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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 138

Santa Monica Daily Press



SCORING A RENTAL
SEE PAGE 7

We have you covered

THE **BRINGING HEAT** ISSUE

PREP SPORTS ROUNDUP

Skaggs records no-hitter

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

Santa Monica High School's Tyler Skaggs tossed a no-hitter against Lompoc on Monday night as part of the Lions Tournament. The Vikings won the game, 6-0.

The tall senior lefty dominated the entire Lompoc lineup en route to his first victory of the season against no losses. Skaggs, who figures to be drafted high in this year's pro baseball draft, amassed 12 strikeouts in the winning effort. This was the third time this season that he has collected a dozen strikeouts.

Every hitter with the exception of Evan Aguilar struck out at least once during the game, with four hitters striking out twice.

SEE **ROUNDUP** PAGE 10

Open mic for entrepreneurs

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN In a dimly-lit room off an alley behind the Third Street Promenade, Temitope Sonuyi jumped on stage and prepared to address the audience.

All was relatively quiet inside The Westside Eclectic, filled with just a few whispers and some giggles as eyes turned to Sonuyi.

What came out of his mouth was in stark contrast to the performers who have

SEE **MIC** PAGE 9



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

GOOD DEAL: **With the help of employee Brandon Leal, the Wise family from Wisconsin checks into the Loews beach hotel on Ocean Avenue Tuesday afternoon. Looking to attract visitors, Loews and 24 other local hotels are offering a free third night's stay, bike rental and bus passes.**

Hotels to offer third night free

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN With tourism — one of the largest economic engines in the city — taking a hit in the recession, hotels are getting creative when it comes to attracting guests.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau on Tuesday announced a new promotion in which 25 participating hotels will offer guests a free room for the third night's stay.

The "Sun, Sea, Save" program comes with a package that includes a complimentary beach bicycle rental at Perry's Cafe, a free fare card on the Big Blue Bus, and a free ride on the Ferris wheel, which altogether — but excluding the room — is worth about $60.

The hotels include everything from budget accommodations such as the Best Western Gateway Hotel to luxury rooms at Shutters on the Beach.

"There are hundreds of offers out there right now because of the economy and destinations are trying to throw discounts at hotels to put out into the marketplace," Alison Best, the vice president of sales and services for the CVB, said. "Our offer is unique because it's not just the hotel promotion, it also ensures that the visitors have a true Santa Monica experience."

The Embassy, which is located on Third Street, decided to join in on the promotion simply because other hotels were participating, Josh Bond, the general manager, said.

"The fact that all other hotels are participating made it an easier decision," he said.

Bond said that compared to previous years, the occupancy rate is down. The hotel has 28 rooms, some of which are occupied by permanent residents.

"There was a rough patch where it was worrisome but it's kind of picked back up lately," he said.

Gabriel Ratner, the acting general manager of the Oceana Hotel, said the demand for rooms has remained stable considering the economic climate, attributing the success to the fact that there are only 70 rooms at the hotel. He has noticed that guests are looking for a good deal.

He said that the promotion is about supporting the city.

"It's really important that everyone jumps on the bandwagon and support tourism in Santa Monica because I think it's a great destination," he said.

SEE **DEAL** PAGE 13



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(310) 586-0339
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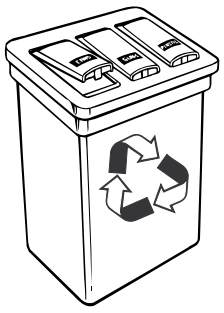
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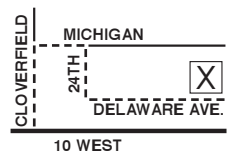


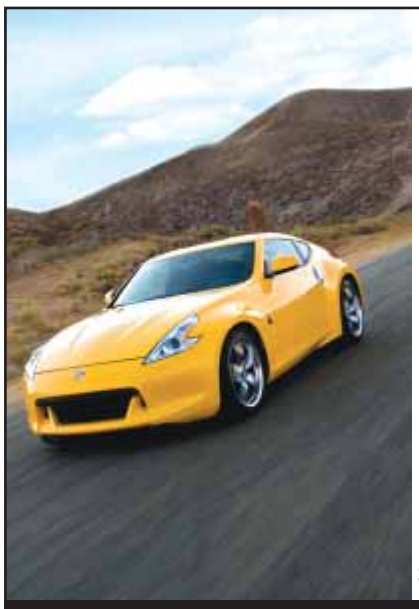
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Young artists unite
The Broad Stage, SMC
1900 Pico Blvd., 7:30
The Domingo-Thornton Young Artists Program at the L.A. Opera features young men and women at the beginning of their careers with the talent to acquire international stature. The program is recognized as one of the world's foremost training programs for emerging professional opera singers. Tickets range from $39 to $75. Call (310) 434-3412 for more information.

