreement. The plan was largely backed by the Community for Excellent Public Schools (CEPS).

"CEPS is grateful that our civic and community leaders join CEPS and the education constituency in supporting our local public schools so strongly," Chairwoman Shari Davis said on Monday. "And that our City Council has recognized education as a priority in these challenging economic times."

melodyh@smdp.com

Holy Week & Easter

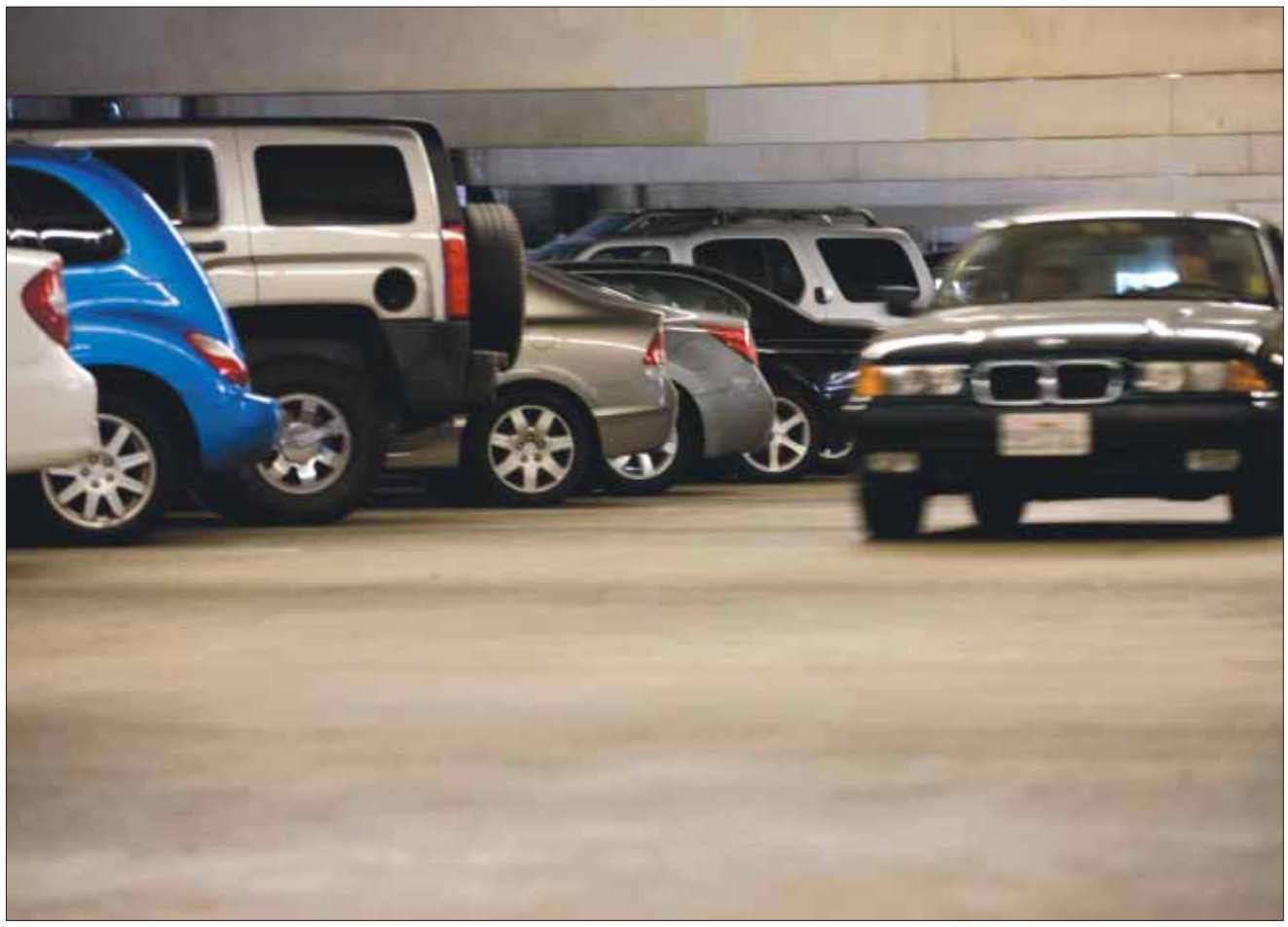
Maundy Thursday – April 9
Labyrinth Walk / 2 - 6 pm
Worship Service / 7:30 pm

