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FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 134

Santa Monica Daily Press

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THE GOING FOR TWO ISSUE

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200 MILLION FRIENDS?
SEE PAGE 13

SMC assault suspect pleads not guilty

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE A Malibu man accused of sexually assaulting a Santa Monica College student in the campus library pleaded not guilty to felony charges on Thursday.

The L.A. County District Attorney's Office charged Chase Guy Reynolds, 40, with two counts of sexual battery by restraint, one count of attempted sexual penetration by a foreign object and one count of second degree robbery in the alleged incident on April 4.

He faces up to 13 years in state prison if found guilty. He is due back in court on May 13 to set his preliminary hearing.

The prosecution was seeking a $250,000 bail.

Reynolds was arrested on Tuesday after a woman contacted campus police about having seen a man who closely resembled a composite sketch of the suspect, which was released the previous day. Police detained the suspect as he left the library near the location where the alleged assault occurred. He was later identified by both the witness and victim, a 19-year-old SMC student.

SMPD Lt. Darrell Lowe said that he is unsure whether Reynolds is currently enrolled at SMC, but noted that the college does have his records on file.



REYNOLDS

The assault reportedly took place as the victim exited a restroom at the SMC library. The suspect is accused of pinning her against a nearby wall. Police said the suspect, who also stole the victim's house key, fled when he was startled by an announcement over the intercom.

Jane Robison, spokeswoman for the district attorney, said the suspect had allegedly approached the victim a previous time. The charges relate to the April 4 incident.

Lowe said the two individuals did not have a previous relationship.

"She had seen him in the library, but they were not friends," Lowe said. "This was not an acquaintance type situation; I would categorize him as a recognized stranger."

Police did not have information on Reynolds' occupation. Lowe said that the suspect was uncooperative with investigators and invoked his right to remain silent.

Reynolds does not have a criminal background but police have reached out to other

SEE PLEA PAGE 10

Council forms tree task force

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The Santa Monica Treesavers scored a victory on Tuesday when the City Council voted to establish a new task force that would advise on the development of an urban forest master plan.

The new task force, joining the long list of boards and commissions that advise the council, will be responsible for helping city officials as they develop a long-range master plan concerning tree matters, including an updated inventory, maintenance requirements and an assessment of the environmental benefits of an urban forest.

The decision comes after a group of residents and business owners rallied against a controversial plan that called for the removal and transplantation of 54 ficus trees from Downtown Santa Monica. Following a series of court appeals and council hearings, all of which ruled on City Hall's side, the plan was scaled back to affect only 23 trees identified as structurally deficient from Second and Fourth streets.

The seven-member committee will be comprised of individuals from the commu-

SEE TREES PAGE 12



JUMPING FOR JOY

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Kids with the Santa Monica Police Activities League jump rope during 'Spring Fling' at Will Rogers State Park on Thursday.

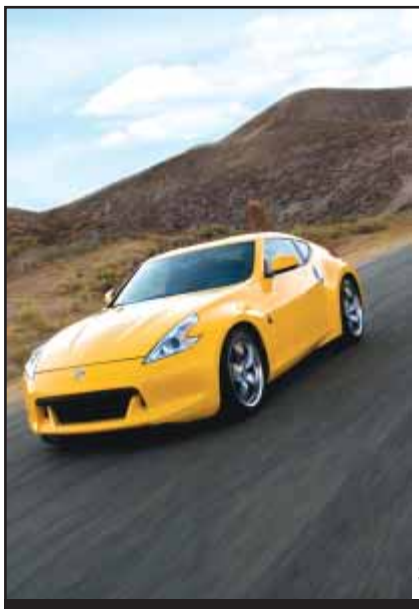




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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



'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.

Japan Film Festival

Laemmle's Monica 4-Plex
1332 Second St., Call for times

The Second Annual Japan Film Festival will take over the Laemmle 4-Plex from April 10 to April 16. The selections will cover a plethora of genres — new and old, scary and funny — which will promote the Japanese film and filmmakers in Hollywood. Call (310) 394-9741 for more information.

Saturday, April 11, 2009

'A Beautiful Girl Like You'

Schomburg Gallery
2525 Michigan Ave., 10 a.m. — 6 p.m.

Schomburg Gallery will display the works of Tim Zinnemann, a jack of all trades in the film industry, but a photographer at heart. From the man who worked on films like "The Pink Panther" and "Street Fighter" comes something completely different — alluring photographs of women caught in unexpected moments that demonstrate true beauty. Admission is free. Call (310) 453-5757 for more information.

'Made Me Nuclear'

Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m.

"Made Me Nuclear," the pop music operetta about surviving cancer, has enjoyed such popularity that its run will continue on through May 30. The play discusses with poignancy and heart the painful topic of cancer through the medium of jazzy music. Admission is $20. Call 1(866) 468-3399 for more information.

Sunday, April 12, 2009

'Bunny Wars'

Edgemar Center for the Arts
2415-2449 Main St., 3 p.m.

This rethinking of "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" combines theater with an interactive audience for a high-energy must-see event for children of all ages. This isn't Peter Rabbit like you've seen him before. He's on a mission to take back the cabbage patch, and Sgt. McGregor won't be standing in his way. Tickets are $10 for children and $12 for adults. Call (310) 924-9199 for more information.

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

Yelp to let businesses comment

RACHEL METZ
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK The review Web site Yelp, which has garnered some criticism from the businesses put under its microscope, will soon let those businesses and others respond publicly to customers' critiques.

In an e-mail sent to some of Yelp's most active users Thursday, the San Francisco-based company solicited feedback about an upcoming feature that will let businesses post replies to user reviews. Businesses must first register for a free business owner's account. After a business posts a reply on the site, Yelp will alert the reviewer by e-mail.

Currently, businesses that want to challenge a review or correct any errors can only contact the reviewer via the Web site. The business has had no option to post a direct reply on the site — something that business owners have long complained about.

Yelp plans to activate the reply feature in a week or two.

The decision to add this feature comes amid complaints from businesses reviewed on the site, some of which have questioned how the site works.

News reports have cited other issues, including allegations from businesses that Yelp offered to obscure negative reviews or move up positive ones in exchange for advertising dollars. Yelp denies it and blames a misunderstanding.

Jeremy Stoppelman, Yelp's co-founder and chief executive, said allowing businesses to comment on reviews has been under consideration for some time. He said the company has been hearing "concerns of business owners, especially when it comes to factual disputes."

Although Yelp has been concerned that businesses might use such comments as a way to strike conflict with users, Stoppelman said that interactions in private messages between businesses and reviewers have been mostly positive thus far. That has made the company more comfortable about adding the direct-reply capability.

"We're confident business owners will realize they're talking in public and that they need to put their best foot forward," he said.



Maya Myers *news@smdp.com*

SHOWING SIGNS: **Crossroads' Co-Head Coach Pat Armstrong (left) works with his team at Clover Park on Thursday.**

Working on the finer points

Spring break gives teams an opportunity to put in extra work

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

CROSSROADS The Roadrunners baseball team may be 9-2 on the season, but that doesn't mean that there isn't a little extra work to be put in.

Coming off a strong showing at the Santa Ynez Tournament, including a 6-2 win on Wednesday, the team is facing a bit of a layoff until the next game on April 15 against Animo Leadership. But, in the meantime Co-Head Coach Matt Amido would like the team to use the opportunity to work on the finer points of the game.

"We basically go over the basics during the break," Amido said while scouting Brentwood High School. "We need to keep doing the things that we would be doing in games.

"We're just trying to stay sharp."

While fundamentals will top the agenda during the next couple of practices during spring break, Amido hopes his team doesn't lose its mental toughness during the long delay between games.

"Too much time off isn't really a good thing," Amido said. "Thankfully, most of our kids use the week to do something on their own."

He said that the team's trio of seniors have organized practice sessions on their own, with many of the team's 11 players attending.

"I'm very happy with our seniors," Amido said. "But don't get me wrong, we wouldn't have the record that we do without the (underclassmen)."

Contributions from the team's younger players have played a major role in the team's success thus far and Amido believes the extra practice afforded by spring break will give him a chance to focus on the team's weaknesses.

"I think we need to continue to work on the little things on offense," he said.

Amido and fellow head coach Pat Armstrong would also like to address some of the most basic skills on the baseball field.

"I really want to work on stuff like tossing the ball around," Amido said, "just the basics."

Amido is also mindful that the bulk of the team's league games are seemingly right around the corner, which makes this extra amount of practice pivotal if the team is going to finish strong and make the postseason.

He particularly has his eyes on Winward, the reigning Delphic League champs.

"They mix things up," he said of his chief

SEE **BREAK** PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A thank you note

Editor:

On behalf of all of the families in Santa Monica whose children require special education services to benefit from their education, I would like to thank you and your staff for your ongoing coverage of our efforts to achieve accountability from Santa Monica-Malibu public schools. Reporter Melody Hanatani is to be commended for her very fine reporting on the efforts of members of the Special Education District Advisory Committee ("Council approves district funding agreement," page 1, April 9).

Only with the sort of commitment your paper has exhibited have parents been able to bring an end to the use of gags and "secret deals." With the new recognition by the City Council of the value of oversight provided by our committee in naming SEDAC in the joint use agreement, I hope we can now do more than fight for our survival, and that we help the district improve instructional programs and curriculum for our children with disabilities.

Our community is very fortunate to have the Santa Monica Daily Press because without you there would be no value to calls for transparency and accountability. Thank you for your service to our community.

Tricia Crane
Santa Monica

Poor Bobby

Editor:

Overlooked in the great April Fools' controversy consuming our city, the person who really deserves an apology — Councilman Bobby Shriver. That dress you showed him in, just not his color.

Mark Shepherd
Santa Monica

Why so serious?

Editor:

It's really too bad that one day a year, April Fools' Day, we can't be politically incorrect for the sake of levity. Some of us need to lighten up and smile once in awhile.

