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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009
Volume 8 Issue 133

Santa Monica Daily Press



SAMOHI PLAYS TWO
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE DIGGING DEEP ISSUE

Council approves district funding

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A three-year extension for a funding agreement funneling more than $7 million annually to the school district was approved by the City Council on Tuesday but the decision wasn't made without concerns about the possible financial impact to city services.

Before a unanimous decision was made to extend the Master Facilities Use Agreement and increase its base payment from $7.2 to $7.5 million starting next fiscal year, several councilmembers expressed reservations about the hit that City Hall would take, noting that the city manager has already requested department heads to propose cuts in their budget for 5 percent next year.

The contract, which was first entered into five years ago, provides a regular stream of revenue to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District in exchange for public use of its facilities.

Both parties have been affected by the recession — the SMMUSD faces up to $10 million in state funding cuts over the next year while City Hall is battling drops in revenue from sources such as transient occupancy taxes, sales and property taxes.

"Even in the best of times economically speaking we can never fund everything that is needed and so it's a question of priorities," City Manager Lamont Ewell said. "When you set priorities for the city, there were two common things that came up — public safety and several comments were made about the school district."

Ewell added that City Hall will fund public safety first at the highest level possible because it has been set as a priority,

SEE FUNDING PAGE 12

SM Baykeeper sues Malibu over Legacy Park development

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

MALIBU Santa Monica Baykeeper is suing the city of Malibu over a planned park that would double as a stormwater treatment facility, claiming City Hall removed a key component of the project without allowing the public to comment.

The lawsuit, filed Wednesday in Los Angeles Superior Court, said the Legacy Park Project does not address one of Malibu's most serious water quality issues — disposal and treatment of sewage generated in the Civic Center area — and therefore fails to meet state water quality standards.

Malibu does not have a proper sewer system, instead relying on septic tanks, some of which are leaking, and storm drainage pipes.

The park project previously included a wastewater treatment system, but it was removed by the Malibu Planning Commission almost six months after the public comment period for the environmental impact report (EIR) ended, said Tatiana Gaur, Baykeeper's staff attorney.

As a result, the project's EIR, which was certified by the city of Malibu, fails to meet the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, according to the lawsuit.

City Hall erred in certifying the EIR

SEE SUIT PAGE 13



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

RUNNING MAN: **John Dickey runs along the Fourth Street median on Wednesday. Nearby homeowners would like to restrict activity on the median.**

Median takes center stage

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Whether it's restricting street parking or prohibiting commercial use on the Fourth Street medians, city officials are exploring ways to address a long-standing concern by a group of homeowners over what many see as an outdoor public gym taking place in front of their properties.

The City Council on Tuesday directed its staff to further examine a variety of measures that could alleviate a conflict involving residents in the area around Fourth Street and Adelaide Drive and the fitness buffs who work out in front of their homes.

Lee Swain, the director of public works, presented a list of suggested steps compiled following several neighborhood meetings in which a group of homeowners and frequent users of the median and the Fourth Street stairs voiced their opinion about the possible regulations.

They reached a consensus on seven possible measures, including restricting com-

SEE MEDIAN PAGE 11

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



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.

Friday, April 10, 2009

'Jumping the Median'
The Other Space at Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m.
Steve Connell's five new plays run the gamut from sexy and outrageous to moving and provocative. Above all, they're unabashedly fun. The evening explores love, loss and life as we know it, accompanied by live music under the direction of Josh Foy and Sekou Andrews. "Jumping the Median" also runs on Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. Tickets are $20. Call (562) 547-6207 for more information.

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

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

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.



OUT AT HOME

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

St. Monica High School's Anthony Yoshinaga applies a tag on a St. Bernard base runner on Wednesday at Marine Park. St. Monica won the Camino Real League game, 11-3. With the win, the Mariners improve their record to 8-5 overall and 5-2 in league play.

Hospitals accused of patient dumping forced to pay

SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A $1.6 million settlement has been reached with two Southern California hospitals accused of improperly discharging and dumping psychiatric patients on Los Angeles' Skid Row, the city attorney's office said Wednesday.

The settlement also bars College Hospitals in Costa Mesa and Cerritos from transporting homeless psychiatric patients to downtown shelters, City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo's office said.

City officials allege that over two years, as many as 150 patients from the two hospitals were dumped on Skid Row, an area on the east side of downtown where thousands of homeless people live.

"We will not stand idly by while society's most vulnerable are dumped in the gutters of Skid Row," Delgadillo said in a statement.

Under the settlement, the hospitals agreed to give $1.2 million to charities that care for the mentally ill and homeless and to pay $400,000 in civil penalties.

In one case, the city attorney's office said Steven Davis, 32, a bipolar schizophrenic, was driven 40 miles to the Union Rescue Mission last year from the Costa Mesa hospital. The next day, the shelter contacted the hospital and asked them to pick up Davis, saying they were unequipped to treat him.

A van from the hospital came for Davis but simply dropped him at another Skid Row shelter, according to the city attorney's office. From there, he wandered the streets before ending up at a clinic that contacted his family and found a place for him to board and receive treatment.

Last May, the hospital's chief executive officer, Wayne Lingenfelter, denied dumping patients. He said Davis requested discharge to the Los Angeles shelter and had adequate health care in place.

Attorney David Daniels, who represents Davis, said College Hospitals will be required to develop protocols for discharging psychiatric patients to "ensure homeless psychiatric patients will have the dignity and the continuum of care that everyone leaving a hospital deserves."

College Hospitals attorney Glenn Solomon denied any wrongdoing by the hospitals.

Samohi baseball gears up for tourney

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI What does a team coming off a painful late-inning loss to a quality team do next?

Santa Monica High School's Head Coach Rob Duron said the only thing he and his guys can do is move on. That opportunity will come Saturday when the team takes part in the Lions Tournament. Samohi will kick-off the tourney against Western High School in Fullerton on Saturday at 10 a.m. and will travel back to Santa Monica for the second game of the dual-location doubleheader against Chaminade at 4 p.m.

With a schedule like that, it's no wonder that the 3-4 loss to Crespi on Tuesday will soon be a memory.

"It was a real tough game," Duron said of the loss to Crespi. "Crespi is ranked right behind the Angels and Dodgers, so I'm proud of the way my guys played.

"I told [the team] that we did some bad things during earlier games that we won, so the seven innings of really good baseball we played was a positive sign."

Duron hopes that the close loss will help propel his team to bigger and better things once the heart of the Ocean League season begins, but the team will have to contend with a number of tough teams playing in the Lions Tournament before moving on with their season. The Vikings are currently 6-7 on the season.

"The schedule is not a big deal," Duron said of Saturday's games. "They aren't sending us too far away."

Junior pitcher Andrew Montanari will get the start against Western, while junior Alonzo Gonzalez will pitch at home against Chaminade in the second game.

"[Chaminade] is going to be aggressive," Gonzalez said. "Hopefully, I can keep them off balance."

Coming off a strong start against Redondo last week, Gonzalez hopes the momentum of that win will carry over to this next start.

SEE **BASEBALL** PAGE 12

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Not so far from the truth

Editor:

If so many of the readers were fooled by the April Fool's issue of the Santa Monica Daily Press, it's because it would really come as no big surprise if the City Council and city planners came up with these ideas.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Trying to clarify

Editor:

A letter to the editor from Mr. Alsabery (in Adventureland) complains that both political parties are responsible for the state of the economy. Perhaps he didn't understand what was meant when I said that Bush's adventure in Iraq, and his disastrous economic policies, were "largely responsible for the worldwide economic collapse." Obama was only a junior senator and one of the first politicians with the courage to denounce Bush's war.

I recognize that many Democrats (but not Obama) rolled over and went along with many of Bush's policies when the Republicans controlled the Congress. It was the hysteria of the time. They even lacked the gonads to cut off funding for the war after 2006 (unlike how the GOP are doing everything they can to cause Obama to fail).