Spring break family flicks
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m.
For those still reveling in their spring break freedom but not sure how to waste their spare time, the Santa Monica Main Library is putting on family friendly movies to while away the hours. This week's selection is "Horton Hears a Who," a feature film inspired by Dr. Suess' whimsical tale. Call (310) 458-8600 for more information.

Thursday, April 16, 2009

Blues at Harvelle's
Harvelle's
1432 Fourth St., 8 p.m.
The oldest jazz and blues joint in Los Angeles will feature the bands The Luminous Movement and Free Will. Call (310) 395-1676 for more information.

Beer brawl
Royce Hall and participating theaters
Le Conte Ave. & Westwood Blvd., Westwood, 4:30 p.m.
"Beer Wars" shows the epic struggle between craft beer brewers and the homogenous beer giants that threaten to swamp smaller boats with their greater advertising and marketing ability. Come to celebrate and support the other kind of brew. Following the film, veteran actor Ben Stein will lead a panel of craft brewers and brew-followers to discuss the future of the industry. Call (310) 206-7540 for more information.

Bike night at the Hammer
Hammer Museum, UCLA
Le Conte Ave. & Westwood Blvd., Westwood, 7 p.m.
Get on your bicycle and head over to the Hammer for a night of bikes. Vegetarian food and a cash bar plus a musical performance accompanied by visual projections by band Telematique start the evening off. It ends with a screening of "Breaking Away," a 1979 love story with a small-town teen obsessed with the Italian cycling team. Call (310) 443-7000 for more information.

Last day for Japanese Film Festival
Laemmle's Monica 4-Plex
1332 2nd St., Call for showtimes
Thursday is the last day that the Japanese Film Festival will be running in Santa Monica before it moves east into Downtown Los Angeles. The final day will be filled with shorts and a feature film highlighting innovative Japanese filmmaking. General admission is $10. Show times vary. Call (310) 478-1041 for more information.

Sunset yoga
Santa Monica Beach
6:15 p.m.
Sunset yoga is a weekly mid-week yoga retreat to nourish your mind, body and soul. Attendees should bring mats, dress warmly, and meet on the beach near the corner of Ashland Avenue and Main Street. Classes are donation based. Visit www.graceyogala.com for more information.

Friday, April 17, 2009

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

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.





GRIM DISCOVERY

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

The body of a woman is rolled into a coroner van after leaping to her death from the top of a parking structure on Second Street just south of Wilshire Boulevard early Tuesday morning. Police blocked off a portion of Second Street for several hours to investigate.

ACLU says L.A. jail 'drives men mad'

THOMAS WATKINS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A civil rights group called Tuesday for the closure of the downtown Men's Central Jail, alleging the Los Angeles County lockup is so overcrowded and brutal that it threatens the mental health of inmates.

The conditions are "medieval and drive men mad," Melinda Bird, senior counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, said at a news conference.

Mary Tiedeman, the group's jail project coordinator, said she routinely sees inmates with "black eyes and bruised bodies" who contend that other prisoners or guards beat them. She also said she had seen dead rats and overflowing toilets in cells.

Such conditions lead to victimization and ultimately to psychic breakdown, the ACLU said, and detainees that become mentally ill often go without treatment.

The ACLU released a report compiled by a forensic psychiatrist who toured the facility and spoke to inmates.

Terry Kupers said he found severe overcrowding, with men spending as many as 22 hours a day in group cells and others subjected to prolonged periods of solitary confinement. The jail has a maximum capacity of 6,750 but currently holds about 2,000 fewer inmates than that.

Still, Kupers said inmates are given less space than mandated by the American Correctional Association and dorm rooms are so crowded there is little room for men to move without bumping into each other. Rapes go undetected, he wrote, and the mentally ill make easy victims.

"If (the rapist) selects a prisoner with significant mental illness, a loner who would not likely have friends who might retaliate, he is more likely to get away with the rape and avoid retaliation," Kupers wrote.

The report was commissioned earlier but it was released in the wake of the recent apparent suicide of John Horton, a 22-year-old inmate who was found hanging from a noose March 30 after spending more than a month in the jail on a drug possession charge.

Steve Whitmore, a spokesman for Sheriff Lee Baca, called the Horton case a tragedy and said he could not comment on any specific allegations because the death remained under investigation by the county's Office of Independent Review.

Whitmore said any allegations of violence perpetrated by guards against inmates are reviewed by the independent body and inmates can file complaints against guards without fear of reprisal.

L.A. city attorney files charges in mortgage scam case

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES City prosecutors filed charges Tuesday against a group of real estate workers accused of preying on non-English speaking homebuyers by running ads on Spanish-language radio that touted a made-up government loan-assistance program.

Prosecutors also filed a separate set of charges against a group of mortgage workers who allegedly bilked a couple by forging a mortgage refinancing application.