Michael Dubin
Santa Monica

No apologies necessary

Editor:

Your April Fools' issue was brilliant. The results of City of Santa Monica policies often deserve a satiric response. Please do not apologize to anyone.

Meanwhile, illegal and obnoxious leafblowers roared throughout the city (from Karen A. Baker's April 8 letter).

Barbara M. Bennett
Santa Monica

City needs focus on leafblowers

Editor:

According to the Santa Monica Municipal Code (Sec. 4.08.270), "No person shall operate any motorized leafblower within the City," and this very clear notice is followed by terms of fines, misdemeanors and imprisonment.

Why do we continue to hear these roaring abominations literally every single weekday, all over town, all the time? I don't think anybody will disagree that they're ghastly, pointless, polluting and even inefficient, compared to rakes and brooms — plus of course hella [sic] irritating.

So why do local authorities do nothing to stop this auditory and atmospheric nastiness? Just show up, impound the offending machine, issue a citation, and it'll stop. Leafblowers are either banned, or they're not. Let us decide, and then enforce the decision. Cheers.

Gregory Weinkauf
Santa Monica



Your column here

Lee Hamilton

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It pays to follow the money trail

RECENTLY, NEWSWEEK LOOKED AT Federal Election Commission records and made an intriguing discovery. The political action committees of five major recipients of federal bank bailout money, it found, made some $85,000 in campaign contributions in January and February, mostly to members of Congress sitting on the committees that oversee their industry.

Quite naturally, the magazine uncovered some squeamishness about the notion that taxpayer dollars meant to resolve the credit crisis are instead being used to influence Congress.

"The last thing I want to do is wake up one morning and see our PAC check being burned on C-SPAN," one bank lobbyist said.

Even so, some banks are making the contributions, and lawmakers are accepting them. And why not? This is how business gets done in Washington. In an illuminating, full-page chart, The New York Times recently illustrated the ties between captains of finance and members of Congress in 2007-2008: PAC donations in the millions of dollars from various Wall Street firms, and a web of lines showing personal donations that snaked from their CEOs to various influential lawmakers.

The same could be done with other industries. When prescription drug coverage provisions come up in Congress, big pharmaceutical companies blanket the capital with their presence and their cash. When defense procurement issues come up, military contractors — and their money — are everywhere you turn. On any given issue, in other words, interests with money line up to show Congress how much they care.

In his new book on the chase for political cash, "So Damn Much Money: The Triumph of Lobbying and the Corrosion of American Government," longtime Washington Post editor Robert Kaiser tells a story about the late John Stennis, the legendary senator from Mississippi. In 1982, running for his seventh term, Stennis found himself in a tough race, and was urged by his consultants to raise money from the defense industry he oversaw from his perches on the Armed Services and Appropriations committees. "Would that be proper?" Stennis responded. "Sir, I hold life and death over those companies. I don't think it would be proper for me to take money from them."

By the time Sen. Stennis uttered those words, Washington was already changing; expressing that sentiment today would immediately get you written off as hopelessly naïve. The political process runs on people and organized interests with money: politicians need it in order to get elected; donors use it to try to get favorable legislation. And everyone knows how the game is played: legislators raise money from the industries that come under the purview of their committees, while donors contribute to those who wield the most influence over their interests and don't waste their resources on politicians who are irrelevant.

It is not at all clear what we can do about this. I don't fault politicians for raising money to run for re-election. How do you fund a multi-million dollar campaign without such contributions? Yet whether they want to admit it or not, accepting that money puts them under some obligation to donors.

I THINK THE CHASE FOR MONEY — DEMEANING TO BOTH CANDIDATE AND CONTRIBUTOR — HAS GOTTEN SO FAR OUT OF HAND THAT IT IS BEGINNING TO THREATEN REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY ITSELF.

We cannot eliminate money in politics, if for no other reason than that doing so would threaten this nation's obligation to protect free speech. Those who contribute to campaigns have a right to do so to promote their interests. I do wonder, however, who contributes to the common good. We want to make sure we have a system that allows everyone — not just the well-heeled — to express their views to their representatives and have those views treated with equal consideration.

I think the chase for money — demeaning to both candidate and contributor — has gotten so far out of hand that it is beginning to threaten representative democracy itself. And though we still haven't figured out a cure, that's not a reason to stop trying to find one.

One step in the right direction is to ensure real-time transparency of donations, so that as they come in, the public can learn about them.

This already happens in the U.S. House, where donations must be filed and made available electronically.

Astoundingly, though, the Senate has been dragging its heels on even this modest reform — when what we really need goes further: a system that gives the voter, with the click of a few computer keys, instant access to charts that line up contributions to members with their votes and earmarks. This is only difficult politically, not technologically. If Congress wants to restore public confidence in its actions, that's the direction it needs to head.

LEE HAMILTON is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The authoritarian author

IN THE 1950'S "THE AMAZING Criswell," who looked like a combination of Liberace and Bela Lugosi, was a psychic on TV. On YouTube type "Criswell on Carson" to see how genuinely bizarre he was, and how genuinely funny Johnny Carson was.

I always thought I was a decent prognosticator of sorts until 2000. Because of the unbelievably close election, I predicted that Bush would be forced to govern from the middle and, as a result, might be one of our best presidents (instead of one of our worst).

But when W started his "faith based" agenda and John Ashcroft started covering nude statues, I cringed. But, in my worst nightmares, I could never have predicted the colossal damage Bush would cause.

Because of Bush's "my way or the highway" I had no compassion during his many mishaps: like when he fell of the Segway Transporter, or choked on the pretzel, or, in China, when he couldn't find the right door to exit.

And the time Bush called on a reporter who wasn't even in the room, revealing questioners were selected in advance and his press conferences were a sham. So much for freedom of the press.

If I ever had any sympathy for W it was when publishers swarmed the White House to sign Laura's book deal while ignoring George. There was probably more interest in a book about Barney (who had bitten a reporter, confirming that dogs do take after their owners).

The consensus was that W had ruined the "Bush brand" (just ask Jeb). And yet, Crown Publishing has recently offered Bush $7,000,000 for his memoirs. (If this were Japan, he'd have been offered a hara-kiri knife.)

So temporarily Bush is back in the headlines while Cheney is all over Fox News rewriting history. The Bush/Cheney administration is like a bad horror movie. Just when you think the monster is dead, he reappears and everyone screams, or in this case, switches the channel.

The tentative title for Bush's tome is "Twelve Decisions." Jay Leno suggested an alternate title, "0 for 12." In a press release, W said the memoir would be "the authoritarian version of his presidency." Did he mean "authoritative?" Does he know the difference or was this just another Freudian slip?

Bush claims to have already written 30,000 words, which would be impressive, assuming they're in complete sentences. Being a crack reporter (as opposed to a reporter on crack) I've managed to get part of the first draft of Bush's book, which is due out in 2010. (I'm tingling with anticipation, or maybe it's just a rash.) Below is the rationale for some of his major decisions.

1) Aug. 6, 2001 PDB: "Bin Laden determined to strike in the U.S." possibly using commercial airliners to attack financial centers. But W went on vacation. Apparently the brush at Crawford was really gnarly.

2) Katrina: The issue was whether to fly to flooded New Orleans for moral support or fly to Arizona for John McCain's birthday? A no brainer. Arizona was dry and Bush loves cake.

3) 9/11 and My Pet Goat: When Bush was told the country was "under attack" he sat frozen for seven minutes, seemingly listening to the kids read. Maybe he was curious to know how "My Pet Goat" ended?

4) Iraq: Why invade a country that was not an imminent threat to the U.S., in a war that will ultimately cost $3 to $5 trillion, when your father, your secretary of state and most of the Pentagon were opposed to it? Bush's answer, "I listen to my gut." Translation: "It's beats thinking."

5) "Poppy" Bush: Bush Sr. was a war hero, Jr. a draft dodger. Sr. starred on the Yale baseball team, Jr. was a cheerleader. But, as the memoir will undoubtedly point out, Sr. was a one-term president, Jr. served two-terms. (As if we could ever forget.)

6) The Merkel Massage: W gave German Chancellor Angela Merkel a surprise (and clearly unwanted) massage at the G8 meeting in Russia. Why? He was bored and she looked tense, until the massage at which time she looked horrified.

7) Mission Accomplished: W admits the sign was a mistake, but landing on the aircraft carrier and wearing that flight suit was "awesome."

Other chapters might include: Which is the better cardio workout, jogging or mountain biking? When entertaining dignitaries at Crawford, serve hot dogs or hamburgers? Which is the greater achievement, running up the biggest deficits in history or taking the most vacations?

If "The Amazing Criswell" were alive today, he might predict that Laura's book would outsell W's. Then again, he might predict Barney's would, too. Criswell was a charlatan but harmless. I wish the same could be said of George W. Bush. On that cheery note, Happy Passover and Easter, everybody.

JACK can be reached at Jackneworth@yahoo.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?

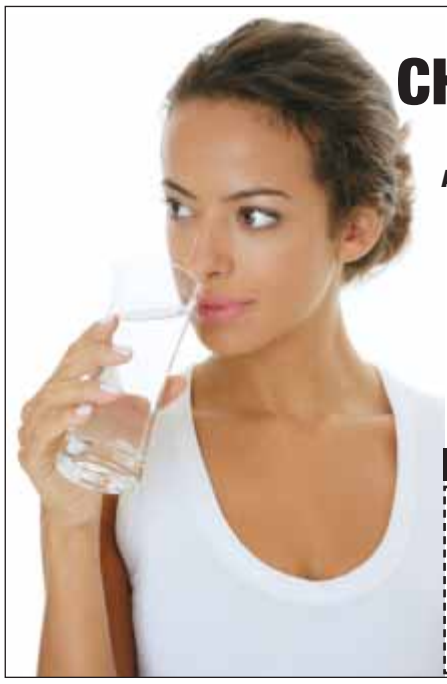
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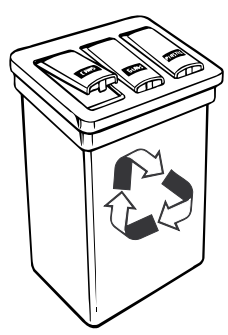
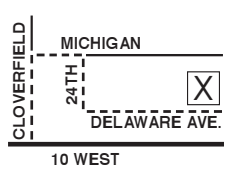
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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Cops nab couch potato

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, AT 5:17 A.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to the 800 block of Woodacres Road regarding a report of a break-in. When officers arrived, a caretaker told them that a man broke the rear glass door and entered the house. Officers located a man sleeping on a couch. He was placed under arrest for residential burglary. The suspect was identified as Richard Warren Moffatt, 66, a transient. His bail was set at $50,000.