Good Friday – April 10
Prayer Vigil / 9 am - 11 pm
Labyrinth Walk / 2 - 8 pm

Easter Worship – April 12
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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

ON THE HUNT: **A driver searches for a parking spot on Monday afternoon at the parking structure on Colorado Avenue and Fourth Street. The City Council tonight is expected to approve a new contract with a private company to manage all Downtown structures.**

New operator to be hired for public garages

FROM **CONSENT** PAGE 1

required to attend the meetings, but should at a minimum make themselves available for contact with the board members.

"They may serve with or without attending the meetings of their advisory bodies," the letter said.

Members representing their board, commission or task force are also exempt from the two-minute time limit restriction that applies to other speakers during the council meeting. But when speaking personally and not in representation of the board, members will be held to the same restrictions as the general public, the letter states.

NEW OPERATOR IN TOWN

The management duties for about a dozen public parking garages in Santa Monica will soon be shifted to a different company.

Central Parking Corp. is expected to begin overseeing a series of city-owned structures, including six in Downtown, the new Annenberg Community Beach House, the Civic Center and the Santa Monica Public Library, taking over for Parking Concepts Inc., whose contract with City Hall will expire on June 1.

The council is expected to award a 37-month contract worth about $15.7 million, which does not include two one-year renewal options estimated at about $12.2 million together. The options will begin in fiscal 2012-13.

City Hall has hired an outside agency to oversee off-street parking since 2000, covering approximately 10,000 spaces and generating more than $16 million in annual revenue.

The contract with Central Parking Corp. will also cover the beach and Santa Monica Pier lots, the bicycle valet program and maintenance of all elevators and parking access machines. Macerich, which owns Santa Monica Place, will be responsible for maintaining the elevators in structures 7 and 8, which are adjacent to the mall.

LOW-EMISSION VEHICLES FOR SMPD

The Santa Monica Police Department is slated to get a series of new three-wheeled scooters for its parking enforcement division.

The council is expected to purchase nine new low-emission vehicles for approximately $237,000, replacing a group of old scooters that are scheduled to be phased out.

The scooters travel at a maximum speed of 40 mph and their small size allows easy maneuverability in tight spaces, according to a city staff report.

The Big Blue Bus is also expected to receive new brake reline kits, which provide parts and hardware that are necessary to refurbish brake assembly. The kits will be purchased from American Moving Parts for $400,000.

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City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Numbers 2285 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

The following is a summary of ordinance Number 2285, which was adopted by the City Council on March 24, 2009.

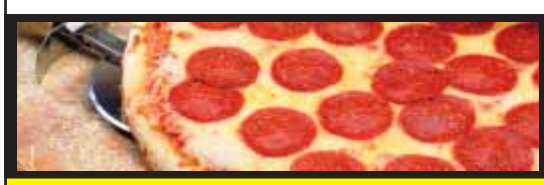
Ordinance Number 2285(CCS) amends Municipal Code Chapter 9.56, which establishes the City's Affordable Housing Production Program. The amendments would: (1) exempt from the requirements of the Program any City-financed, 100% affordable rental housing, which is developed by a nonprofit and deed-restricted for a period of not less than 55 years; (2) require that occupants of "inclusionary" housing developed through the Program be selected from a City-administered list (rather than being selected by the developer), except for ownership projects of 4 or more units in multifamily residential zones; and (3) include references to "moderate income" households that were inadvertently omitted when the Program was last updated.

The ordinance will become effective thirty days after adoption. The full text is available upon request from the Office of the city Clerk, located at 1685 Main Steet, Room 102 Santa Monica; phone (310) 458-8211.