The first set of charges accuse three agents in a Century 21 Allstars Inc. franchise and a loan officer of using the fictitious government program to entice five homebuyers into taking out loans they could not afford, the city attorney's office said in a statement.

Once a victim agreed to purchase a home, the defendants falsified and forged loan applications by overstating the victim's income without the victim's knowledge, in order to guarantee approval of the loan.

The falsified closing documents were drafted in English, while the victims spoke and read only Spanish.

To date, all of the victims have been forced into foreclosure, and all but one lost their homes, the city attorney's office said.

Century 21 employees Joseph Villaescusa, 46, of Whittier, Isabel Gutierrez, 49, and Tony Gutierrez, 52, of Downey were each charged with nine counts, including conspiracy to commit grand theft, grand theft, and forgery.

Identical charges were filed against Ralph Rodriguez, 39, of Huntington Beach.

If convicted on all counts, the defendants each face a maximum penalty of nine years in jail and $18,000 in fines.

A message left with the Pico Rivera-based Century 21 franchise was not immediately returned. No phone listing for a Ralph Rodriguez could be found in Huntington Beach. The second set of charges were filed against four mortgage brokerage employees and a notary public who allegedly deceived a couple into applying for and obtaining refinancing in excess of the amount, interest and monthly payments they were led to believe they would receive, the city attorney's office said.

The victims later learned their signatures had been forged on many of the loan documents, and their income and assets had also been changed on many of the documents.

Liberty One Financial Group workers John DiBona, 22, Layne Nocera, 53, and Garnik Poghosyan, 30, all of Los Angeles, and Wayne Stimson, 55, of Bakersfield, were each charged with nine counts.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Failing to use common sense

Editor:

I find it hard to feel sorry for folks who chose to live on the Wilshire corridor and complain about noise from the restaurant SOUTH and other bars.

Folks, if you want quiet, Santa Monica, and Wilshire corridor, is the wrong city and wrong street. I live near the high school on Pico [Boulevard] and do not call the city every time I am awakened by a marching band. Hearing noise is part of living in the city. [Planning Director] Eileen Fogarty and her staff should take a look at noise levels from the sirens from the police and fire station or the waste transfer station if they want to experience real noise.

I have been to SOUTH many times and have observed the staff, who make an effort to have the noise under control: Doors are closed after 9 p.m., the door men keep patrons from loitering on the sidewalk and ensure that those in line keep their noise at a reasonable level.

The restaurant is in compliance yet some residents seem to complain about the sound of good business.

Residents, if you want peace and quiet use common sense and do not live near Cabo Cantina, Q's, SOUTH, Parlor or any Wilshire bar. There are plenty of neighborhoods and apartments for you to choose from these days.

Dave Alexander
Santa Monica

Supporting carbon caps

Editor:

I've read and seen a number of misleading and downright dishonest stories about carbon caps lately. Why does the media continue to lie about this vital subject? Is it because they are lazy journalists, or perhaps their corporate owners are in bed financially with big oil, big coal, and the rest of the GOP's enablers? Most of the people I know want real leadership on pollution control, the creation of jobs that can't be shipped overseas, and lessens America's dependence on dirty oil. Carbon caps do all this and more! So why doesn't the media support lower energy costs, better efficiency, and stability in the market? Is it for the same reason that Republicans want, "Obama to fail?" Our economy can't wait for what needs to be done, the environment can't wait, either!

James Heartland
Santa Monica

Seals need saving

Editor:

I'm writing to [the Daily Press] because I'm deeply concerned about the cruel way seals are getting killed for fur every year.

Sealers routinely hook live seals in the eye, cheek, or mouth to avoid damaging their fur. About 95 percent of seals killed are under 3 months old, and many may not have even eaten their first solid meal or learned how to swim before they are skinned for their fur.

There's no justification for clubbing and skinning baby seals alive. In Newfoundland, income from the seal slaughter accounts for approximately 1 percent of the province's economy, but even if it were more, there will never be an excuse for clubbing baby animals as their mothers look on in horror and fear.

The seal slaughter is not a subsistence trade for native peoples; it is an off-season profit venture for fishers off Canada's East Coast. Inuit seal hunting accounts for only about 3 percent of the slaughter.

Please help us stop this cruel activity.

Mitsuka Thiem
Palms



Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Part II: A man by any other name

LAST WEEK I BACK-HANDED MODERN day binge and purge feminism. This week I'm monkey slapping upon the australopithicene antics of my own antediluvian gender tribe. Feminists complain that "there are no real men left to date." First of all let's just ignore the reverse applicability of this inferential feminist premise. Have feminists ever pondered that there might be "no real women" available for men to date at the outset of their original complaint?