MONDAY, MARCH 30, AT 3 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 300 block of Colorado Avenue — Sears — regarding a report of a shoplifting suspect in custody. When officers arrived, they made contact with the store's security guard who told them he observed a man hide two shirts and a watch on his person and walk out of the store without paying for the items. The security guard detained the suspect outside of the store and placed him under citizen's arrest. Officers interviewed the suspect and he was booked for commercial burglary and violation of parole. The suspect was identified as Shane Dwight Toseland, 23, a transient. No bail was set. The value of the items recovered was $58.

MONDAY, MARCH 30, AT 1:42 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2600 block of 32nd Street — Ocean Park Motel — regarding a report of a burglary. A motel employee told officers that a man who was believed to have tried to break into a guest room at the hotel the night before was seen in the area. Officers detained the man and then spoke to a hotel guest via telephone who told them that the suspect tried to enter a rear room via a window but ran off when confronted by the guest. The guest positively identified the suspect as did officers using footage from the motel's security camera. The suspect was arrested and booked for burglary. He was identified as Robert Bruce Williams, 59, a transient. His bail was set at $50,000.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, AT 6:05 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1400 block of Third Street — H&M — regarding a report of a theft in progress. When officers arrived, they made contact with store security who said they placed an employee under citizen's arrest who was suspected of stealing money from a cash register since November of 2008. Store security said the employee stole $1,200 during that time period. He was placed under arrest and later booked for grand theft. He was identified as Alexander James Feldhaus, 22, of West Hollywood. Bail was set at $20,000.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, AT 8:38 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1500 block of Second Street — Parking Structure 8 — regarding a report of an auto burglary. The alleged victim told officers that she saw a man rummaging through her glove box as she approached her car. After the man saw the car's owner, he ran, while his alleged accomplice, who was acting as a lookout, drove off in another vehicle, police said. The victim followed the vehicle until officers arrived and detained the driver. Officers searched the car and found burglary tools and electronic items believed to have been stolen, police said. Officers placed the driver under arrest for auto burglary, possession of stolen property and possession of burglary tools. She was identified as Passion Champagne Rainey, 18, from Lawndale. Her bail was set at $20,000. The alleged accomplice was not apprehended.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, AT 5:40 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1800 block of Cedar Street regarding a report of possible drug activity going on in the area. Officers contacted three females and one male at a residence. Officers learned the male was on parole, in possession of a crack pipe and a small amount of crack cocaine. The man was arrested and booked for possession and violation of parole. He was identified as Eugene Banks, 49, of San Pedro. No bail was set.

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, AT 7:48 P.M.,
Officers went to the LAPD Pacific Division to pick up a suspect wanted in connection with two residential burglaries in Santa Monica that occurred on Jan. 20, 2008 in the 600 block of Pacific and Grant streets. SMPD forensics technicians recovered DNA evidence at the scenes of the burglaries and later obtained the suspect's identity. The suspect was found by LAPD officers and detained until SMPD arrived. The suspect was taken into custody and booked for robbery. He was identified as Isael Margarito, 22, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $50,000.

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



Wells Fargo earnings surprise sends stock market surging

TIM PARADIS
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Stocks surged Thursday to their highest levels in two months after banking giant Wells Fargo & Co. surprised the market with an early profit report that blew past analysts' expectations thanks to a strong increase in its lending business.

The Dow Jones industrial average jumped nearly 250 points and major market indexes logged their fifth straight week of gains. Markets are closed for Good Friday.

Investors have been grasping at any sign of improvement in the crippled banking industry, and Wells Fargo's report Thursday that it expects first-quarter earnings of $3 billion provided an encouraging sign that a deep freeze in borrowing activity may finally be thawing. Wells Fargo said it benefited from its January acquisition of Wachovia and an increase in mortgage applications.

"The fact that Wells Fargo can have record profits despite the troubles facing the banking system tells you something," said Rick Campagna, chief investment officer at 300 North Capital in Pasadena, Calif. "It's very good news."

The Dow and the Standard & Poor's 500 index ended at their highest levels since Feb. 9 and the Nasdaq posted its highest finish of the year, giving it a gain of 4.8 percent for 2009.

The Dow rose 246.27, or 3.1 percent, on Thursday to 8,083.38.

Broader stock indicators also put up big gains. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 31.40, or 3.8 percent, to 856.56. The Nasdaq composite index rose 61.88, or 3.9 percent, to 1,652.54.

For the week, the Dow added 66 points, 0.8 percent. The blue chips hadn't logged five straight weekly gains since October 2007, when the stock market hit its peak. Since the rally began March 10, the Dow has gained 22 percent, the best performance since 1933.

Even with the rapid rise in the past month the Dow is still down by 42.9 percent from its Oct. 9, 2007 high.

The S&P 500 rose 1.7 percent for the week, while the Nasdaq added 1.9 percent.

Wells Fargo's announcement injected a decisively upbeat tone into the market after three days of choppy trading.

For most of the week stocks appeared to be taking a breather after barreling ahead in March.

Analysts see occasional pullbacks as signs of a healthy market as investors allocate money carefully instead of just following a frenzied crowd.

Bank shares had been sluggish this week following worrisome forecasts from key analysts about the bad loans they still carry on their balance sheets and other long-term woes. Major banks begin reporting first-quarter results next week.

But Wells Fargo's performance in the first quarter neutralized some of those worries. Wells Fargo jumped 31.7 percent Thursday and other major banks also barreled higher, including Bank of America Corp., which added 35.3 percent. JPMorgan Chase & Co. rose 19.4 percent, and Citigroup Inc., up 12.6 percent.

Investors were unfazed by uneven monthly sales reports from retailers and mixed economic news.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. reported lower-than-expected sales in March, sending its shares down 3.7 percent. It was one of only three stocks to fall among the 30 companies that make up the Dow industrials.

Target Corp. rose 6.1 percent after posting results that topped expectations, while teen clothing retailer Abercrombie & Fitch Co. slid 3.5 percent after its numbers came in weaker than predicted.

In economic news, new jobless claims fell more than expected last week, but those continuing to receive unemployment benefits set another high.

The total number of laid-off Americans receiving unemployment rose to 5.84 million from 5.75 million, the most on record since 1967 and more than analysts expected.

The jump in stocks came at the end of a relatively quiet week.

Investors have been worried that corporate earnings reports that have begun to trickle in could bring bad news about how companies expect the rest of the year to turn out.

But the market's tone brightened somewhat on Wednesday on reports that the government will provide support for battered life insurers and a merger deal between two major homebuilders.

Ted Aronson, a partner at Aronson-Johnson-Ortiz in Philadelphia, said Wells Fargo's upbeat preview into its earnings could place a greater burden on banks reporting results next week. Wells Fargo doesn't report its full results until April 22.

"I'm not sure everyone will be as successful, but we'd like to hope that the success will spill over," Aronson said.

The upbeat mood Thursday sent one measure of the market's unease to its lowest levels since the fall. The Chicago Board Options Exchange Volatility Index, or the VIX, ended Thursday at its lowest level since Sept. 26. That signals investors are more confident they can predict the direction of stocks.

Ordinarily what's known as Wall Street's fear gauge might be in the 18 to 20 range but it hit 89.5 in October.

Still, analysts caution that some of Thursday's buying could have reflected traders jumping to cover misplaced bets that stocks, particularly banks, would fall. Traders who sell stocks "short" are forced to step in and buy to avoid further losses.

In other trading Thursday, the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies jumped 26.08, or 5.9 percent, to 468.20.