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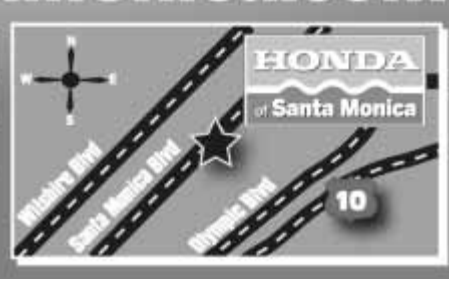
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VA patient tests positive for HIV after mistakes

BILL POOVEY
Associated Press Writer

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. A Veterans Affairs patient who was among thousands treated with unsterilized equipment has tested positive for HIV, the first such case reported since the department warned veterans they could have been exposed to infectious diseases.

The VA previously reported that hepatitis had been found in 16 patients, but the agency cautioned there was no way to prove that the patients contracted the illnesses because of treatment at their facilities.

In an e-mail late Friday, the agency said it was investigating "the possibility of such a relationship."

The VA earlier this year warned more than 10,000 veterans to get blood tests because they could have been exposed to contamination while getting colonoscopies in Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Miami.

The endoscopic equipment in question was also used at an ear, nose and throat facility in Augusta, Ga. All three sites failed to properly sterilize the equipment between treatments.

The VA has said it does not yet know if veterans who were treated with the same kind of equipment at its other 150 hospitals may have been exposed to the same mistake before the department had a nationwide safety training campaign. An agency spokeswoman has said the VA is certain the mistake with the equipment was corrected nationwide by March 14.

The problems dated back for more than five years at the Murfreesboro and Miami hospitals.

So far, less than a third — 3,174 — have been notified of their test results. The agency also is trying to locate patients whose warning letters were returned.

The statement Friday did not say where the patient who tested positive for HIV was treated, and the agency did not return telephone and e-mail messages Monday.

In all, at least five veterans have tested positive for hepatitis B and 11 for hepatitis C, which is potentially life-threatening.

No infections have been reported from Miami.

All three sites used endoscopic equipment made by Olympus American Inc., which said in a statement it is helping the VA address problems with "inadvertently neglecting to appropriately reprocess a specific auxiliary water tube."

The problem put patients at risk of being exposed to other patients' body fluids.

Megan Longenderfer, an Olympus spokeswoman, said the company sent notices to 5,800 "customer accounts," but a facility could have more than one endoscope.

A lawyer with more than a dozen clients who had colonoscopies at the VA hospital in Murfreesboro said some have tested positive for hepatitis but none for HIV.

Attorney Mike Sheppard said in an e-mail Monday that one client had espoghageal cancer and died from "massive infection" soon after getting a colonoscopy. He said medical records are being reviewed for any connection between the infection and exposure.

Wisconsin hopes to protect kids from Capitol nuts

SCOTT BAUER
Associated Press Writer

MADISON, Wis. Wisconsin is asking people to refrain from feeding squirrels at the state Capitol because they might inadvertently harm a child with a peanut allergy.

The state sent a letter Monday to tenants of a downtown Madison office building, asking whomever has been feeding the squirrels on the Capitol lawn to please stop.

Ron Blair, of the Division of State Facilities, writes in the letter that someone has been carpeting the Capitol lawn with peanuts. He says the indiscriminate nut-tossing might pose a risk because thousands of school children tour the building each year and some might have peanut allergies.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says 4 percent to 8 percent of children have a food allergy, with peanuts being one of the most common. Some can have a reaction just touching or being near peanuts.

News editors group drops 'paper' from name

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK The American Society of Newspaper Editors has voted to drop "paper" from its name to reflect the industry's shift online.

The group, founded in 1922 to represent the editors of U.S. daily newspapers, will become the American Society of News Editors.

Nearly three-quarters of its roughly 600 members voted in favor of the new name, which was proposed late last year.

Its members also voted to extend membership to editors of online-only news outlets, and to journalism educators.

The society's name change follows its February decision to cancel its annual convention for the first time since World War II, so that its members can concentrate on helping their publications survive. Many members are reeling from the recession that has hastened a sharp decline in advertising revenue.