Certainly some Democrats share blame for Fannie and Freddie, but their share of the responsibility for the economic meltdown is far less than that of the GOP and President Bush. Those errors were nowhere near enough to create the mess we are now in, and they were made to empower the poor.

I bought my home with one of those high interest loans. The city of Santa Monica would not grant me permits and I was forced to sell, before the bubble burst. I was lucky and able to use my capital gains to pay cash for another house, but something is wrong with a society where I can double my investment in a short time without doing any work.

Like most right wing ideologues, Mr. Alsabery is still trying to minimize the fact that Bush/Cheney set the domestic and foreign policies that primarily led us to political and economic ruin. Bush started an unnecessary war, and signed laws that created an even more unregulated financial environment (that is still enriching those who caused the bankruptcies).

At least Obama is trying to provide oversight, transparency and accountability. If it was up to me, I'd fire all the corrupt CEOs and nationalize every failed corporation.

Jonathan Mann
Santa Monica

What an insult

Editor:

Steve Breen seems to have axes to grind. First he denigrates President Obama. Now he is picking on women ("Part 1: A man by any other name," page 5, April 8). He writes like a man with a paper head. The paper apparently thinks his writings are cute. I really think they are obnoxious and an insult to people's intelligence.

Jacqueline Kestler
Culver City



Your column here

Michael S. Klein

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Mencia cancellation raises questions about free speech

IN "MENCIA CANCELLATION LEADS TO policy change," page 1, March 30, reporter Melody Hanatani covered a program at which I spoke. I spoke as what I called a "representative for the First Amendment."

Ms. Hanatani quoted Superintendent of Schools Tim Cuneo as saying that he canceled the Mencia event "after learning that the benefit was causing divisions in the community and out of concern for the safety of those attending the performance, hearing that several dissidents were planning on buying tickets just to disrupt the event, which could have lead to litigation against the district."

I didn't hear Mr. Cuneo say that, but if he did, he is, essentially, admitting that the district violated the First Amendment rights of the PTA and Mr. [Carlos] Mencia, as well as community members — because someone might come and heckle.

What do I mean? Well, this is what First Amendment scholars refer to as a "heckler's veto" case.

A heckler's veto occurs when an acting party's right to freedom of speech is curtailed or restricted in order to prevent a reacting party's behavior. The common example is that of demonstrators (reacting party) causing a speech (given by the acting party) to be terminated in order to preserve the peace — almost precisely our fact pattern here, although our facts are more anticipatory — the disruption wasn't occurring at the time, it was just possible.

That is a clear First Amendment violation.

Beyond that, in this case, I have difficulty with the factual assertion that anyone would have disrupted the event. What proof does anyone have of that assertion? Some people were upset, but that does not mean that they would have disrupted the performance.

Even if it is true that those demonstrators would have tried to disrupt the performance, if they refused to cease upon request, they would be subject to arrest for violation of various laws. This is something that I am most confident that Police Chief [Tim] Jackman and Santa Monica's finest would be fully capable of handling.

On the other side, it is important to note that the dissidents referenced by Mr. Cuneo would also have First Amendment rights to come and disagree. In fact, I would defend their right to do that!

Those dissidents could demonstrate outside. They could write letters protesting to the school board or even the Santa Monica Daily Press! They could complain. And in the right circumstances, I might even join them in exercising my own First Amendment rights.

One other factor in this equation is the position of the school district. If the school district agreed with the dissidents and wanted to suppress the speech of Mr. Mencia and the PTA, and they used the possibility of dissidents to silence the PTA and Mr. Mencia, then the violation of First Amendment rights becomes even clearer and more serious. Then, the government is, in essence, using the possibility of a heckler to silence speech.

Mr. Cuneo is also quoted as saying that allowing the PTA and Mr. Mencia to proceed could have lead to litigation. How? The thing that could have lead to litigation against the district is stopping the performance, not allowing it to go forward!

The good news on that front is that it seems that, despite the facts, nobody is trying to file lawsuits. Instead, everyone seems to be working hard to use this event to avoid similar problems as we move forward, which is one of the wonderful things about Santa Monica — people care.

Finally, it is important to note that we are an empowered community. In a sense, some of us who were once out of power have become what we once dreaded — what was colloquially sometimes referred to as "The Man."

But with our empowerment come the responsibilities of power — including the responsibility and the duty of allowing those with whom we may disagree to express themselves even when we don't like it. Just because we control the levers of power doesn't mean that we can ignore the rules of the game — and one of the most important of those rules is the First Amendment.

In fact, now that we are empowered, we should be better and do better because we know what it is like to be on the other end.

The First Amendment is a friend to all, and most particularly to those on the outside looking in. It is not opposed to equality. It should be cherished.

Let freedom ring!

MICHAEL S. KLEIN is a senior partner with the law firm of Klein & Weisz in Santa Monica. A graduate of Yale Law School, he has spoken and written extensively on issues, including copyright, First Amendment law and contracts in the entertainment and business arenas. He is on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California and chairs its First Amendment Committee.

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Bargain backlash

AFTER A PARTICULARLY EXPENSIVE four-day stretch recently (a four-figure bill from the IRS a week ago Saturday and the following Tuesday, a four-figure bill for a car repair that turned out to be misdiagnosed), I grinned when I saw the Tiffany Selections Spring 2009 catalogue in the mailbox.

Some women wear extravagant jewelry. Others long for it. I'm happy — and realistic — enough to be satisfied that Tiffany is willing to keep me on its mailing list. So I poured a glass of wine and settled onto the couch ready to be transported. However, I sensed instantly that something was amiss when the pieces on the catalogue's cover — cushion-cut colored gemstone cocktail rings for just $1,350 — were characterized as "A Splash of Glamour." Just a splash? I had been hoping for more of a tidal wave or tsunami. What fun is a fantasy if it's something that's even remotely attainable?

I wanted to gawk at a round, brilliant 18.44-carat diamond ring in a diamond split-shank setting for $6 million or gag at a "Bird on a Rock" aquamarine broach for 79 grand. If just a splash of glamour fulfilled me, like the $70 crystal candlesticks or the $100 Tiffany "Notes Ring" also featured in the catalogue, then it would have been just as easy but more satisfying to watch the complete first season of "Dynasty" on DVD instead.

It's a recession, after all. Since no one's buying jewelry anyway, it's time to showcase the pieces that would make the salespeople in Tiffany's Fifth Avenue store sneer at me if I asked to try them on. Since when is buying jewelry from a company that marks up its merchandise easily by 50 percent but justifies it by packaging it in a robin's egg blue cardboard box supposed to be practical anyway?

The financial crisis is just about killing me. While I'm thankfully still employed, I still can't rationalize taking advantage of most of the tantalizing deals that seem to crop up every day.

Pottery Barn keeps e-mailing "we miss you" 10 percent off coupons. Where were the coupons last year when I was decorating a nursery from Pottery Barn Baby? And now they've eliminated the additional delivery and processing surcharge for larger items? I'll pretend I didn't even hear that. It's like I'm being punished for being a one-woman stimulus package a year too soon.

Nothing irks me more than the retailers that have reduced the price of items for which I already paid full boat not long ago. I'm not talking about simply putting things on sale or clearance or discontinuing them. Just lowering the price. Even the supermarket is doing it. It makes me feel like I was a sucker for having ever spent money on anything before.

NOTHING IRKS ME MORE THAN THE RETAILERS THAT HAVE REDUCED THE PRICE OF ITEMS FOR WHICH I ALREADY PAID FULL BOAT NOT LONG AGO.

My husband and I just got pre-approved to refinance our six-figure mortgage, but I was denied a Gap credit card with a $200 limit when I tried to open one to save 15 percent off my total a few months ago. It wasn't such a big deal, since everything was marked so low to begin with. But to be honest, everything at the Gap should be marked lower anyway. Let's call a poorly made T-shirt a poorly made T-shirt. T-shirts at the Gap should never be more than 10 bucks. The recession should just serve as a correction for the Gap.