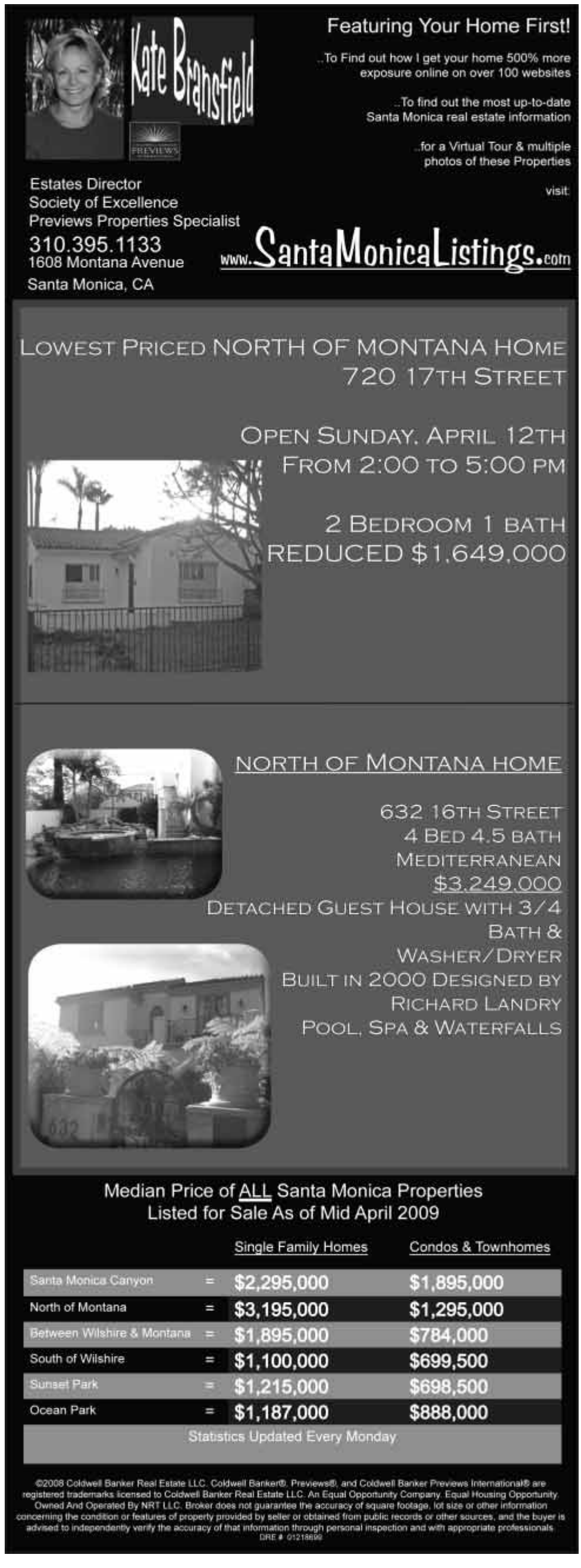
About seven stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange. Consolidated volume came to 7.3 billion shares compared with a light 5.07 billion shares traded Wednesday.

Treasury prices fell as the stock rally damped demand for safe-haven investments. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 2.92 percent from 2.86 percent late Wednesday.

The dollar rose against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

Light, sweet crude rose $2.86 to settle at $52.24 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 3.7 percent following reports that the country's ruling party is seeking a stimulus package bigger than originally announced. Britain's FTSE 100 gained 1.5 percent, Germany's DAX index rose 3 percent, and France's CAC-40 rose 1.8 percent.



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Facing hard times, Shriners may close six hospitals

KATRINA A. GOGGINS
Associated Press Writer

GREENVILLE, S.C. Shriners hospitals, which have provided free care since before the Great Depression, are considering closing a quarter of their facilities as donations stagnate, costs increase and the charity's endowment shrivels.

The group's director says it's the only viable option.

Officials at the Florida-based organization say it is siphoning $1 million a day from its endowment to balance the budget for 22 hospitals in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Meanwhile, they say, that fund has fallen to $5 billion from $8 billion in less than a year because of the sputtering stock market and a charitable giving slump that has hurt philanthropies nationwide. The fund has been declining since 2001. The group will vote this summer on the closures.

"Unless we do something, the clock is ticking and within five to seven years we'll probably be out of the hospital business and not have any hospitals," Ralph Semb, chief executive officer of Shriners Hospitals for Children, told The Associated Press.

In cities where hospitals may close, supporters and hospital staff are scheduling fundraisers and posting online messages of support on social networking Web sites.

In Greenville, S.C., Bridget Myers and her daughter are turning to churches and friends, collecting money in a bucket tagged with pictures of X-rays and Shriners patients.

"I've collected $92 dollars in two days," said Brooklynn Myers, 14, who received scoliosis treatment at the Shriners' Greenville hospital. "Me and my mom feel like it's heartbreaking we'd have to drive all the way to Lexington (Kentucky) and we've made special bonds here."

Widely known today for burn and orthopedic care for children, the Shriners Hospitals system opened in 1922 with a facility in Shreveport, La., that specialized in treating polio. By the 1960s, the group had hospitals nationwide and expanded its care to include spinal cord injury rehabilitation, cleft lip and palate care and medical research.

More than 1 million children have been treated at the hospitals, which were created by the fraternal organization of the same name whose members are known for wearing red fezzes and driving miniature cars in parades. The care is free to all.

In 2007, the fraternal group was hit with accusations it used money intended for the hospitals to throw parties — but only a fraction of the hospitals' funds are raised by the group. Most of the money to operate the hospitals has come from interest from the endowment, Semb said.

Semb said this year's operating budget for the hospital system is $856 million. The budget has risen by $100 million each of the past two years while donation levels remained static, he said.

Last month, the Shiners' board of trustees voted to close four of the group's eight research centers and lay off about 40 people at its administrative office.

At the organization's annual meeting July 6-8 in San Antonio, about 1,200 Shriners will vote whether to close hospitals in Shreveport, La.; Erie, Pa.; Spokane, Wash.; Springfield, Mass., and Greenville. Semb said they were chosen mainly because of too many vacant beds.

> **"UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING, THE CLOCK IS TICKING AND WITHIN FIVE TO SEVEN YEARS WE'LL PROBABLY BE OUT OF THE HOSPITAL BUSINESS AND NOT HAVE ANY HOSPITALS."**
>
> Ralph Semb
> Chief executive officer of Shriners Hospitals for Children

The system would shed around 225 hospital beds with the closures, according to data from Shriners hospitals Web sites.

Patients would be sent to other Shriners hospitals that specialize in their ailments.

The organization also will consider whether a hospital in Galveston, Texas — closed temporarily after damage from Hurricane Ike — will remain shuttered.

"The outlook is not good, but we know that we can right it," Semb said. "And we can within a five-year period of time get our expenses down far enough to equal the income we have coming in and hopefully start building on that endowment fund."

Closing these hospitals is the only viable option, Semb said. While members will also consider keeping all 22 facilities open — or a nationwide 30 percent budget cut — Semb contends doing either would be a death knell to the organization. He said to continue functioning as they do now with all the hospitals open, Shriners would have to grow the endowment to about $12 billion by 2014 — unlikely, given the economy and nationwide trend toward less large-sum charitable giving.

Fewer groups and individuals gave gifts of more than $1 million in 2007 compared to 2008, and such donations fell even more in the final two quarters of last year, according to preliminary findings of a study due out this summer from The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. Even when giving was more robust — from 1991 to 2005 — gifts to health care groups grew at a much slower rate than those for other entities, like universities, said Melissa Brown, associate director of research for the center.

She said the aging of once-prominent fraternal organizations might be affecting their ability to grow donations. "It could be that what they are seeing is a generational shift," Brown said.

Getting the two-thirds majority needed to close the hospitals will not be easy, Semb said.

Patients and their families are vowing to rally at the annual meeting. And some Shiners who have spent years raising money and volunteering say they'll oppose the move. They've done it before: A plan to close hospitals in 2003 was quickly voted down despite warnings of financial problems.

In Greenville, letters of support from patients cover the wall of one hallway at the 50-bed hospital.

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Obama seeks $83.4 billion in special war funding

ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama asked Congress on Thursday for $83.4 billion for U.S. military and diplomatic operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, pressing for special troop funding that he opposed two years ago when he was senator and George W. Bush was president.

Obama's request, including money to send thousands more troops to Afghanistan, would push the costs of the two wars to almost $1 trillion since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, according to the Congressional Research Service. The additional money would cover operations into the fall.

Obama is also requesting $350 million in new funding to upgrade security along the U.S.-Mexico border and to combat narcoterrorists, along with another $400 million in counterinsurgency aid to Pakistan.

"Nearly 95 percent of these funds will be used to support our men and women in uniform as they help the people of Iraq to take responsibility for their own future — and work to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al-Qaida in Pakistan and Afghanistan," Obama wrote in a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Robert Gibbs, the White House press secretary, acknowledged that Obama has been critical of Bush's use of similar special legislation to pay for the wars. He said it was needed this time because the money will be required by summer, before Congress is likely to complete its normal appropriations process.

"This will be the last supplemental for Iraq and Afghanistan. The process by which this has been funded over the course of the past many years, the president has discussed and will change," Gibbs said.

Last June, Congress approved $66 billion in advance 2009 funding for military operations. All told, the Pentagon would receive $142 billion in war funding for the budget year ending on Sept. 30.

The request is likely to win easy approval from the Democratic-controlled Congress, despite frustration among some liberals over the pace of troop withdrawals and Obama's plans for a large residual force of up to 50,000 troops — about one-third of the force now there — who will train Iraqis, protect U.S. assets and personnel and conduct anti-terror operations.

The official request was sent early Thursday evening.

The request would fund an average force level in Iraq of 140,000 U.S. troops. It would also finance Obama's initiative to boost troop levels in Afghanistan to more than 60,000 from the current 39,000. And it would provide $2.2 billion to accelerate the Pentagon's plans to increase the overall size of the U.S. military, including a 547,400-person active-duty Army.

Some Democrats were not pleased.

"This funding will do two things — it will prolong our occupation of Iraq through at least the end of 2011, and it will deepen and expand our military presence in Afghanistan indefinitely," said anti-war Rep. Lynn Woolsey, D-Calif. "Instead of attempting to find military solutions to the problems we face in Iraq and Afghanistan, President Obama must fundamentally change the mission in both countries to focus on promoting reconciliation, economic development, humanitarian aid, and regional diplomatic efforts."

But House GOP leader John Boehner of Ohio predicted that Republicans would overwhelmingly support the request, provided congressional Democrats don't seek to "micromanage" the war by adding a timeline or other restrictions on the ability of military officials to carry on the fight.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates, a holdover from the Bush administration, said, "The reality is the alternative to the supplemental is a sudden and precipitous withdrawal of the United States from both places, and I don't know anybody who thinks that's a good idea." He said, "The reality is it would put everything we have achieved in Iraq at tremendous risk, and I believe it would greatly endanger our troops."

Obama was a harsh critic of the Iraq war as a presidential candidate, a stance that attracted support from the Democratic Party's liberal base and helped him secure his party's nomination. He opposed an infusion of war funding in 2007 after Bush used a veto to force Congress to remove a withdrawal timeline from the $99 billion measure.