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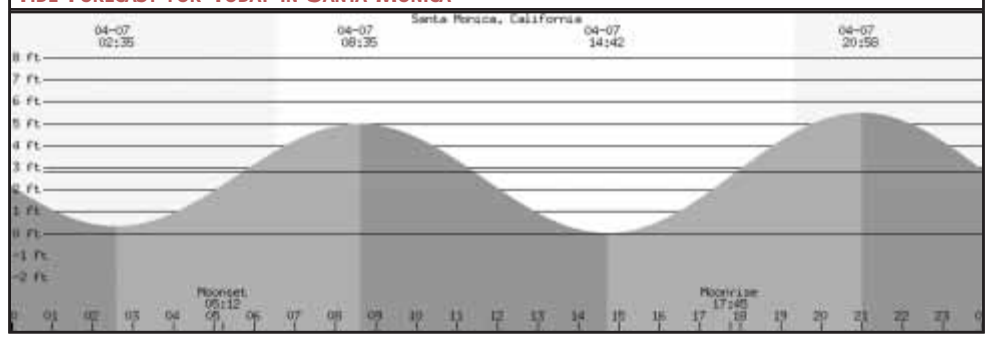
Swell Forecast (3-4 FT)

We should see an increase in NW swell from the Aleutians. This is expected to be 300-degree energy with 14-second periods, and size waist to chest high at most west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

Wednesday the 8th the Aleutian-originating NW should increase west facing breaks towards chest+, but wind swell is also expected.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 36 / 1
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 0

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) 1hr 34min
Closed Captions
12:20, 2:45, 5:15, 7:55, 10:20

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

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

Alien Trespass (PG) 1hr 30min
5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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

Adventureland (R) 2hr 2min
1:45, 3:00, 5:35, 7:10, 8:10, 9:45

Harvard Beats Yale 29-29 (NR) 1hr 44min
11:00 a.m.

Tokyo Sonata (PG-13) 1hr 59min
1:50

The Class (Entre les murs) (PG-13) 2hrs 08min
4:20

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be with the one you love, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Get down to basics. The unexpected forces you to regroup. You have the ability to move in new directions and try a new approach. Extremes punctuate happenings, so much so that you are exhausted at the day's end. Tonight: Go home and nap.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Zero in on what must happen as opposed to doing what you would most like. The unpredictability of friends gets the best of you. A meeting doesn't go in the direction you think it should. Laughter can replace irritation if you detach. Tonight: Anything goes).

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ If you wake up on the wrong side of the bed, don't take it out on anyone. Take a deep breath. Honoring a request could distract you from work. Still, the unpredictable does run riot. Tonight: Stay planted in your castle.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Keep communication open, even if you feel as if others are tossing grenades into your life. You cannot predict the outcome of situations, but you can participate and influence the direction of key projects. Tonight: Get plenty of sleep.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You could think that you are dealing with beginners or novices, as so many blunders could be made. Take charge of finances and other key areas immediately, and eliminate potential problems or snafus. Tonight: Buy a little treat or gift for a roommate on the way home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your smile doesn't fade, despite hassles that keep reappearing. Your vision of possibilities could change as a result of events and people's actions. Remain steady and sure of yourself. Tonight: Consider making this an early night.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Know when to pull back. In fact, you might opt to leave work earlier. Most definitely close your door if you are to get anything done. Your way of dealing with a changing panorama of issues and people just might be to become a recluse. Tonight: Just for you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Focus on immediate goals. Others – especially a child or a special friend – could prove to be unusually distracting. Double-check facts and figures when dealing with basics. Use a break to relax. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Others naturally look to you when they are unsure or when turbulent times hit. The problem lies in that you cannot always be there or take the lead. Look at the ramifications of taking the lead in a situation, especially if there is a backfire. Tonight: If you can, head home early.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Don't lock on one idea, opinion or set of facts. Much more could weave in if you remain open. Forthcoming information points to increased knowledge and flexibility. The unexpected marks your plans. Tonight: Flex – try a new haunt or type of cuisine.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Listen to news from a partner. Your laughter adds to the mood, fortunately. Much happens that could impact you, but with a positive attitude, you could be pleasantly surprised. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