The vacation deals that are splattered across every newspaper and Web site? Great, when the economy bounces back, let me know if Europe is still a steal and the Caribbean can still be had for a song. Somehow I suspect that once the stock market is steadily on the rise again that the bargain basement travel offers will dry up faster than Lindsay Lohan's career.

Here's what hasn't gotten cheaper: baby formula or diapers, gas, milk, car repairs, my monthly prescription medicine, and wine (my daily prescription medicine). You know, life's essentials.

When I complained to the local Subaru dealership that $1,200 later my car still rattles every time the gas pedal is pressed, I also asked why I stopped receiving coupons from them for service, repairs and oil changes. They told me it was because now they only send them to people who don't frequent the dealership.

While I might not be losing, I just can't seem to win.

E-mail questions or comments to meredithccarroll@hotmail.com.

The Q Line

Making room

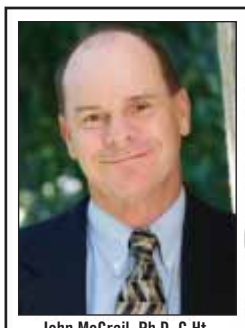
After hearing a flood of complaints from residents, the City Council has decided to look for an alternative location for the Expo Light Rail maintenance yard.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

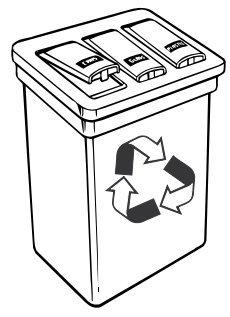
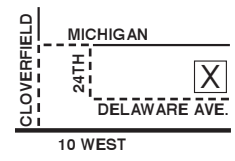
Where do you feel is the most suitable location for the yard?

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.



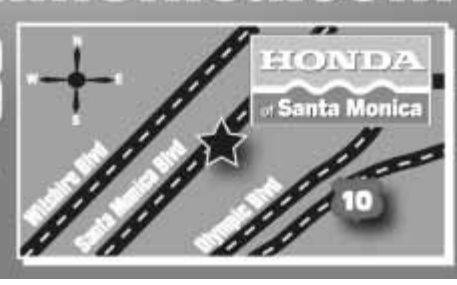

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Chinook fishing season halted

JASON DEAREN
Associated Press Writer

MILLBRAE California's commercial chinook salmon fishing season will be called off again after a record low number of the fish returned to the Sacramento River to spawn last year, federal fisheries managers announced Wednesday.

The decision by the Pacific Fishery Management Council will almost completely curtail commercial fishing in Oregon as well, but allows the sport and commercial seasons in Washington to proceed at an almost normal level.

The halt to California's salmon fishing season marks the second year in a row that the council has completely halted commercial angling for natural and hatchery chinook or "king" salmon.

A 10-day sport season in California will be allowed from Eureka to the Oregon border from Aug. 29 to Sept. 7, said Chuck Tracy, salmon staff officer for the council.

In Oregon, regulators will allow 11,000 coho salmon to be fished in September. But chinook salmon can only be caught off the northernmost area of the Oregon coast near Washington.

The council will now forward its decision to the National Marine Fisheries Service for approval before May 1.

Chinook salmon hatch in freshwater streams and rivers, then migrate to the ocean where they feed and grow, only to return to spawn in the fresh waters in which they were born.

King salmon populations returning to the Central Valley to spawn in 2008 continued a precipitous decline seen in recent years. The council estimated that 66,264 salmon adults returned in 2008 to the Sacramento River. The estimate was down from 90,000 in 2007, which had dropped from a high of more than 750,000 adult salmon counted in 2002.

The Sacramento River chinook run often provides the bulk of salmon caught off the coasts of California and Oregon. Returns in the Klamath River, the next big salmon spawning river north of the Sacramento, were higher overall but still fewer than expected.

A number of factors are cited to explain the salmon decline in California. In the Sacramento Delta, many blame the large pumps used to move water around for farming and other uses. Others say ocean changes due to greenhouse gas pollution also are producing less food for the fish.

While the decision angered some fishermen, others said they were prepared for the season to be called off, and hope the actions will improve their livelihoods in coming years.

"It's better off sitting out this season, then looking at good projections for next year," said Zeke Grader, executive director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, an industry group.

Salmon return forecasts in the Sacramento River are expected to double next year to about 122,196, a mere 196 fish above the number biologists say are needed to sustain the population. That means that only 196 fish could be legally caught.

Marija Vojkovich, who is California's representative on the fisheries council, said it is unfortunate that the season had to be called off, but she and other council members expressed optimism that the seasons would not be called off for a third year in a row.

"I hope all salmon stocks in 2010 will allow for all ocean and freshwater fisheries," she said.

In the meantime, struggling California salmon fisherman will have to survive in other ways.

Congress approved $170 million relief package last year for struggling fishermen and related businesses to make it through the year. About $50 million of that was set aside in anticipation of this year's season being canceled, Grader said.

Eureka-based salmon and crab fisherman Dave Bitts, who has fished salmon for 30 years, said the relief money was a big help last year.

Bitts said a few of the state's salmon anglers were able to switch to catching groundfish like black cod to help make ends meet, but that most just stopped fishing.

Marin agency to pay for 2008 sewage spills

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MILL VALLEY A Marin County agency has agreed to pay $1.6 million for spilling sewage into Richardson Bay, which is connected to San Francisco Bay.

The San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board said Wednesday that the Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin in Mill Valley was fined for two incidents in January 2008.

In the first spill, the agency discharged 2.45 million gallons of untreated sewage. In the second, 962,000 gallons of treated wastewater that had not been disinfected was spilled.

The spills forced officials to close public beaches for six days.

The agency will pay $800,000 to the State Cleanup and Abatement Fund. The remaining $800,000 will go to two environmental projects in the Richardson Bay watershed.





Restaurant Snapshot

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Seafood comes home

GENERAL COMMENT: AT LAST A seafood bar in the heart of Santa Monica. And a fish market in the same space so you can take dinner home with you.

NAME: Santa Monica Seafood Restaurant

WHERE: 1000 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. Tel: (310) 393-5244. Parking in back.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., 7 days a week (closes at 8 p.m. on Sundays).

BEST DISHES: The spicy salmon burger is something different and quite good. My favorite sandwich is the mahi mahi on flatbread. All the fish is fresh, and you can select what you want and have it cooked just for you. The choppino looked great. There are just too many great looking dishes to name. Did I mention the delicious crab cakes?

BEST FEATURE: Really fresh fish, lots of choices, big menu.

WORST FEATURE: Way too small, too crowded, too long a wait, too loud. Of course this will improve in time. On the other hand, at these prices, it could stay busy for a long time.

WHAT TO DRINK: There is a perfectly adequate selection of inexpensive wines on the board. In fact, this is one of the few places in town where you can find a $6-$8 glass of good wine.

PRICES: You can eat really well here for $10-$15. Oysters at $2.50 each are no bargain, but everything else seems very well priced.

BOTTOM LINE: A great selection of wonderful seafood at very reasonable prices in a small, overcrowded space with inadequate tables. But worth the wait.

MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com

Americans drinking more California wine, paying less

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO Americans are drinking more California wine, but they're choosing less expensive bottles.

A report to be released Wednesday by the Wine Institute says U.S. sales of California wines totaled about 467 million gallons last year.

That's up 2 percent from 2007 and comes despite the country's deep recession and a drop in restaurant wine sales as budget-conscious people eat out less.

But the total retail value of the sales was down slightly from 2007.

The top varietals that accounted for more than half of all buys at grocery stores were: chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon, merlot and white zinfandel.

Foreigners are also drinking more California wines. Total U.S. wine exports — 90 percent of which are from California — topped the $1 billion sales mark for the first time in 2008.