Now the term "real men" is loaded with an exponential array of viscous variables that I won't attempt to discuss in light of feminism's ever changing point of spew, but I'm a reasonably self-sufficient, smart-alecky chap who has made every conceivable boneheaded miscalculation in sapient mating rituals that any other male tree swinger can possibly make. This therefore makes me a bona fide expert of what not to do.

Gentlemen: A dishearteningly fair portion of you out there are wusses, abject total wusses, as a matter of fact, with a distinct inability to cowboy up and be unpopular. Learn to say "no" early in a relationship. Saying "yes" for the debasing benefit of simple female appeasement only demonstrates a definitive dearth of your primary sex characteristics.

You might be unpopular for saying "no" but at least you will be respected. Machiavelli was pretty clear on this subject.

Gentlemen: If you are dating, stop wearing your mother's apron strings as a necktie while channeling her through your girlfriend in some grotesque attempt to return to the uterine comforts of your childhood. Note to self: Your girlfriend is not your mother! She is not the MILF you've been waiting for, OK? While you are socially scavenging about for "Ms. Right" or even "Ms. Right-Now," remember that maid service is infinitely cheaper than divorce and less embarrassing than a messy, videotaped break-up that winds up on the blooper reel of "COPS."

Gentlemen: Buy a belt! Its purpose is to keep your pants from falling down while you are running away from the police during a videotaping of "COPS."

If you are over the age of 30 and still insist on "keepin' it real" by calling yourself "B-Rad" instead of using your given name of "Bradley" while disturbingly attired like an Eminem/Tupac gangsta-wannabe then you are in serious need of a a stylish pimp slap with a rolled up phone book. Lose the skateboard, too.

Real women prefer men who are cocky, well groomed, smell nice and have this stupid thing called a job. A feminist will prefer you otherwise. It gives her something to fix other than herself. Remember to brush both of your teeth. First impressions are important. Check to see if she has brushed both of hers, too. Shaved legs are optional … hers not yours.

Gentlemen: Learn to cook … for yourself. Most modern femi-fascists consider the kitchen a place of oppression and social injustice. Good, as most internationally acclaimed chefs are men and most modern feminists are only capable of burning salad or nuking a bag of vegan soy-popcorn, this territorial acquisition provides you with a new playground to further exercise your genetically superior male dominant expertise.

If, however, you are truly clueless in the culinary arts and are looking for a shortcut method that does not involve a late night drive-thru window, then invest in the cookbook "Two Dudes, One Pan" by Shook and Dotolo. C'mon, gentlemen, how difficult can cooking really be? After all, Sarah Palin can not only cook, she usually has to hunt dinner down and skin it beforehand. She is, however, not a feminist. They don't do yoga in Alaska.

Gentlemen: Treat 'em nice! This translates to, "do not try to sleep with [their] girlfriends." If the saying, "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned" is the sulfuric branch-chained amino acid index within the female DNA revenge helix, then entwine your porn-poisoned mind around the scorching notion of five or six well-scorned banshees chasing you down the Third Street Promenade swinging flaming pillowcases filled with brass doorknobs at your head. I know that I'd drop a dollar in the tip bucket to see how that sideshow ends.

Gentlemen: There is this very important word that starts with the letter "L" that men and women get all mushy over but don't seem to have the stomach these days to digest anymore. It's called "loyalty." It's the first and only ingredient you'll ever need for any successful relationship. And I'm not talking about doggie-style loyalty as dogs sniff each others behinds when they make "friends." Those are not my flavor of friends and I certainly wouldn't want one for a mate, would you?

Gentlemen: Keep loyalty nailed to your spine while everybody else is losing theirs. Spend it thriftily as there are no discount coupons, but if you invest well then it will never run out nor ever run away.

STEVE BREEN is like Mary Poppins, practically perfect in every way, and is still the "best looking mailman at the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

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WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Shiver me timbers, ninjas

WHEN I FIRST HEARD AN AMERICAN SHIP, the Maersk Alabama, had been attacked by four pirates off the coast of Somalia, I thought I bumped my head and woke up in 1815. And I wondered if these pirates ever really thought they'd get away with a single dollar of ransom money when the biggest, fastest, most powerful maritime fleet in the history of the world — also known as the United States Navy — would be chasing them. As I read more and more about modern Somali pirates, bands of whom have been making millions of dollars holding hijacked ships for ransom, an ugly picture of these four pirates began to emerge and the answer to an age-old question became crystal clear.

To believe that you and three of your friends could actually make money by hijacking an American cargo ship using nothing more than a few AK-47's and the element of surprise, you've got to be young, stupid, high on drugs, or some combination of the three.

As a matter of fact, the four hijackers were all between 17 and 19. As a matter of culture, it's unlikely they had much (if any) education. And as a matter of custom, Somali men often chew khat, a narcotic leaf that produces an amphetamine-like rush followed by a depressing crash. Basically, we were dealing with the Somalian equivalent of teenage tweakers who dropped out in the ninth grade, so it's no big surprise that their plan wasn't very well thought out.