But he supported a war funding bill last year that also included about $25 billion for domestic programs. Obama also voted for war funding in 2006, before he announced his candidacy for president.

The request includes $75.8 billion for the military and more than $7 billion in foreign aid. Pakistan, a key ally in the fight against al-Qaida, will receive $400 million in aid to combat insurgents.

The upcoming debate in Congress is likely to provide an early test of Obama's efforts to remake the Pentagon and its much-criticized weapons procurement system. He is requesting four F-22 fighter jets costing about $600 million as part of the war funding package but wants to shut the F-22 program down after that.

Included in the special measure is $400 million for the first installment of a new program to train and equip Pakistan's military. The Associated Press reported last week that the program would total as much as $3 billion over the next five years and would include money for helicopters, night-vision goggles and communications equipment.

Distribution of the funding will be controlled by the military and will be tightly focused on improving the ability of Pakistan's military, including its Frontier Corps, to better fight insurgents hiding in safe havens along the border. It also will allow commanders to provide humanitarian relief to people affected by military operations.

The funding measure would include $3.6 billion for the Afghanistan National Army.

Obama is also seeking $30 million in Justice Department funding to implement the shut down of the facility in Guantanamo Bay holding enemy combatants.

Poor countries would receive $448 million to help them deal with the global financial crisis.

The White House wants the bill for the president's signature by Memorial Day, said a House Democratic aide.

Obama warned lawmakers not to succumb to the temptation to use the must-pass war funding bill as a vehicle for other spending.

"I want the Congress to send me a focused bill, and to do so quickly," he wrote.

Obama announced plans in February to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq on a 19-month timetable.

His new request would push the war and diplomatic money approved for 2009 to about $150 billion. The totals were $171 billion for 2007 and $188 billion for 2008, the year Bush increased the tempo of military operations in a generally successful effort to quell the Iraq insurgency.





Local squads recharge

FROM **BREAK** PAGE 3

rival. "They do play small ball, but they do have some hitters."

He also heaped praise on Windward's pitching staff, a group that he feels is the class of the league.

SAMOHI SOFTBALL LOOKS AHEAD

If the Vikings softball team is going to make noise in the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section playoffs, Head Coach Debbie Skaggs believes her players will have to maximize the 19-day delay caused by spring break to their advantage.

"We can't be complacent," Skaggs said. "We're trying to build for the playoffs and the El Segundo Tournament."

Included in the mid-season tournament will be local powers El Segundo, Torrance and North Torrance. Skaggs sees those teams as opportunities for her squad to sharpen their skills and tune up for the postseason.

"We're still working on fundamentals," she said. "We have to be able to execute, move runners around."

She feels that the Ocean League schedule shouldn't give the team problems, but is careful to note that her team is certainly a target. Her Vikings didn't allow a single run during league play last season and would like to see that trend continue. In the team's two Ocean League games, Samohi shutout both Inglewood and Beverly Hills.

"It's kind of weird to think, but we usually platoon a little bit [during league games] to give kids an opportunity to get in those situations," she said.

Her Vikings are 11-5 on the season and 2-0 in league. The next game for Samohi will come April 21 at home against Hawthorne.

daniela@smdp.com

Victim had seen suspect previously in library

FROM **PLEA** PAGE 1

local college campuses to see if there have been similar incidents.

"At this point in time we are not aware of his involvement in any other cases," Lowe said. "Obviously if anyone has information, we ask that they please come forward to the SMPD or to their local campus police because often times these types of incidents go unreported by victims for a number of reasons."

melodyh@smdp.com



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

In good health

Los Angeles County ranks among the top 10 healthiest counties in California when it comes to lung cancer, injuries, motor vehicle accidents and pre-natal care, but it is among the least healthy for heart disease and diabetes, according to a report released recently.

"These findings demonstrate some of the real successes of local public health efforts," said Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, director of public health for the county. "Local initiatives focused on prohibiting smoking in public settings, increasing compliance with mandatory seat belt and child car seat laws, and reducing alcohol and drug impaired driving have contributed greatly to improving the health of the county's residents."

The report, released jointly by the California Department of Public Health and the California Conference of Local Health Officers, shows how counties across the state compare on 30 health indicators that cover the leading causes of death, rates of infectious diseases and birth outcomes.

A ranking of one indicates that the county is the healthiest as compared to all other counties in California. Among all 58 counties, L.A. County ranked sixth in injury-related deaths, seventh in making sure mothers receive adequate prenatal care, eighth in deaths from lung cancer and ninth in deaths from motor vehicle traffic.

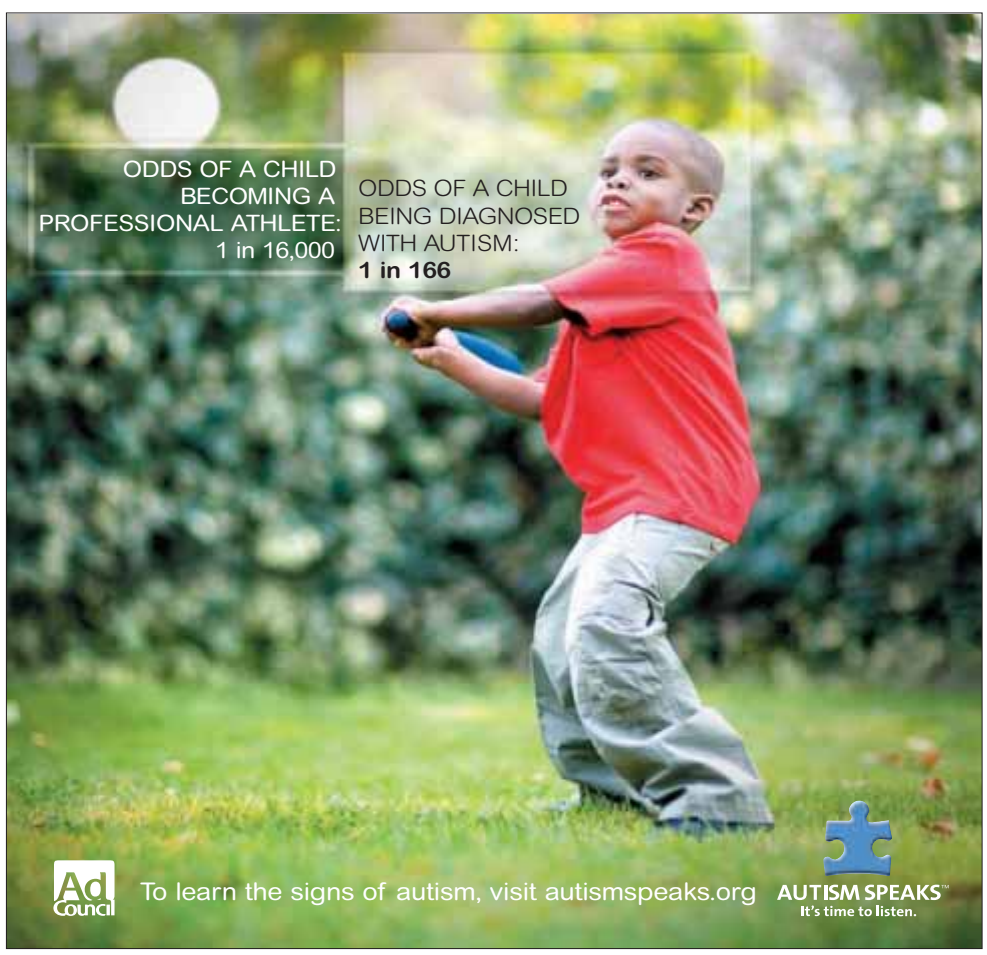
Unfortunately, the county ranks poorly in such critical areas as heart disease (48th) and diabetes (46th).

"These two diseases especially take a tremendous toll on the public's health, not only in terms of premature death, but also in terms of pain and suffering, reduced productivity, and heath care costs," Fielding said.

"One of the major risk factors for heart disease and diabetes is obesity, which is epidemic in the county. We need to work together with cities and community partners to create healthy places where families can be active together and where they can purchase healthy foods. These diseases are largely preventable with good nutrition, regular physical activity, avoidance of tobacco and access to quality medical care."

To see the complete list of rankings for Los Angeles County, visit www.cdph.ca.gov. DAILY PRESS





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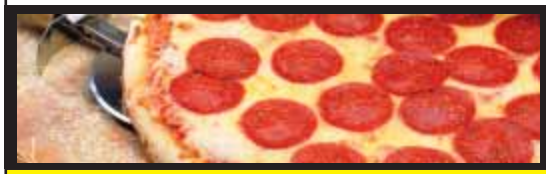
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Santa Monica's Third Street Promenade

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.

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

STANDING TALL: **Pedestrians walk underneath a ficus tree along Fourth Street on Thursday.**

New task force will advise on tree master plan for city

FROM **TREES** PAGE 1

nity, a change from the original staff recommendation that the task force be made up of representatives from the Recreation and Parks Commission, Environmental Task Force, Sustainable City Task Force, Planning Commission, Landmarks Commission and two volunteer residents. Councilmembers said they encouraged members of those commissions to apply, but wanted to leave the positions undesignated.

Councilwoman Gleam Davis said that many board members are already busy with their own meetings and might not have time to serve on the task force. She pointed out that while serving on the Planning Commission, there were times when members would meet up to three times a week, especially when it concerned the Land Use and Circulation Element, the 20-year update to the city's general plan.

"Adding another meeting to those busy schedules might not work out," she said.

City staff explored three different options, including forming a subcommittee of the Recreation and Parks Commission and a separate urban forest commission, which would advise the council on the management of the long-range master plan. The commission could be created out of the master plan.

The Santa Monica Treesavers first made the request to form a commission last year that would advise on urban forestry matters, arguing that it would open up a public input process that they believed lacked during the ficus tree controversy several years ago.

The council's action was applauded by several Treesavers, though some added they would like to see the task force expanded by a few members.