Preliminary study finds little E. coli in animals

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

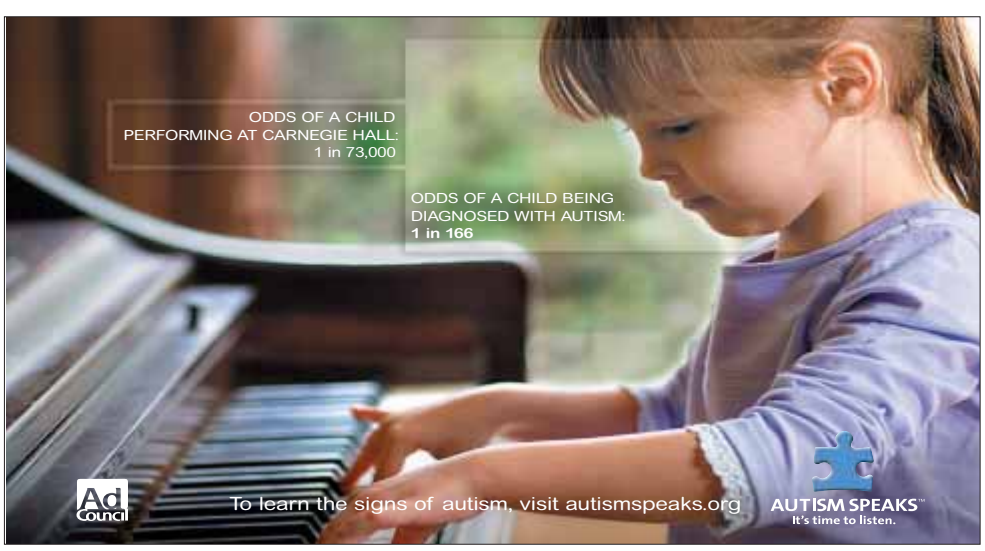
FRESNO Early results from a study show that just a tiny fraction of wild animals along the central coast have a strain of E. coli that caused the 2006 spinach outbreak.

Researchers at the University of California, Davis have been analyzing samples from 866 wild animals in the last two years as part of an effort to prevent another disaster.

The spinach contamination killed three people, sickened 200 and cost the industry $80 million in lost sales.

The exact source of the bacteria was never discovered, but scientists suspected that cattle, feral pigs or other wildlife may have spread the E. coli by defecating near crops.

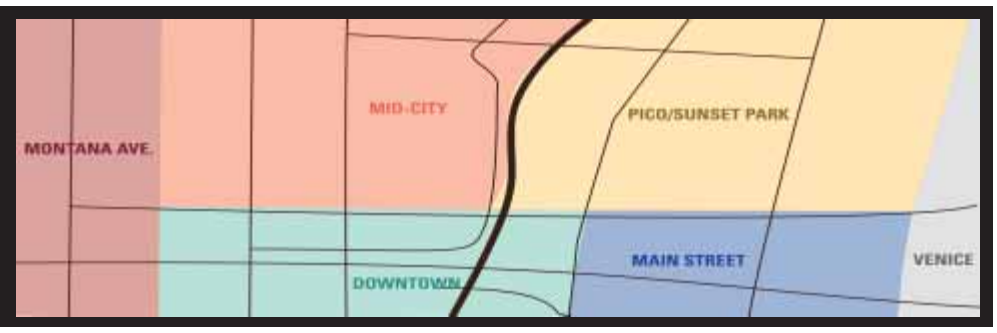
The California Department of Fish and Game says preliminary results from the study found less than one half of one percent of the animals tested positive for that bacterial strain.





westside DISH

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westside DISH

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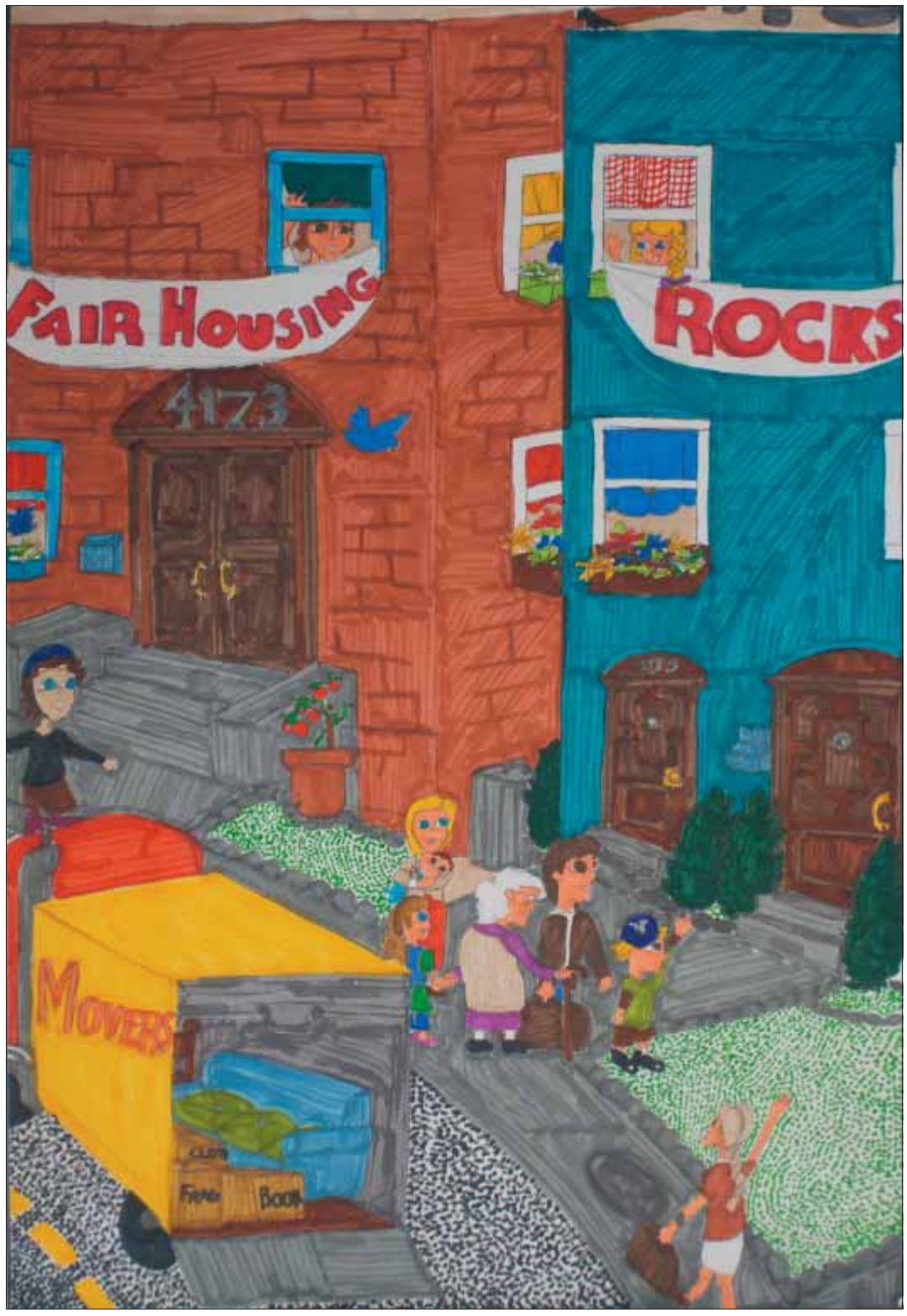
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RING MASTER

Benjamin Brayfield *news@smdp.com*

Sam Tribble practices with a homemade ring on the Santa Monica bike path Wednesday. Tribble's company, Spinnovation, started custom making these rings for a non-profit that specializes in physical activities for autistic children. 'Autistic kids really like to spin,' Tribble said. 'These rings are a way for them to exercise and have fun.'