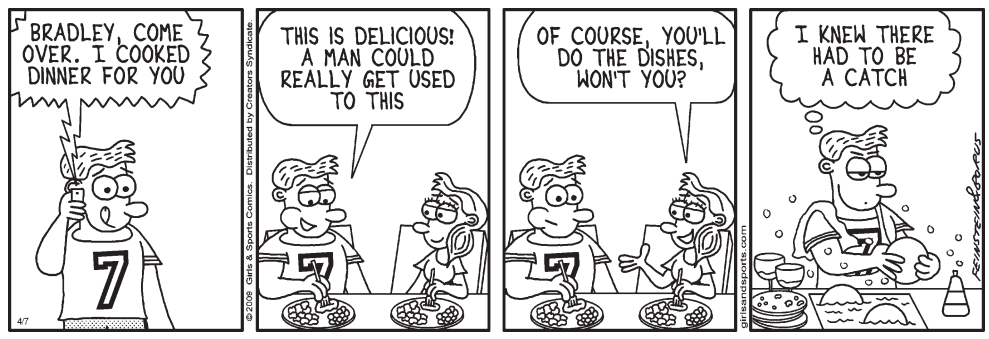
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ How you deal with someone could change radically because of what someone else does. Laugh and relax. Know that there are many ways to resolve a problem. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

Happy birthday

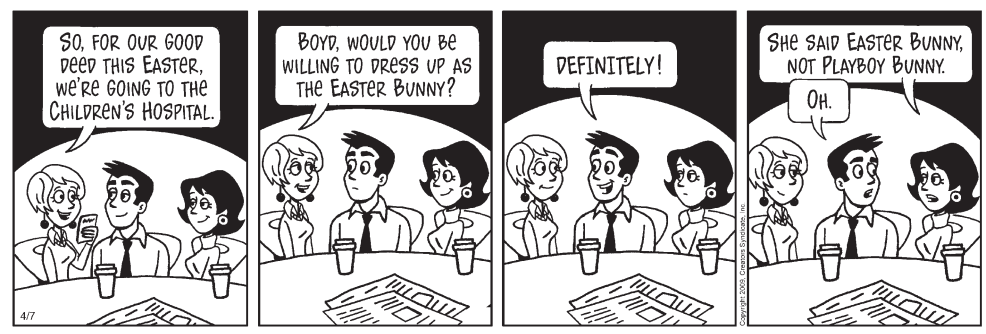
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★ Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

You have a way or style that draws many this year. Sorting through what must be done as opposed to what you would like to do will help clarify plans. It would be best if the two lists merge. Consider making your daily life more of what you want rather than what you have to do. The unexpected provides sudden insights this year. If you are single, you'll meet people in your daily life. You don't need to go to extremes. If you are attached, the two of you need to do more as a couple, even if it is just cleaning house. Share your experiences, and the bond will become stronger. VIRGO works well with you.

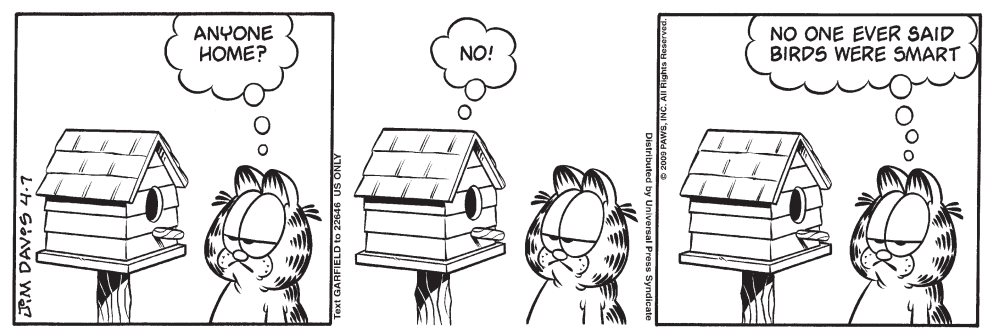
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