"I think this is a good first step toward the eventual establishment of the much-needed advisory Santa Monica tree commission," Jerry Rubin, the co-founder of the Treesavers, said.

Kathy Knight said that she would like to see a commission that had an equal number of residents, city staff and Recreation and Parks Commission members.

The Sunset Park resident said that she did not get involved in Santa Monica issues much until the Treesavers formed in 2007.

"Not only are (trees) beautiful, but the development is so tight, so dense that it's just (gridlock) everywhere I go," she said. "These trees are taking that carbon dioxide from those cars and turning them into oxygen."

In developing their recommendations, city staff surveyed approximately 30 cities that are members of professional organizations concerning urban forests, including Beverly Hills, Claremont, Davis, Palo Alto and West Hollywood. The survey found that approximately 17 percent of respondents have a committee of City Councilmembers that oversee urban forest matters, while approximately 10 percent have a tree subcommittee within a commission.

Mayor Ken Genser said that City Hall will ultimately need a urban forestry commission in place.

"There are so many matters and decisions that need to be made after a plan is in place … that we need some public review on that," he said.

melodyh@smdp.com

Los Angeles Times runs ad that resembles story

JACOB ADELMAN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Times lent some credibility to the phrase that you can't believe everything you read in the newspaper Thursday when it ran an advertisement resembling a news story on its front page.

The ad for the new NBC program "Southland" covers half a vertical column below the fold. It's labeled as an advertisement at the top but occupies space previously reserved for news. The text is next to a banner ad for the show at the bottom of the page.

University of Southern California journalism professor Bryce Nelson said it appeared to be the first time in recent history that an ad resembling a news story appeared on the front page of a major U.S. paper — something once featured in 19th-century papers.

"This kind of highly intrusive front page ad has not been a feature of American journalism in recent decades," said Nelson, a former national correspondent for the Times.

Like all newspapers, the Times is struggling to stay afloat as advertising revenues crater, readers cancel their subscriptions and a growing number of people get their news free on the Internet.

Aside from those industry woes, the Times' parent Tribune Co. has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The Times said the ad was designed to stretch traditional boundaries.

"The delivery of news and information is a rapidly changing business and the Los Angeles Times is continuously testing innovative approaches," a newspaper statement said. "That includes creating unique marketing opportunities for our advertising partners."

Times spokeswoman Nancy Sullivan declined to say how much the paper was paid. NBC Universal spokesman Cory Shields did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Banner ads across the bottom of front pages have become common as newspapers seek new revenue sources. Advertisements made to look like news copy are also common on inside pages of many newspapers.

The Times ad that runs below its daily Column One feature purports to be a first-person account of a ride-along with a rookie policeman.

The text is in a different font than the news stories, and a black border separates it and the banner ad from the rest of the page.

"This is a loony idea," said Ken Doctor, a news industry analyst for consultancy Outsell Inc. "It blurs the line for what you can trust in the L.A. Times and what you can't."

The Los Angeles Times is no stranger to controversy over blurred lines between news and promotion.

The paper was embarrassed in 1999 by revelations that managers secretly approved a deal to publish a special issue of its weekend magazine about the new Staples Center and split ad revenue from the publication with the sports venue.

Critics said the deal strained the paper's credibility with its readers.

Nelson said readers will also likely be confused by Thursday's TV show ad.

"I've grown resigned to front page ads in the Los Angeles Times and the New York Times, but I think this goes a good deal further," he said.

ACLU: Black barbershops targeted

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIVERSIDE A civil rights group has accused authorities in Riverside County of unfairly targeting black-owned barbershops with raids in which officers burst into businesses with guns and bulletproof vests and questioned clients without warrants.

The federal lawsuit filed Wednesday alleges the Moreno Valley Police Department, the Sheriff's Department and a state inspection board conducted searches under the false pretext that they were part of a health inspection.

"There was no evidence of criminal activity at these locations and no reason that these once-thriving businesses were singled out other than racial profiling," said Peter Bibring, a staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, which filed the lawsuit. "These raids were a blatant violation of these business owners' civil rights."

The lawsuit cites raids from last April in which Moreno Valley police, city code officers and inspectors from the California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology raided five barbershops that were owned and patronized by blacks.

At Fades Unlimited, officers ran criminal warrant checks on barbers and customers, the lawsuit claims. The ACLU said a barber who objected was handcuffed and detained in a police car for 10 minutes.

It was not immediately clear if any arrests or citations resulted from the raids.

Spokesmen for the police and the sheriff's office — which contracts with the city — refused to comment. A spokesman with the state barbering board would not comment because he had not seen the lawsuit.

Kevon Gordon, whose Hair Shack barbershop was also raided, said the officers treated his employees and customers like criminals because they were black.

"It was sickening," Gordon said in a news release from the ALCU. "I have lost good customers and had my reputation called into question in a community where I've been working for 20 years. I wouldn't wish this on anyone."

The lawsuit asks that the defendants adopt policies to protect against racial profiling and limit the role of law enforcement in regulatory inspections. It also seeks compensatory damages.

Facebook's user base hits 200 million mark

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

In less than eight months, Facebook has doubled its user base by signing up 100 million people from around the world, officially hitting 200 million on Wednesday. Its population is now higher than Brazil's and Japan's.

The ubiquitous online hangout, available only to college students when it opened in 2004, has been growing rapidly since opening up to anyone who wants to sign up.

But how long can that continue?

After a meteoric rise, News Corp.-owned MySpace has petered off and now has roughly 130 million active users, according to comScore Inc. Facebook could ultimately plateau as well. After all, while there more than a billion people connected to the Internet, that doesn't mean they all want to be on Facebook.

Still, even if it's inevitable that Facebook's growth will slow down at some point as the site runs out of prospects to convert, Facebook continues to change what it has to offer, meaning today's holdouts might decide later to join after all.

"What's striking to me is how Facebook has become a kind of dashboard for Internet users," said Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Internet and American Life Project.

He said Facebook, along with MySpace and other social sites like Orkut from Google Inc. or Bebo from Time Warner Inc.'s AOL, have clearly changed the online experience for many people.

Facebook's expansion has been peppered by growing pains, from concerns about how it handles users' private information to site redesigns that irked tens of thousands.

And just last week, the company announced that finance chief Gideon Yu would be leaving, as Facebook looks for a replacement with "public company experience" — never mind that Yu had worked at Yahoo Inc. as treasurer.

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YouTube and Universal Music Group join forces

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES YouTube and Universal Music Group are teaming up on an online music video venture that will launch later this year with Universal's entire catalog of nearly 10,000 music videos.

The companies will share ad revenue on the Vevo.com site, on a Vevo channel on YouTube and on a tailor-made video player that can be placed on social-networking pages and other sites. The free-to-view package will carry ads, including video spots of up to 15 seconds preceding the music video.

"We believe that video is the best opportunity for revenue generation right now," said Rio Caraeff, executive vice president of Universal's eLabs digital business strategy unit.

"The advertisers and brands are more comfortable with video as a vessel for their message and their advertising spend. Streaming audio is harder to monetize under an ad-driven model right now."

As an added incentive to Universal, the player will feature a button enabling users to easily buy the tunes digitally through Apple Inc.'s iTunes and Amazon.com Inc., which send most of the revenue from music sales to the labels. For now, videos will not be for sale.

Universal will spend tens of millions of dollars on the project and Vevo will be a wholly owned Universal subsidiary, Caraeff said. YouTube, a subsidiary of online advertising and search leader Google Inc., will provide the technology.

Universal, a unit of France's Vivendi SA, is the world's largest recording company and already has the most watched channel on YouTube with some 3.8 billion views since August 2006.

Doug Morris, Universal's chief executive, is in talks with the other major recording labels — Warner Music Group Corp., Sony Music Entertainment and EMI Group Ltd. — about participating in the venture.

David Eun, Google's vice president of strategic partnerships, said that previously,

> **"WE BELIEVE THAT VIDEO IS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR REVENUE GENERATION RIGHT NOW."**
>
> **Rio Caraeff**
> Executive vice president of Universal's eLabs digital business strategy unit

YouTube's relationship with major content creators like recording labels has been "fraught with tension and animosity and sometimes lawsuits."

"There hasn't been a genuine partnership that I think this model represents," he said.

In December, Warner Music pulled all of its music from YouTube, saying the payments it received did not fairly compensate the label or its artists and songwriters.

Even Neil Young jumped into the fray, arguing on his Web site that YouTube had underpaid Warner compared with other labels, resulting in a shutdown that "penalized" artists like himself.

Viacom Inc. is also suing YouTube for $1 billion, saying the site infringes on copyrights of its shows, including Comedy Central's "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" and Nickelodeon's "SpongeBob SquarePants" cartoon.

YouTube will continue to host and generate ad revenue off user-generated content, including recorded music accompanied by minimal original video, but those items won't be hosted on Vevo unless they stand out in some way, Caraeff said.

Vevo will also create other music video programming to give the service personality and edge, much like video disc jockeys, or VJs, have done on MTV, Caraeff said.

"It has to have soul," he said. "I'm not going to say we'll have VJs, but it will have a particular voice."

Kanye wants to be 'doper' person

NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK "South Park" may have accomplished the impossible — getting Kanye West to check his ego.

The Comedy Central show skewered the famously self-important rapper on its show Wednesday night, painting him as a narcissistic figure so out of touch with reality he couldn't even take a (very politically incorrect) joke.

West's love of himself and his work has been almost as integral to his image as his music: Just last year, he told The Associated Press that he was the "voice of this generation." Also recently, he was quoted as saying his greatest regret was not being able to see himself perform live.

Yet, on his blog Thursday, West appeared chastened, and ready to turn over a new leaf.