Restricted stair access and parking among suggestions

FROM **MEDIAN** PAGE 1

mercial or group use on the median; consolidating and updating signs to direct people to available public restrooms and parking; incorporating regular trash pick-up on the street; restricting access to the stairs during the evening hours; restricting parking; creating a good neighbor working group; and exploring grants that would pay for a feasibility study looking into building an additional set of stairs at Palisades Park.

Swain said that he will need to work with the city attorney and Santa Monica Police Department to explore the legality of restricting commercial use of the median.

The stairs, which some have pointed to as the source of the problem, could be closed from midnight to 4 a.m., possibly eliminating problems of illicit activity taking place.

"If someone is on the stairs at 3 a.m., they're probably not exercising," Elaine Culotti, a homeowner, said.

Swain said that all the details have not been worked out for some of the measures, such as what sort of parking restrictions would be put into place.

One suggestion that seemed to garner a lot of attention is the proposal to explore constructing a set of alternate stairs from Palisades Park down to the ocean, grasping an opportunity to connect the north of Montana community to the beach where the Annenberg Community Beach House is set to open this month.

"Fourth and Adelaide is not a park, Palisades is a park," Terry Sanders, a resident, said.

Councilwoman Gleam Davis expressed concerns with building a new set of stairs, questioning whether it would just shift the problem from one area to another.

Davis said she drove Ocean Avenue just a few days ago and saw 12 trainers unloading equipment at Palisades Park between San Vicente and Wilshire boulevards.

Homeowners have long complained about the use of the median and stairs for recreational use, noting that fitness trainers often conduct classes right out in front of their homes, treating the grassy strip as a park. Fitness regulars have countered that the restrictions on Fourth and Adelaide should be reasonable since it involves public property.

Culotti said that residents have began signing a petition in support of the parking restrictions. The problem is that the California Coastal Commission has jurisdiction over the area and would need to approve any parking restrictions, which it is rarely known to do because of beach access issues.

She said the group fitness sessions continue, noting that there are times when up to 25 people are outside doing a bootcamp-type workout.

Some homeowners said they are concerned about safety, pointing out that many people end up working out on the street.

"What the owners agree and feel is it's so vital that we get this restriction put in because the situation has gotten out of hand," John Ketcham, a homeowner, said.

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RFP # CT 1409

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A mandatory pre-proposal walk-through will be held on **April 30, 2009** at Cayton Center cafeteria, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 900425-1628 at 3:p.m.

NOTE: All Proposers are required to attend the mandatory walkthrough to familiarize themselves with the food storage, preparation and vending area.

Phone calls for information concerning the RFP will not be accepted.

To be published April 9, 2009

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Concerns are expressed about district contract's impact on city's budget

FROM **FUNDING** PAGE 1

acknowledging that "there will be some things that will have to fall off."

Councilman Bob Holbrook said he was concerned about approving a contract before knowing what the budget situation would be for City Hall, questioning why the terms are three-years long.

"Nobody knows how long this thing is going to last, nobody knows how deep it is going to be, can we afford to make a three-year agreement now?" Holbrook said.

The possible impact, according to several councilmembers, could be that some of the older city vehicles remain on the road for longer and buildings due for a new paint job stay unmaintained as City Hall weathers the storm.

Councilwoman Gleam Davis, a known district advocate, said that as difficult as the situation is for City Hall, it's minimal compared to the damage inflicted by the state to the school district.

She said that education is a public safety issue.

"It's common sense that when we have good schools, we produce better citizens and more well-rounded people and more successful people," she said. "The kind of community we want here in Santa Monica absolutely mandates we continue to support schools."

The Master Facilities Use Agreement came in response to the state budget cuts to education in 2003 that resulted in about 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, the council narrowly agreed to a compromise in May 2004.

District officials and school advocates said the continuation of the contract will provide much needed funding during a fiscally challenging time.

"This kind of funding helps us keep an array of programs in our school district that we wouldn't be able to maintain without this funding," Barry Snell, the Board of Education vice president, said. "Going into this financially difficult time, we appreciate knowing we have consistent commitment from our city government."

The contract gained more attention in 2007 when the council decided to withhold more than half a million dollars from the district — representing the increase in base pay the SMMUSD was set to receive starting that year — because of issues in the special education program involving transparency and distrust by parents. The money was not released until earlier this year after district officials demonstrated that changes have been made, promising more for the future.

The contract includes a provision requiring that the district 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 amendment came in response to concerns expressed by parents that the district would pull back on special education reform since it had met the requirements imposed by the council to receive the money.

Several special education parents, while pleased with the proposed changes, asked that the contract be further amended to require that any changes to the district's policy concerning SEDAC be approved by the majority members of the district advisory committee or the council.

Tricia Crane, who has been one of the most outspoken critics of the district in the special education controversy, pointed out to the council that school officials are in the process of reviewing and revising all board policies.

"In light of the foregoing, I am concerned that in the future, changes could be made to SEDAC that would undermine the committee's ability to provide the oversight that the council and city desire," she said.

Parents who once spoke before the council with trepidation, fearing that they or their child would face consequences by the district, returned with renewed confidence.

Claudia Landis, who has a child in special education, said that she is able to speak to the council without fear because of the help of city officials. She said that positive changes have been made for her child's situation.

"I think that something good happened at least for one citizen of this city," she said.

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Samohi returns home Saturday

FROM **BASEBALL** PAGE 3

"I just need to be more consistent," he said. "I need to keep my pitch count and walks down.

"Hopefully I can keep this rolling into the league and hopefully into the playoffs."

A return trip to the playoffs would be a welcome development, but many on the team believe that a run deep into the postseason isn't out of the question.

"I'm really hungry," senior pitcher Tyler Skaggs said of the prospect of returning to the playoffs. "I feel like I'm a better pitcher and could carry the team come playoff time."

daniela@smdp.com

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
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Malibu officials say lawsuits hindering clean water efforts

FROM SUIT PAGE 1

because the project had been fundamentally altered from the original proposal and city officials did not allow the public adequate opportunity to comment on the changes, Gaur said.

During the 2008 summer dry weather season, Surfrider Beach, one of the receiving waters of septic pollution from the Civic Center, exceeded water quality standards 74 times, according to the suit. As approved, the Legacy Park Project will not fix one of these water quality violations — violations that occur when the beach is most heavily used, said Tom Ford, executive director of Santa Monica Baykeeper.

"By removing the wastewater treatment element from the project description and allowing septic effluent discharge from the Malibu Lumber Yard development at the Legacy Park site, the city not only fails to solve existing water quality problems, but it actually makes them worse," Ford said. "But the city denied our appeal of the Planning Commission's decision to approve the project and left us no choice but to file another lawsuit.

"It's unbelievable that we have to do this again — doesn't the Malibu City Council care about the health of its residents and its beaches and rivers at all?"

The lawsuit is the third filed by Santa Monica Baykeeper against the city of Malibu over water quality standards.

Malibu City Manager Jim Thorsen said the environmental watchdog is actually hindering the city's efforts to address poor water quality at local beaches. A lawsuit challenging the La Paz commercial development in the Civic Center threatens a deal in which City Hall would receive land from the developer to build a wastewater treatment facility, Thorsen said. The deal still needs to be approved by the California Coastal Commission.

"If we don't have the land to build the site, that will hinder our ability to complete the program," Thorsen said.

Originally their was a proposal to build the wastewater treatment facility at Legacy Park, however, there was opposition from some residents, leading city officials to look elsewhere in the Civic Center, Thorsen said. City Hall plans to build the wastewater facility as part of a more than $50 million commitment to clean water. City Hall completed a stormwater facility in 2007 in the Civic Center, which can process up to 1,400 gallons of stormwater per minute.

Legacy Park would enhance the city's ability to treat stormwater tenfold, city officials said, ensuring that Malibu is in compliance with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's bacteria regulations. The park has been designed to accept up to 2.6 million gallons of stormwater and urban runoff.