When we think of these pirates as drugged-up high school bad boys, it becomes easier to understand why they made so many mistakes that would have seemed so obvious to anyone who has been around longer than two decades or so. For example, a crewmember stabbed a 17-year-old in the hand when the Alabama was first boarded last Wednesday, despite the fact that the kid was armed with a semi-automatic rifle.

To that crew member, that pirate probably looked more like his son's friend from little league than a bloodthirsty killer; and when you get to be a certain age, a scared teenager looks like a scared teenager — even if he's holding an AK-47. You've got to be pretty stupid to bring a gun to a knife fight and lose, but that's exactly what happened. By Sunday morning, when his hand had become infected, this kid was the first one to turn himself in — and I wouldn't be surprised if the ship's medic cleaned his wound, dressed it with fresh bandages, and gave him a Popsicle.

The teenager in charge of this ragtag group didn't do much better. Time after time in decision after decision, he made the wrong call. Even though they had gotten the drop on the Alabama's unarmed crew, they let the ship's captain, Richard Phillips, convince them to take him hostage, let the crew and the ship go, and try to make their escape (four pubescent pirates and the captain) in an 18-foot enclosed lifeboat. Somehow they got it in their minds that they could negotiate a $2 million ransom for the captain (and their successful escape with the money) from a dinghy. Amazingly, they didn't tie the captain up at first — a move that was revealed to be a mistake when he jumped into the water and tried to swim to freedom on Friday.

A few days later when the seas got choppy and they began to run out of fuel, food, and khat, they had no choice but to accept the Navy's offer to tow them. So by Sunday evening, the 18-foot lifeboat was tethered to a 600-foot warship and Navy SEAL snipers had the three pirates' heads in their sights. Over about 90 minutes, the towline got shortened to 75 feet. Then, in a moment straight out of a Tom Clancy novel, two of the three pirates popped their heads out of a hatch at the exact same time the third pirate was seen pointing his weapon at the captain's back. Three shots, three kills, and a quick extraction later, the captain was safely aboard the USS Bainbridge — and it was all over. Not since Michael Palin's Ken in "A Fish Called Wanda" have I seen such total incompetence in a criminal enterprise that it makes a tragic death seem comically predictable. But as hard as I've tried, I can't see with any other way this could have ended.

Which brings us back to that age-old question: would you rather be a pirate or a ninja? I can imagine this may have been difficult to answer 200 years ago when, historically, pirates were at the top of their game. But not now. Today, it's not even close. The fact that the three pirates left in the lifeboat were all taken out simultaneously by ninja-esque sniper shots to their heads proves the question can only be answered one way. Put simply, a ninja could easily be a pirate, but no matter how hard he tried, a pirate could never become a ninja.

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider living in Santa Monica who likes John C. Reilly to play the title role in the inevitable "Lifeboat to Somalia: The Richard Phillips Story." His columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

The Q Line

Taxing issue

As if times weren't hard enough, the county sales tax recently increased making big purchases all the more difficult while putting more pressure on families looking to save money.

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Will the sales tax increase cause you to think twice when it comes to making big-ticket purchases?

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TECHNOLOGY

Intel says PC sales improving

JORDAN ROBERTSON
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Intel Corp.'s first-quarter profit blew past Wall Street's grim forecasts as the chip maker's CEO proclaimed Tuesday that personal computer sales "bottomed out" and have started recovering.

Intel's optimistic comments were notable because it was the first technology company to report earnings for the first three months of 2009. However, Intel let investors down by not giving specific revenue guidance. It's not yet clear whether people are buying significantly more PCs, or whether Intel is mainly benefiting from computer makers replenishing their chip inventories, which had been whittled to low levels.

Intel shares were down 76 cents, 4.8 percent, at $15.25 in after-hours trading. The shares had gained 3 cents to close at $16.01 before the earnings report.

"The numbers are good — there's nothing wrong with the results they posted. The guidance is where people are finding disappointment," said Doug Freedman, an analyst with Broadpoint.AmTech. "They're continuing to highlight a rather large degree of uncertainty, both in terms of revenue and gross (profit) margins."

The Santa Clara, Calif.-based company's net income of $647 million, or 11 cents per share, was less than half what the company earned in the same period last year. But analysts polled by Thomson Reuters were expecting far worse. They had forecast profit of just 3 cents per share. Some analysts even predicted Intel would lose money for the first time in nearly 25 years.

Intel said its profits were helped by a tax rate that was much lower than expected — 1 percent instead of the 27 percent that was forecast.

Intel's sales of $7.1 billion were about $100 million higher than estimates.

"We believe PC sales bottomed out during the first quarter and that the industry is returning to normal seasonal patterns," said Intel's CEO, Paul Otellini, said in a statement.