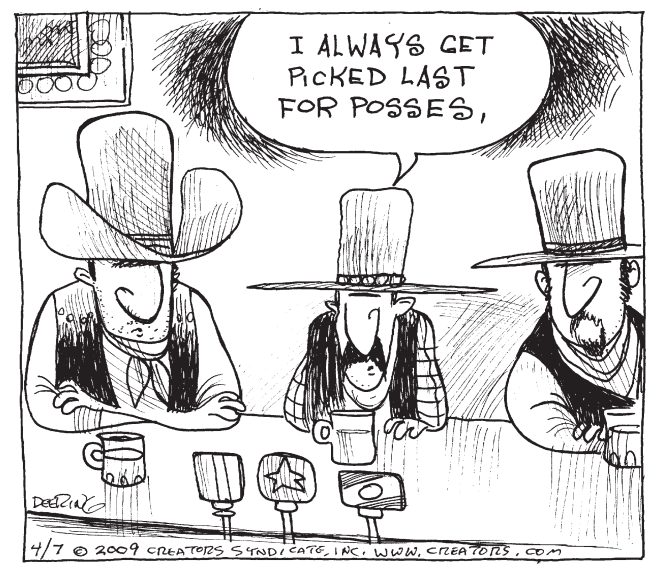
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 After, in Avignon
6 Bath bars
11 Freezing rain
12 "The Tempest" sprite
13 Tom's friend
15 Flightless bird
16 Luau instrument
17 Light metal
18 Katharine's co-star
20 Ripen
21 Help out
22 Alimony payers
23 Caterpillar, for one
26 French cheeses
27 Hugh Grant film "About —"
28 — Lanka
29 Ray-gun sound
30 Poem parts
34 Bar choice
35 Engine part
36 Fall mo.
37 "Star Trek" creator
40 Strike group
41 Clothing tag
42 Intuit
43 Wipe clean

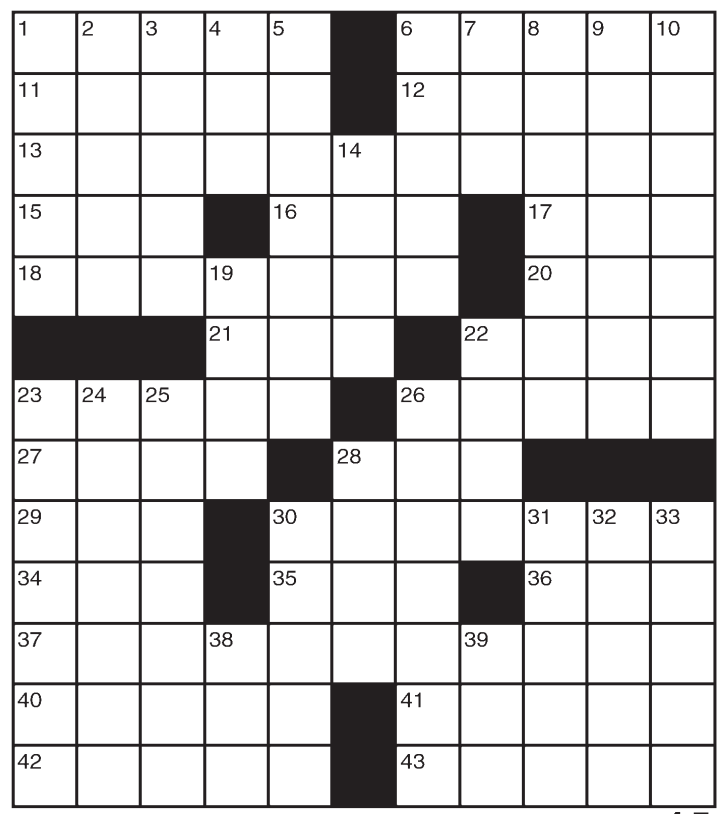
DOWN

1 Fire remnants
2 Chubby
3 Give another prompt to
4 Mouse-spotting cry
5 Caribbean island
6 Fencing weapon
7 Raw metal
8 Short flight maker
9 Orbital minimum
10 Cunning
14 — out (got by)
19 Blue hue
22 "— go bragh"
23 He was raised from the dead
24 Marine mollusk
25 Inveigled
26 Prickly shrub
28 Ollie's pal
30 Play part
31 Quinn role
32 Farm measure
33 Panache
38 Uno plus uno
39 Lobed organ

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



4-7

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 16 22 38 39 48
Meganumber: 42
Jackpot: $65M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 8 18 21 41 46
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5: 1 3 6 19 33

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 2 5 2
EVENING: 1 2 4

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1.40.12

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Canadian filmmaker Rob Spence said recently that he would install a prosthetic eye with a camera and wireless transmitter (of the size now used for colonoscopies) into the socket from which one of his eyes had been removed as the result of a childhood accident. He hopes to control the prosthetic eye in the same way that his muscles control his good eye, to record what his eyes see, and his first project will be a documentary on people's attitudes about privacy in an "Orwellian society." "(T)he best way to make a connection (with an interviewee) is through eye contact," he said. "When you bring in a camera, people change."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1199 King Richard I of England (also known as The Lion-Heart) died in the Limousin region of France at age 41 after being mortally wounded by an arrow.