The stormwater will be cleaned and disinfected. During heavy rain events, the clean stormwater will be discharged into Malibu Creek. During smaller rain events, the water will be stored, then treated, and re-used for park irrigation.

"The two separate projects are not dependent on each other," Thorsen said. "The city and our constituents are committed to complete both projects. We are only slowed down by the time and money that we must devote to these lawsuits that Baykeeper keeps filing."

Despite what city officials have said, Malibu cannot be trusted when it comes to protecting water quality, Gaur said. There are no guarantees that if La Paz is approved by the Coastal Commission City Hall will use the land for a wastewater treatment facility.

"They do too little too late and promise, promise, promise," Gaur said.

Malibu plans to deliver, if Baykeeper would just let city officials do their jobs, Thorsen said.

Baykeeper hopes Malibu will work with the group and set aside the current EIR for Legacy Park and City Hall's findings and approvals. Baykeeper will drop the suit if these conditions are met. The group is also seeking payment of attorneys fees and court costs.

City Hall intends to defend the lawsuit.

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Easter Vigil Liturgy
+ 7:30 p.m. +
There will not be a 5:30 p.m. Mass on this Saturday.
EASTER SUNDAY
April 12th
Mass in the Church
+ 6:30 a.m. +
+ 8:00 a.m. +
+ 9:30 a.m. +
+ 11:30 a.m. +
+ 1:15 p.m. +
Mass in the Gymnasium
+ 9:30 a.m. +
+ 11:30 a.m. +
Mass in the Auditorium
+ 9:45 a.m. +
+ 1:15 p.m. +
There will not be a 5:30 p.m. Mass on this Sunday.
Extra parking will be available at Crown Parking, 1211 7th Street, south of Wilshire Blvd.
725 California Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90405
(310) 566-1500 | www.stmonica.net
st. monica catholic community

A drunk driver ruined something precious. Amber Apodaca.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



Photo by Michael Mazzeo

U.S. Department of Transportation

Ad Council

NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS
For Commercial Lease Space On Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade

City of Santa Monica

The City of Santa Monica seeks proposals from interested and qualified entities for a license to operate and manage a retail business in Santa Monica. This retail commercial space opportunity is located within the City's Bayside District on the Third Street Promenade between Broadway and Santa Monica Boulevard.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) contains the key questions and informational requirements for respondents to address. To download the RFP, please go to http://www.smgov.net/business/space_avail.htm, or call Donna Rickman at (310) 458-8906 to request this package. Prospective Operators can also schedule a site visit at donna.rickman@smgov.net.

Proposals are due by **no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2009.** They may be delivered by mail or by hand to the City of Santa Monica Economic Development Division, 1901 Main Street, Suite E, Santa Monica, CA 90405 to the attention of Donna Rickman.

ESPRIT
MARINA DEL REY

Low Income Senior Apartments

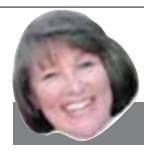
$523 per month
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Play Time

Cynthia Citron — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

'Best Wishes' for a peaceful eternity

IF "LACE CURTAIN IRISH" WERE NOT considered a pejorative term by some, it could be used as a thumbnail description of the family in Bill Barker's play "Best Wishes," which is currently enjoying a splendid revival at the Crown City Theatre in North Hollywood.

Joanne McGee and Matthew J. Williamson's wonderfully insipid set not only drapes lace at the window, but also as a tablecloth on the dining room table, as antimacassars and doilies on all the chairs, and a decorative pillow on the rocking chair. There are fussy gadgets everywhere, including a collection of ugly perfume bottles on the breakfront, family photos on the piano and the walls, and subdued colors and lighting. It's a powerfully evocative set that tells you much about the family that grew up there.

It's small town Kansas in 1981, and 13 of the surviving adult children have returned home for the funeral of their 89-year-old mother. They have all achieved a moderate success and are decent and respectable people, but somehow the occasion, and the fact that they seldom see or talk to each other any more, sets off a storm of ancient resentments and personality clashes.

"Best Wishes" very much resembles the more recent "August – Osage County," in which a scattered family returns for their father's funeral. The characters in "Best Wishes," however, are not as intentionally willful and vicious as those in "Osage County."

"Best Wishes" focuses on four of the sisters and two brothers: Crystal (Nadya Starr), who appears the most moody and troubled by her mother's death, Vera (Ann Bronston), who scurries around making dinner and trying to take care of everyone, Elda (Joanne McGee), who has returned from California and seems to have reverted to her childhood role: teasing both playfully and insidiously, and Dorie (Carol Jones), a self-righteous, church-going scold who, as the youngest, is continually demanding attention from the others.

Of the two brothers, Denny (Bill Barker) is considered a ne'er do well, even though he really isn't, and Gil (Dana Craig), who is the oldest, assumes the role of put-upon father figure, making decisions and taking charge. Under Hollace Starr's careful direction, they are all fleshed-out characters, individually and collectively real and sympathetic.

While there is much love almost inadvertently displayed among the siblings, and some residual good feeling and playfulness, Dorie's terrible neediness and emotional demands tend to wear them all out. Dorie and Elda, who are only two years apart, scrape the scabs off old wounds as they begin to dismantle the family home and choose the mementoes they want from among their mother's possessions. Vera reacts by fretting helplessly, Crystal removes herself, both physically and emotionally, and Gil launches a telling diatribe. They are all aware that this is the last time they will gather together in this house, and probably the last contact many of them will have with the others, and so a certain melancholy infuses their relationships.

While this is not a grim play – there is much family humor – the comedy highlight is Peggy Lord Chilton's portrayal of Fanny, their mother's oldest friend. She is a quirky, over-the-top character who fills in the small details of their mother's final years and provides a small gift for her dead friend.

"Best Wishes" is a play that anyone who has ever been part of a family – large or small – will enjoy. It will remain onstage at Crown City Theater, on the campus of St. Matthew's Church at 11031 Camarillo St., North Hollywood through May 3 (and possibly longer), Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Call (818) 745-8527 for information and reservations.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.

Mexico's drug violence invades TV dramas

LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES When "Breaking Bad" features its own "narcocorrido" – drug ballad – in an upcoming episode, it's clear that Mexico's bloody narcotics trafficking culture has seeped into the TV drama.

The same is true for "Weeds," which shifted from homegrown American drug stories when it transplanted its marijuana-dealing mom closer to the California-Mexican border last season.

The specter of real-world drug violence is putting a sharper, darker edge on the TV dramas even as Mexico's casualties spiral beyond the stuff of fiction. Both AMC's "Breaking Bad" and Showtime's "Weeds" remain focused on domestic worlds and characters who turn to crime because of financial pressures, the shows' producers say, but the devastating foreign narcotics wars can't be ignored.

Drug violence has spiked since Mexican President Felipe Calderon began a national crackdown on organized crime in 2006. Battles among cartels, their rivals and soldiers have led to nearly 9,000 deaths and a cross-border crime spillover.

In recent weeks, the mayhem has included a grenade attack on a city police chief's house and a police station in the western state of Michoacan, and a deadly campaign aimed at killing a Ciudad Juarez officer every 48 hours to force the police chief to resign.

"We don't live in a vacuum and when my writers and myself read these stories in the newspapers, naturally our minds turn to the idea of incorporating some of these elements into our series," said "Breaking Bad" creator Vince Gilligan.

The Emmy Award-winning series stars Bryan Cranston as a cancer-stricken New Mexico chemistry teacher, Walter White, who becomes a methamphetamine maker to leave his family secure. This week, it received a Peabody Award, a prize given by the University of Georgia for excellence in radio and television broadcasting.

The show's first year ended in a crescendo of brutality. Walter started doing business with a Mexican drug lord who, in the season finale, beat an underling in a fatal frenzy – leaving Walter to deal with the aftermath in this year's opening episode.