Intel said it was too hard to predict its financial results for the second quarter, so the company would only offer that revenue will likely be flat from the first quarter, and gross profit margin will be in the "mid-40s" as a percentage of revenue. Gross margin measures how much money a company makes once the cost of making its products is stripped out. It's particularly important for chip makers, which have heavy manufacturing costs.

> **"THE NUMBERS ARE GOOD – THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THE RESULTS THEY POSTED. THE GUIDANCE IS WHERE PEOPLE ARE FINDING DISAPPOINTMENT."**
>
> **Doug Freedman**
> Analyst with Broadpoint.AmTech

Intel's gross margin in the first quarter was 45.6 percent. That was down from 53.1 percent in the fourth quarter — a sign that Intel is running its factories at less than full capacity to account for soft demand.

As the world's largest semiconductor company, Intel's results help gauge demand for personal computers, and are a proxy for the health of overall technology spending.

When times are good, consumers and businesses buy more PCs, which leads PC makers to buy more of Intel's chips. When times are tight, PC makers clamp down, and Intel's sales fall. This recession is bearing that out: Computer sales fell slightly in the fourth quarter of 2008, according to market tracker IDC, the worst performance since 2002.

Analysts were expecting PC makers to loosen their purse strings a little in the first quarter because they need to replenish their pipelines of chips after burning through inventory to save cash over the last few quarters.

Intel owns about 80 percent of the world's PC microprocessor market, and has been stealing share from smaller rival Advanced Micro Devices Inc. with the Atom chip. Atom is Intel's first microprocessor for "netbooks," which are mini-laptops that do less than regular laptops, but are very popular because they also cost less.





Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

You shoot, you score a rental

YOU GLANCE RIGHT, THEN LEFT. NEXT your eyes focus on the defender in front of you as your feet dance around him. You dribble the ball another five feet, stop, turn on a dime. Moving past the next defender, you look at the clock and notice the time — five seconds, fourth quarter.

Quickly you feed the ball to your teammate who takes a step and passes it back to you. In position to score, you take one last glance at the clock which reveals two seconds left to play. It all comes down to this moment, the crowd's cheers fall on deaf ears and for a moment everything on the field slows to a stop.

Focused like an eagle on its prey, you take one last step and shoot at the goal. Just as the ball touches the tips of the keeper's fingers, you see him fall back past the goal line. The referee blows the whistle.

The end game bell sounds, the goal is good and you have just won the game for your team. You have beaten your competition with skill and finesse.

This soccer game example emulates life; you are always struggling to be better than your competition. When renting an apartment you are competing against other perspective tenants. The best way to beat your competition while apartment hunting is to be prepared with four important criteria: credit, deposit, references and a job.

I will start at the beginning. If you are renting an apartment, you are going to have to fill out a rental application. On that application the property owner is going to ask for basic information such as your name, current income, and at the bottom, there is going to be a section that authorizes them to pull your credit.

Some credit blemishes are worth explaining. Most people understand that there are times in life when things go awry. A problem such as not making your car payment on time because you went out of town to take care of a sick family member is justifiable.

Life happens and most people understand that, however, what an owner does not want to see is multiple problems over and over again on the credit report. If you are consistently making late payments, you will most likely be consistently late paying rent. At least that is what the owner will think.

Moving is not easy, it costs a lot of money and takes a lot of time. I remember the hardest thing to get together on my first apartment was the security deposit. A security or rental deposit is usually a lump some of money that equates to two months worth of rent, however, sometimes renters will find move in specials that have low deposits. The reason rental deposits are needed is simple: collateral. Property owners need some kind of collateral to protect themselves from damages to an apartment. As much as rental deposits are a pain to get together, they are important.

So you have good credit — or a way of explaining any derogatory credit items — and a security deposit, now you need some references. Obviously, if this is not your first apartment, the former property manager is one of the best references you can furnish, as they will tell the new owner if you pay on time and are a credible tenant.

If you meet the criteria for renting thus far, you are almost home free. One of the last important criteria to meet is whether or not you have a steady source of income.

SOME CREDIT BLEMISHES ARE WORTH EXPLAINING. MOST PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE TIMES IN LIFE WHEN THINGS GO AWRY. A PROBLEM SUCH AS NOT MAKING YOUR CAR PAYMENT ON TIME BECAUSE YOU WENT OUT OF TOWN TO TAKE CARE OF A SICK FAMILY MEMBER IS JUSTIFIABLE.

A permanent job is helpful, but not necessary. What is necessary is proof of income. If you own a small business and are paid sporadically, there is no reason why you should not qualify for an apartment. You just need to show that you are paid "x" amount of money over "x" amount of time. Usually this means the owner will have to average out the amount of money you make, but this is a simple calculation. What is important is making enough money to cover the rent. Owners know that people need money to live. Furthermore, they are aware that the government takes a percentage of your gross income, as do car payments, groceries and other living expenses, which is why they want tenants to make an income that is three times the actual rent.