1859 Walter Camp, the "Father of American Football," was born in New Britain, Conn.

1927 an audience in New York watched as the image as well as voice of Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover were transmitted live from Washington in the first successful long-distance demonstration of television.

1939 Italy invaded Albania, which was annexed less than a week later.

1949 the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "South Pacific" opened on Broadway.

1953 the U.N. General Assembly elected Dag Hammarskjold of Sweden to be secretary-general.

1959 a referendum in Oklahoma repealed the state's ban on alcoholic beverages.

1969 the Supreme Court, in Stanley v. Georgia, unanimously struck down laws prohibiting private possession of obscene material.

WORD UP!

aegis \EE-jis\, *noun*:
1. Protection; support.
2. Sponsorship; patronage.
3. Guidance, direction, or control.
4. A shield or protective armor; -- applied in mythology to the shield of Zeus.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Employment

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

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

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

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale retirement community, is looking for part time servers for its dining room. Shifts include 4-8pm and during the week and on weekends. Must have a love for seniors and great customer service skills. Pre employment drug and background check. Please apply at 2107 Ocean Ave. EOE

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale retirement community is looking for an evening receptionist full time. The shift is 4pm-12am and the schedule includes weekends. Must have a love for seniors and great communication skills. Previous experience preferred. Pre-employment drug and background check. Please apply at 2107 Ocean Ave. or fax resume to (310) 314-7356. EOE

For Sale

SPA/HOT TUB 2009 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth $5950, sell for $1950 (310)479-3054

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PENTHOUSE 2+2 with unobstrocted ocean view Malibu to Catalina. Upper, front. $2475/mo. (310)390-4610

SANTA MONICA $1200.00 1 bdrm, 1 bath, NO pets, stove, refrigerator, parking 2535 Kansas Ave., #103 Open daily for viewing 9am-7pm. Additional info in unit. Move-in-special-available!. Manager in unit # 101

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

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

SM 733 Hill St #2 3+2 walk to beach newly renovated, wood/tile floor washer/dryer in unit 2 car covered parking $2650 310-569-4200

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

WLA, OCEAN VIEW. Hilltop/upper 2bedroom. Private driveway, sundeck, front patio. $2075/mo. 310-390-4610.