In the April 19 episode, Walter's brother-in-law Hank (Dean Norris), an agent with the Drug Enforcement Agency, starts work with a task force that includes the Mexican federal police.

"I don't want to give away the plot, but Hank does spend a little time outside Juarez (Ciudad Juarez, near El Paso in northern Mexico) and witnesses some pretty remarkable things," Gilligan said.

The same episode opens with a narcocorrido music video celebrating the exploits of a mysterious American, a maker of top-notch meth who is risking the wrath of the Mexican drug cartels, Gilligan said. Heisenberg – Walter's drug-dealer alias – is "a dead man who doesn't know it," the song by Los Cuates de Sinaloa chillingly warns.

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*Nonprofit corporation. Financial assistance available.



Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 57°

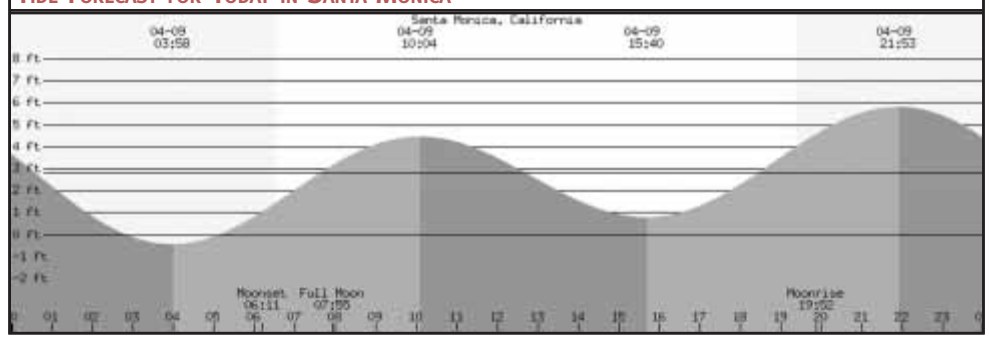
Swell Forecast (2-4 FT)

A combo of southern hemi SW and WestPac WNW is expected. Some light wind swell will likely linger as well.

Long Range Synopsis

Friday the 10th the westerly portion of the swell should get an ever-so-slight boost from both wind and ground swell, but overall, most all breaks are still looking at waist to chest high surf.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **March 31, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

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

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, The 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 Arbus 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 (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	F	ns
Castenock 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

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

Macbeth (1948) (NR) 1hr 45min
7:30

The Trial (1962) (NR) 2hrs 00min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

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

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

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

Taken (PG-13) 1hr 33min
11:05 a.m., 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 7:55, 10:10

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, 10:20

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

Say yes, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You are juggling many different interests. How well you do remains to be seen in the next few days. You could be worn out or exhausted by events, people and demands. Think very carefully about a financial suggestion. Tonight: Put on a favorite piece of music.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You could accomplish a lot. It might be wise to focus on easy errands and projects, and not lose your focus. You could easily become overwhelmed somewhere along the line. Listen to your inner voice, but don't act just yet! Tonight: Head home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Focus, if you can. Friends and loved ones seem to tear into you, all wanting a part of you. Before you realize it, you are doing an emotional juggling act. You could be worried about a sensitive issue. Tonight: Do you really need to choose who, what and where?

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Home is where your heart is. Today's Full Moon hits you where it hurts. Pull out all the stops when dealing with work and another issue around your personal life. You can choose to view this situation as black-or-white, or absorb another perspective. Tonight: Screen calls. Do for you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You quickly discover that the true meaning or intent behind your words can be easily misread. How you deal with friends, neighbors and people in general impacts your day. Juggle your thoughts. Tonight: Follow the music.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Curb wild spending if possible. Help a friend say no to an extravagance. Later, he or she will thank you for that extra support. Emotions and nervous energy will play out through your checkbook. Tonight: Think "moderation."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You are all smiles and hard to contain. Others keep calling, asking and requesting your presence. Sort through what are must-dos and what you can and probably would be happiest postponing. You don't have to please everyone. Tonight: Say yes to a special invitation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ There are some matters you would prefer not to discuss. Conversations might seem awkward; your feelings could be hurt. Still, timing encourages reflection, compassion and understanding. Tonight: Head home pronto.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Emphasize facts in a meeting and avoid any hearsay or wishful thinking. You come from a sound place and make a strong presentation for whatever remains key right now. Someone makes an indirect compliment about your focus. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You'll put in a performance few will forget if you are focused and willing to take on a responsibility. Evaluate and understand what your true potential might be if you pursue the present course. Do you want this? Is it right for you? Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Let your intellect, vision and imagination meld. The possibilities multiply. Cease to judge, but do recognize a good idea by jotting it down. It is important to use all your imagination. Tonight: Try something new.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You recognize special moments that need to be spent with a special person. Even if it's just for business, honor your highly tuned sense of what is workable. Move forward, understand and possibly take a risk. Tonight: Togetherness works.

Happy birthday

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

This year, you think in new and even more practical ways. With the planet of luck cheering you on, you could hit several home runs in your life. Success comes from detachment. Learn to pull back and understand others better by not judging, but expressing your compassion. Imagine what it is like to walk in someone else's shoes. If you are single, you could meet someone quite different and unique who opens new doors. If you are attached, the two of you need not argue but simply respect your differences and learn from each other. SAGITTARIUS pushes doors open that you never knew existed.

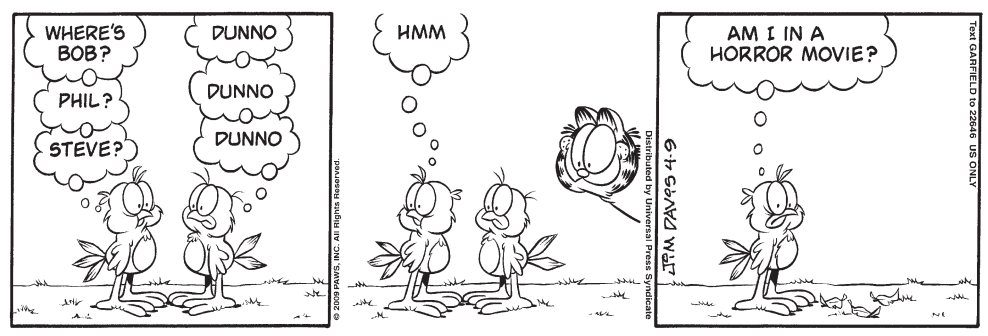
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



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



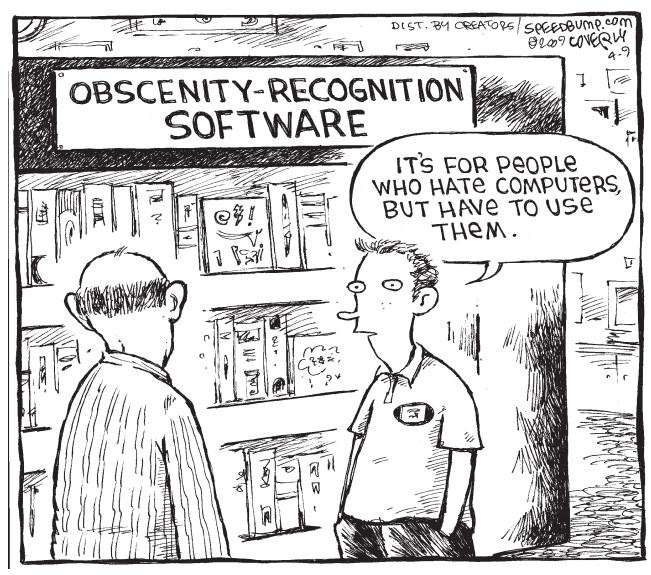
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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.