In typical all-caps mode, he wrote: "SOUTH PARK MURDERED ME LAST NIGHT AND IT'S PRETTY FUNNY. IT HURTS MY FEELINGS BUT WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM SOUTH PARK! I ACTUALLY HAVE BEEN WORKING ON MY EGO THOUGH. HAVING THE CRAZY EGO IS PLAYED OUT IN MY LIFE AND CAREER."

West said that he started stroking his ego long ago to build up his self esteem — but he now realizes he needs to "GET PAST MYSELF."

In the self-reflective post, he said that people won't take him seriously if he keeps it up (perhaps referring to his well-documented meltdowns at awards shows when he didn't win what he expected).

"I JUST WANT TO BE A DOPER PERSON WHICH STARTS WITH ME NOT ALWAYS TELLING PEOPLE HOW DOPE I THINK I AM," he said.

And perhaps to show that he's really serious about making that change, he provided a link to one of the most biting moments from the "South Park" show, and thanked the writers as well.

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West Dressed

Mariel Howsepian
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Seeking inner beauty

DURING DEHLI'S FASHION WEEK LAST month, two of the child stars from "Slumdog Millionaire" (best picture of 2008) walked the runway. At the time, Rubina Ali (Latika) and Mohammed Azharuddin Ismail (Salim) were still living in the Mumbai slum where they were discovered by casting agents. After the success of the film, the Indian government made it known that they would be giving the families of Ali and Ismail free houses.

Last week, "Slumdog Millionaire," was released on DVD, and, as I watched the film for the second time, I found myself thinking about a mischievous 8 year old I used to baby-sit named Tracey Brown.

Tracey is all grown up now, beautiful, talented, smart, kind, and funny. (Yes, it is possible for all of those traits to be found in one person.) During the past five years, she's held the titles of Idaho's Jr. Miss 2004, Miss Idaho 2006 (for the Miss America system), and Miss Idaho USA 2008, and she's currently trying to decide where to go to law school in the fall; both Baylor and Pepperdine have offered her full ride scholarships.

Last year, Tracey traveled to India with the organization Something Worth Doing, in an effort to raise money to educate children in India's untouchables caste, and was able to see firsthand the interplay of harsh reality and beauty depicted in "Slumdog Millionaire."

When I asked Tracey how the film and her experience compared, she said, "The movie did a great job of showing the true India, not just the Taj Mahal postcard picture."

Something Worth Doing was working in a village where people "are living on one glass of rice water a day," Tracey said. "They boil down the rice into its starchy water so it can be distributed to more people."

Before Tracey traveled to India, she had never been out of the United States. "Going to India made me realize that now that I have seen the reality of the world, I have an obligation to help out however I can." She would like to go back to India next year, and after law school, plans to practice International Human Rights law for a non-profit organization like the International Justice Mission or Human Rights Watch.

This is the same girl who, during the nationally televised Miss USA pageant, strutted her stuff down a flight of stairs, wearing six-inch heels, a bikini, and a faux fur coat.

It's easy to look at pageant contestants and dismiss them as beauty queens. All we see is a couple of hours of well-edited glitz. We don't see what these young women do to prepare. We don't see them going to the gym twice daily, or reading the newspaper cover to cover, or getting laws passed to help uninsured women get free mammograms.

We see sequins. We see bright colors and flowing fabric.

During the Miss America pageant, contestants spend three weeks going to charity events, dinners, and parties. Tracey says she made an Excel spreadsheet to keep track of when to wear each of her 42 outfits.

But in India, Tracey didn't need a spreadsheet to get dressed. She needed help from the village women, who folded, tucked, and pinned Tracey into a sari, as excitedly as if they were dressing her to be married. (Typically, an unwed girl wears a "salwar kameez," a straight dress over pants, but on a girl's wedding day, the older women of the village dress her in her first sari.)

IT'S EASY TO LOOK AT PAGEANT CONTESTANTS AND DISMISS THEM AS BEAUTY QUEENS. ALL WE SEE IS A COUPLE OF HOURS OF WELL-EDITED GLITZ. WE DON'T SEE WHAT THESE YOUNG WOMEN DO TO PREPARE. WE DON'T SEE THEM GOING TO THE GYM TWICE DAILY, OR READING THE NEWSPAPER COVER TO COVER, OR GETTING LAWS PASSED TO HELP UNINSURED WOMEN GET FREE MAMMOGRAMS.

"I love the sari because it's modest, looks great on everyone, and although they look similar to outsiders, women take great care in how they tie and wrap their saris; it's a very individual process. They can also express themselves with color and embroidery."

Regardless of villagers having so little to eat, one woman pulled Tracey into her hut, sat her on the bed, and went to a small, locked cabinet. Inside was a banana.

Nothing else. And the woman insisted that Tracey take it.

The more we toss around the cliché that the world is getting smaller, the more we excuse ourselves from acknowledging that we don't keep single bananas under lock and key.

MARIEL HOWSEPIAN digs black coffee, fairy tales and a man in coveralls. She lives in Santa Monica and can be reached at Mariel_Rodriguez@antiochla.edu.

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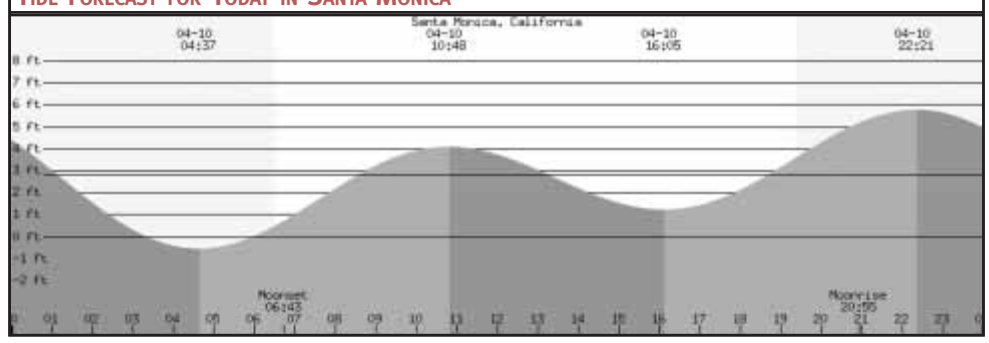
Swell Forecast (3-4 FT)

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.

Long Range Synopsis

Saturday the 11th is looking at this point like a heavy wind swell day. Models are pointing to nasty looking head high peaky junk for Saturday around west facing breaks (smaller junk at south facing spots).

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 Arlos 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
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

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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

Touch of Evil (1958) (NR) 1hr 51min
7:30

The Lady from Shanghai (1948) (NR) 1hr 27 min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

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

Fast & Furious (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:00 a.m., 1:35, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

The Last House on the Left (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
11:00 a.m., 2:10, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

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

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
11:30 a.m., 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
11:15 a.m., 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

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
11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

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
11:00 a.m., 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

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

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

Just hang out, Sagittarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Eliminate issues through direct communication and a strong sense of direction. What you are seeing is a dark or hidden side that people will not discuss. Tonight: Join a friend or loved one for dinner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Break through cobwebs in your thinking. Open up your mind, and you'll see new vistas. Your instincts work well with bosses. Understand what you really might be saying. Tonight: Network.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Prioritize, knowing you have only so much energy. Someone might be draining you — whether it is intentional on this person's part is irrelevant. Make yourself your highest priority, and you'll come out on top of the situation. Tonight: TGIF.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ How you deal with someone and your decisions make the difference with others. Your portfolio of "friendly people" in your life could be transforming. Do avoid someone who plays control games. The only way to win is not to play. Tonight: Out — introduce yourself to a new face.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ How you deal with a personal matter will define your mood. If you are feeling pushed personally, you are more likely to be distracted. Your popularity soars, and you are able to make a big difference if you are centered. Tonight: Now for your personal life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ The words you choose and the way you approach someone impacts more people than you realize. Before you express frustration, think. Stay sensitive to your own limits. You could easily take on too much. Tonight: Finally, the weekend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Balancing your budget takes unusual attention. Rather than cutting back, consider a second job or working overtime. Opportunity floats in through a loved one or dear friend. Tonight: Remember, fun doesn't have to cost.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Use your innate vitality to charge interactions and perhaps revitalize your communication. If you need to cancel a meeting or change your plans altogether, it makes no difference. Tonight: In the thick of things.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want. Say what you mean and feel, even if you dress up your thoughts with pretty words and a soft smile. Others still will get your message loud and clear. Tonight: Just hang out.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Friends, meetings and work could mix if you allow them to. On the other hand, you might separate them. Be aware of how someone looks at and admires you. Anything is possible. Don't commit to a financial investment just yet. Continue to air out ideas. Tonight: Find fun and friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Take a stand and be clear with others. You could get some flak if you don't work with someone well. Your feelings pop out. Fortunately, you have a receptive audience. Make plans with friends and perhaps a business associate. Tonight: It is Friday — need we say more?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Back off, especially if you are absolutely sure or, on the other hand, confused. Airing out ideas adds to success and can bring only more information. If in another week you feel the same way after you have put some space between you and this concept, act. Tonight: Follow the music.

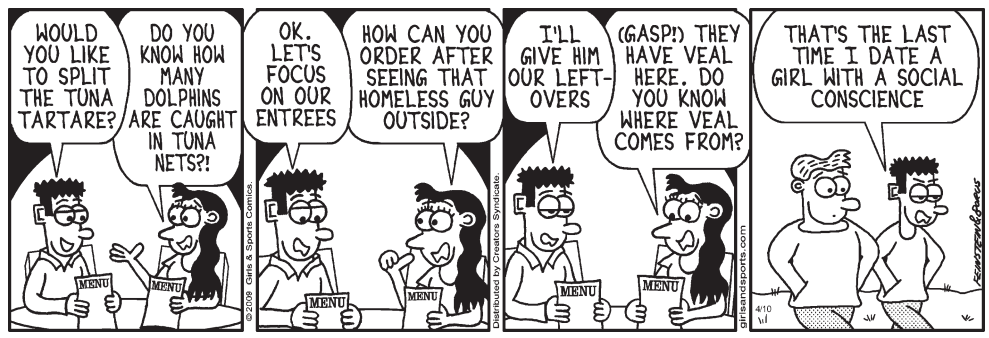
Happy birthday

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

You have a way that warms up many. Your smile draws admirers and friends. Though you might not live a magical life, much flows in an unprecedented manner. You are best off relating individually in all areas of your life. Take good risks with Lady Luck on your shoulder. If you are single, you'll meet many people with ease. You love parties. Continue to meet people, and someone will knock your socks off this year. If you are attached, allow your significant other to dominate more. He or she needs a change! SCORPIO reads you cold.