If you clear the hurdles for renting which include good credit, a security deposit, references and a job you will probably have no problem renting an apartment.

MIKE HEAYN is a Commercial Loan Consultant, specializing in Multi-Family Lending. He can be reached at (310) 428-1342 or e-mailed at maheayn@yahoo.com.

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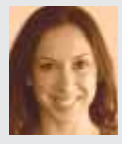


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RETAIL

Economy still vulnerable as sales fall

JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The recession is easing? Not so fast. An unexpected drop in sales of just about everything from cars to clothes sent a sobering message Tuesday: The economy is still vulnerable.

That cautionary guidance was seconded by President Barack Obama and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, though they had encouraging words as well. Bernanke spoke of "tentative signs" that at least the economy is declining more slowly, and Obama repeated his recent analysis that he sees "glimmers of hope."

With Americans still losing jobs by the thousands, a major fear is that people will cut back even further on their spending, and that could plunge the economy into a sharper tailspin.

Tuesday's report that retail sales fell 1.1 percent in March deepened concern.

Improvements in a string of other economic reports over the past few weeks — including home and auto sales, home building and other consumer-spending barometers — had raised optimism that the economy's descent might be slowing.

Obama and Bernanke cited those improvements in separate speeches Tuesday. But they also made clear the economy is not out of danger and that potential pitfalls lie ahead.

"By no means are we out of the woods just yet," Obama warned in a speech at Georgetown University. "The severity of this recession will cause more job loss, more foreclosures and more pain before it ends. Credit is still not flowing nearly as easily as it should."

Bernanke, speaking at Morehouse College in Atlanta, said, "Recently, we have seen tentative signs that the sharp decline in economic activity may be slowing." But he, too, cautioned that hopes for a lasting recovery hinge on how soon the government succeeds in bolstering the financial markets and stimulating more normal borrowing by consumers and businesses.

"We will not have a sustainable recovery without a stabilization of our financial system and credit markets," he said.

Both Bernanke and Obama said progress is being made on that front and policymakers will keep working to ease financial and credit stresses.

Historically, the path to any economic recovery isn't a straight line. It's often marked by lurches both forward and backward.

"I liken it to a lawnmower engine that hasn't been started in a while," said Richard Yamarone, economist at Argus Research Corp. "You're going to get some sputtering of activity, and you'll get a couple of false firings as well."

Yamarone and many other analysts believe the economy in the April-to-June quarter is still declining, perhaps at a rate of 2 to 2.5 percent, but not nearly as much as it had been earlier.

The economy shrank at a 6.3 percent rate in the final three months of 2008, its worst showing in a quarter-century. Some economists estimate it fared about as poorly in the first three months of this year; others estimate a 4 to 5 percent rate of decline. The government will release its initial estimate for first-quarter economic activity at the end of April.

Even in the best-case scenario that the recession ends later this year, the jobless rate, now at a quarter-century high of 8.5 percent, is expected to climb to 10 percent by the year's end. People either without jobs, or fearful of losing them, tend to drag down consumer spending.

A big drop in auto sales led the March decline in retail sales. Business was way down at clothing stores, appliance outlets and furniture stores, too.

Still, analysts say there's reason to hope for better times ahead.

Shoppers' appetites should get a lift from the tax credits of $400 per worker and $800 per couple in the government's $787 billion economic stimulus package. Most workers in April started seeing a $10 bump in their weekly paychecks. That money will probably help boost retail sales, possibly in April but more likely in May and June.

As for the March sales decline, some analysts didn't think it was quite as bleak as it looked.

Part of the decrease was simply because prices have fallen, depressing sales totals. And because of the late Easter holiday, which fell in April this year, shoppers probably delayed some of their shopping.

Given such volatility, Frank Badillo, senior economist at consulting group TNS Retail Forward, said he looked only at the combined January-through-March retail sales figures, which were in line with his expectations.

"I don't see any reason for alarm in these numbers," Badillo said.

Some analysts said they remain hopeful the economy will actually start to grow again later this year, possibly in the final quarter.

"We are transitioning and zeroing in on a bottom," said Ken Mayland, president of ClearView Economics. "The first thing for a recovery to occur is that the hemorrhaging has to stop. We are seeing the hemorrhaging substantially slow down."

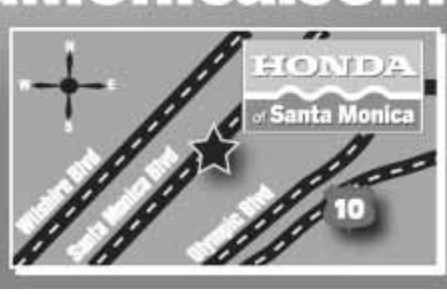
But if any renewed credit clog were to form, or if problems in the banking system were to deepen, confidence could be shattered, and the economy could sink into a deep slide again. Another threat would be a collapse of General Motors Corp., which would send many more to the unemployment lines.