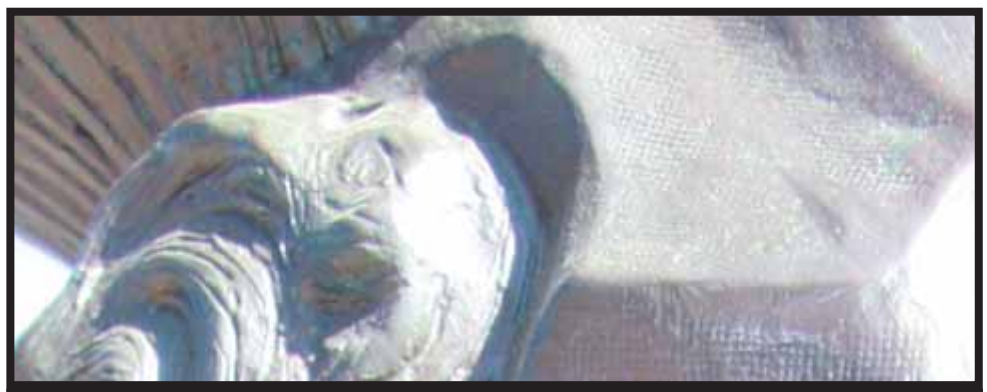
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Stick
6 Mosquitoes, e.g.
11 Deference
12 Heep of fiction
13 Radiate
14 Sean Combs nickname
15 Relaxing music genre
17 Hoary
19 Ironic
20 Dunderhead
23 "Scram!"
25 In the past
26 Cowed
28 Looks
29 Venus' sister
30 Blue
31 Buddy
32 Cub's cave
33 Envelope type
35 November birthstone
38 Truck part
41 Stand
42 Fight site
43 Tech whizzes
44 Enticed

DOWN

1 2008 Steven Soderbergh film
2 Smoked salmon
3 Flooded
4 Network junction
5 Darkened
6 Out of shape
7 Buffalo's lake
8 "Ice Age" sloth
9 Young fellow
10 Retiring
16 Craftsman
17 Theater awards
18 Singer Lotte
20 Came before
21 Public outburst
22 Car-rental choice
24 "My country — of thee"
25 Crew need
27 Number with a point
31 Tests for rats
33 Mardi Gras wear
34 Folk tales
35 Luggage ID
36 Mine yield
37 Chart shape
39 Music's Yoko
40 Sought a seat

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

Yesterday's answer

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1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					■	14				
■	■	15			16			■	■	■
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35	36	37			■	38			39	40
41					■	42				
43					■	44				

4-9

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 2 4 13 17 36 Meganumber: 15 Jackpot: $78M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 12 18 19 21 30 Meganumber: 4 Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5: 1 6 22 34 38

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 7 1 EVENING: 0 3 0

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1.49.12

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

■ The U.S. Transportation Security Administration ruled in January that a post-9-11 federal maritime law, which requires comprehensive background credentials for mariners holding U.S. Coast Guard authorization on U.S. waters, applies even to the two "mule skinners" who work, in tourist season, dressed in colonial costumes at the Hugh Moore Historical Park in Easton, Pa. The park's lone mule-pulled boat is operated in a 2-mile-long canal that is near nothing of strategic significance, said the park director.

■ In addition to addressing the usual state homeland-security concerns, Kentucky's statute requires anyone licensed as a first responder to disasters to take an oath against dueling ("I, being a citizen of this state, have not fought a duel with deadly weapons ... nor have I sent or accepted a challenge (to duel), nor have I acted as second in carrying a challenge (to duel), so help me God"). Another provision requires the state Homeland Security Office's executive director to "publicize" a legislative finding that "reliance upon Almighty God" is necessary to homeland security.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1947 a series of tornadoes in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas claimed 181 lives.

1959 American architect Frank Lloyd Wright died in Phoenix at age 91.

1965 the newly built Astrodome in Houston featured its first baseball game, an exhibition between the Astros and the New York Yankees.

1983 the Space Shuttle Challenger ended its first mission with a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

1988 pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim hijackers who had seized a Kuwait Airways jetliner on April 5 killed one of their hostages as the plane sat on the ground in Larnaca, Cyprus.

WORD UP!

chimerical \ky-MER-ih-kuhl; -MIR-; kih-\, *adjective*:

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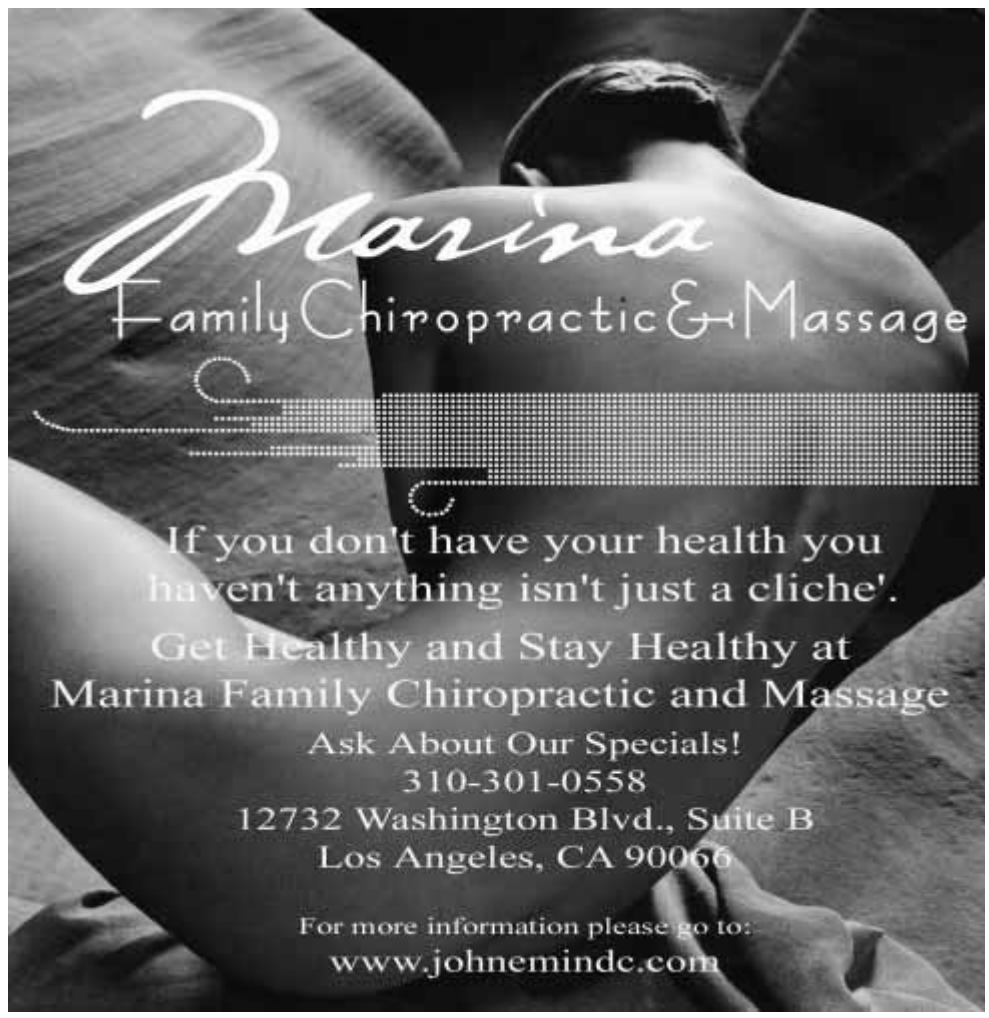
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20090336706 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ENTRE TRAINING, GUIDED BUSINESS PLAN, 1226 N. OGDEN DR, #6, W. HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046, COUNTY OF LA. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : MELANIE RAE ROBINSON, 1226 N. OGDEN DR, #6, W. HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046 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/: MELANIE RAE ROBINSON
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/10/2009. 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 4/9/2009, 4/16/2009, 4/23/2009, 4/30/2009

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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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