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



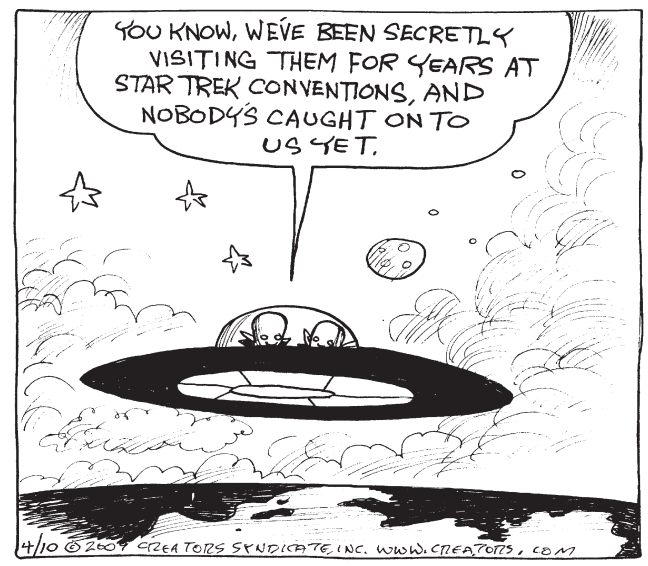
Garfield

By Jim Davis



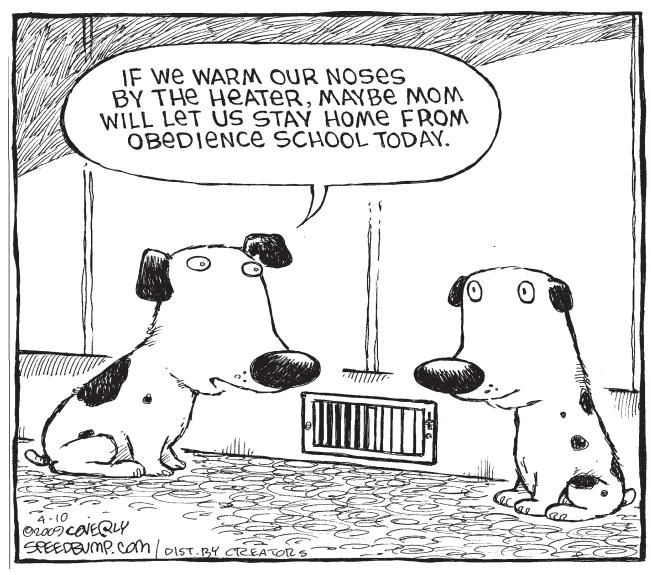
Strange Brew

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

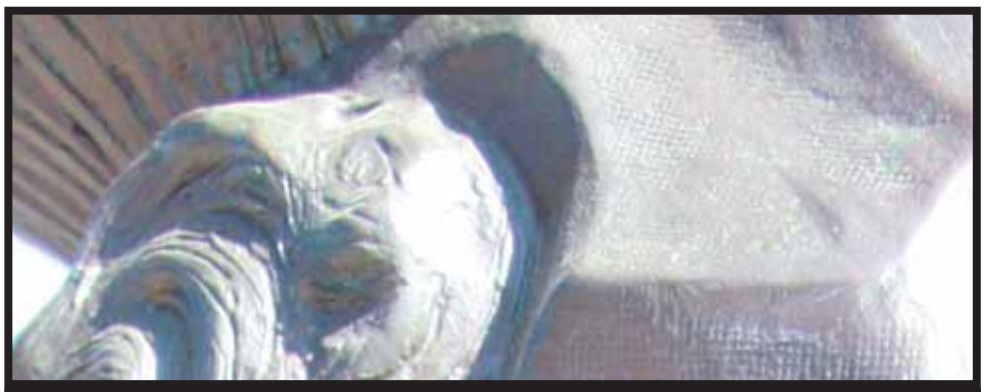
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

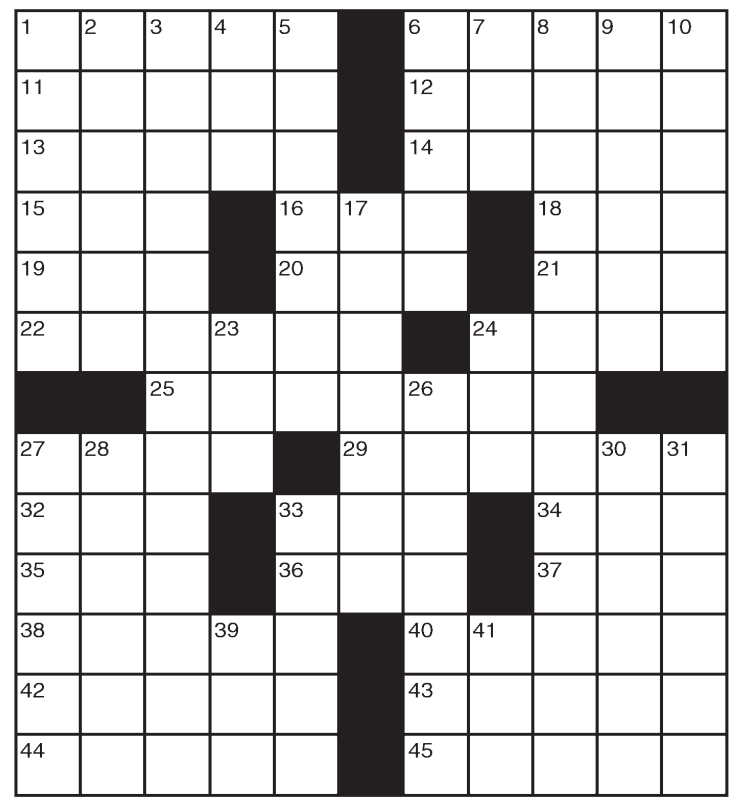
ACROSS

1 Energy type
6 Rice dish
11 Bring together
12 Chum
13 "John Brown's Body" poet
14 Woven seats
15 Diner treat
16 Candle count
18 Cut off
19 Hoopla
20 Auditor's org.
21 Pindar poem
22 Charity fundraiser
24 Miles off
25 Scrap
27 Tankard fill
29 Contaminate
32 Sprite
33 Outlaw
34 That woman
35 Female rabbit
36 Indivisible
37 Soda serving
38 Cant
40 Many new drivers
42 Useful ability
43 Hint of color
44 Convenes
45 Play direction

DOWN

1 Inferior
2 New York lake
3 Military front
4 Chowed down
5 Sells
6 Duel count
7 "— Believer"
8 Ancestry
9 To-do list
10 Cow chow
17 Like some urns
23 Fragrant tree
24 Sandy's sound
26 Frankie's co-star
27 Chaos
28 Precocious Plaza resident
30 Modify
31 Less relaxed
33 Winter wear
39 Obtain
41 German article

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4-10

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

Yesterday's answer

DAILY LOTTERY

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

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 12 18 19 21 30 Meganumber: 4 Jackpot: $8M

Fantasy 5: 5 6 13 29 33

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 3 6 0 EVENING: 2 3 4

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1.45.64

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Police were called to the Aliso (Calif.) Town Center on March 15 after a woman telephoned 911 to report being attacked near the center's fountain by another woman, who had flung her dog's feces at her and her infant. The flinger was said to be upset about complaints from passersby about the enema she was giving her dog in public.

■ Names in the News: Charged in Albuquerque in February with giving her daughter marijuana: Ms. Jodi Weed. The victim of a January beating by her middle school classmates in Tampa (for the obvious reason): Miss Special Harris. Charged with arson and destruction of property in Charleston, W.Va., in March: Mr. J. Edgar Hoover. Charged with prostitution in Tampa in February: Ms. Ho Suk Kim.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1932 German president Paul Von Hindenburg was re-elected in a runoff, with Adolf Hitler coming in second.

1957 Egypt reopened the Suez Canal to all shipping traffic. (The canal had been closed due to wreckage resulting from the Suez Crisis.)

1959 the future emperor of Japan, Crown Prince Akihito, married a commoner, Michiko Shoda.

1963 the nuclear-powered submarine USS Thresher sank during deep-diving tests off Cape Cod, Mass., in a disaster that claimed 129 lives.

1972 the United States and the Soviet Union joined some 70 nations in signing an agreement banning biological warfare.

1978 Arkady Shevchenko, a high-ranking Soviet citizen employed by the United Nations, sought political asylum in the United States.

1998 the Northern Ireland peace talks concluded as negotiators reached a landmark settlement to end 30 years of bitter rivalries and bloody attacks.

WORD UP!

impugn \im-PYOON\, *transitive verb*:
To attack by words or arguments; to call in question; to make insinuations against; to oppose or challenge as false; to gainsay.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Employment

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

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

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

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20090355562 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as EAT CHIC FOOD AND NUTRITION, 1337 BERKELEY ST, APT 2, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : EAT CHIC FOOD AND NUTRITION LLC, 1337 BERKELEY ST, APT 2, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404 This Business is being conducted by, a limited liability. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: EAT CHIC FOOD AND NUTRITION LLC, MANAGER, LARRY ROSALES
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/12/2009. 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 4/10/2009, 4/17/2009, 4/24/2009, 5/1/2009

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