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

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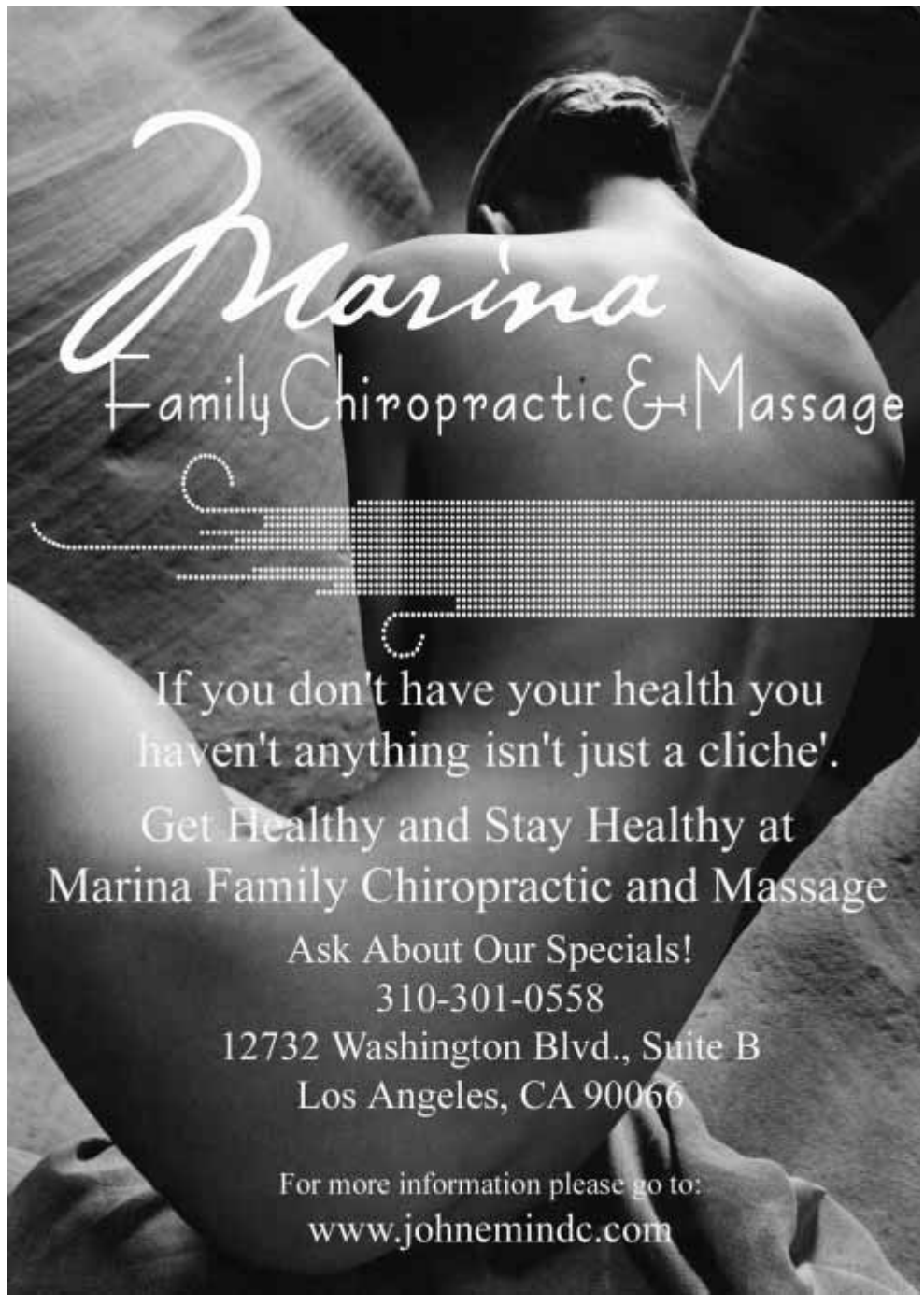
Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Property located on 7900 Driscoll Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406 belongs to Sergiy Pluygin. It is NOT Abandoned or Unclaimed. A letter questioning assets has been mailed to the trustee via certified mail No 7008 1140 0001 3463 0642. Trustee Triumph Funding, Inc. has yet to respond.
Santa Monica Daily Press 4/6/09, 4/7/09, 4/8/09







MUSM:	miss you so much
BF:	boyfriend
OLL:	online love
POS:	parent over shoulder
WTGP:	want to go private?
LMIRL:	let's meet in real life
HDOP:	help delete online predators

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

Ad Council

You don't know what your kids are saying online. Or who they are saying it to. A lot of times neither do they. Protect your kid's online life. To get a full list of acronyms or report an incident, call 1-800-THE LOST or visit cybertipline.com. HDOP: help delete online predators

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720 17th Street
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Lowest Priced SFH
North of Montana!
Open Sunday
April 12th
From 2:00 to 5:00 pm



2721 Washington Avenue
Charming 2 Bed, 1 Bath
Or
Build Your Dream Home!
Approved Plans & Permits
Included in Purchase Price!
$1,499,000



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2 Bed, 2 Bath
Fabulous City & Ocean Views
Beautifully Remodeled 2008
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Easy to Show
Call for Appointment



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4 Bed, 4.5 Bath
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Home
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1135 Berkeley Street
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From 2:00 to 5:00 pm



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Santa Monica Canyon	$2,295,000	$1,895,000
North of Montana	$3,195,000	$1,295,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,895,000	$784,000
South of Wilshire	$1,100,000	$699,500
Sunset Park	$1,215,000	$698,500
Ocean Park	$1,187,000	$888,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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