Though progress is being made, "it does not mean that hard times are over," Obama said. "2009 will continue to be a difficult year for America's economy."

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Bloblive allows entrepreneurs to share their ideas with others

FROM MIC PAGE 1

taken that same stage at the comedy club before him, talking of Web applications and advertising instead of cracking jokes.

After the one-minute pitch about his venture — an advertising tool that allows business owners to market via text messages to their customers — the mic turned to the audience where the fellow entrepreneurs began offering their suggestions.

It was open mic night, but for entrepreneurs eager to receive feedback on their ideas.

"There's a lot of smart people in there, a lot of good ideas here and people who know more than me or know different things than I do," Sonuyi, the co-founder of Duffled, said.

He was one of several dozen people who took the stage during Bloblive at the Westside Eclectic on Monday, sharing innovative ideas that ranged from starting an online collaborative and interactive storybook for social networking sites, to an online forum that seeks to connect the outdoor anti-gymnasium fitness types.

The event, which started about six weeks ago in the Los Angeles and Philadelphia regions, is an offshoot of Ideablob.com, a Web site that allows aspiring entrepreneurs to post their ideas for a chance to win a monthly $10,000 prize.

Sponsored by Advanta Bank in Philadelphia, the site has given out about $150,000 in prizes over the past 17 months. Approximately 80 percent of the winning business ideas have related to socially-conscious ideas.

Called the out loud and offline version of Ideablob.com, Bloblive has been held about eight times in both metropolitan areas since it launched, including at SOUTH on Wilshire Boulevard last month. The event on Monday, which drew about 75 people, was co-sponsored by MaxGladwell.com, a site founded by Rob Reed that focuses on social media and green living.

"Instead of submitting the idea to the Web site, people can come up in front of others and share any kind of entrepreneurial idea," Erick Brownstein, the MC and L.A. organizer for Bloblive, said. "It could be for-profit, nonprofit, it can be for a new business they just thought of 10 minutes ago."

Brownstein said he intends to organize a Bloblive event in Santa Monica and other L.A.-area venues every month, eventually expanding it to other cities across the country.

While the first event is free, members are required to pay $20 a month for unlimited access. The membership also includes a pitch coaching session.

Among the presenters was Gini Graham Scott, a Santa Monica resident who explained an idea to promote her recently published book by producing several video chapters.

She said the book — "Want to see it, get it!" — is similar to the "The Secret" by Rhonda Byrne, a best-selling self-help book that encourages its readers to focus on positive thinking to realize results.

Her idea drew some comments from the audience, including one who suggested that she use a distribution company for the video chapters.

A live feed of comments from blob users from across the country who were watching a video stream of the event was projected behind Scott as she discussed her book, showing suggestions and opinions about the idea.

"Sounds just like 'The Secret,' how are you different?" one online user asked.

Scott, who has written several books, said she attended her first Bloblive event last month at SOUTH where she mentioned that the book, which has since published, is due out soon.

The Bloblive member said that she believes the events are useful for getting the word out about a business, but feels they should be moved to a bigger location, pointing out that there was little space at the theater, which made networking more difficult.

"I think when you see how the project resonates with other people, you can modify it accordingly," she said.

Patrick Ford, who has been attending Bloblives around the Los Angeles area since its launch, said the events are a perfect opportunity to meet and bounce ideas off innovative people.

The Mar Vista resident sat in the audience with a small yellow index card in hand, containing a list of entrepreneurial ideas, from a video game company to an online comedy training business.

What he presented was an idea to create an online "story board" that would allow its users to easily produce videos by inserting photos and clips into appropriately labeled spots that have been predesignated.

For example, a user who wants to create a wedding video can ask their guest to directly upload shots and clips they have from various moments, whether it's the procession or cake-cutting or the bouquet toss, Ford, a self-professed serial entrepreneur, said.

Ford said that he didn't feel nervous speaking in front of the audience, noting that he has made dozens of presentations to venture capitalists.

The difference with the Bloblive is that it's a "quick hit," he said.

"This is a way to meet more people and hear new ideas," he said. "You never know where the next great idea will come from."

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Crossroads faces Animo Leadership

FROM **ROUNDUP** PAGE 1

Skaggs did not allow a single walk the entire game, but did allow a runner to reach on an error. He faced one batter over the minimum as a result.

With the win, Samohi improved to 9-7 on the season and 1-1 in Ocean League play. The win was the Vikings' third victory in a row, all coming during the Lions Tournament. Lompoc's record is now 10-6 overall and 3-1 in Los Padres League play. The loss was Lompoc's third in a row.

SAMOHI LOSES CLOSE ONE TO GAHR

Coming off the strong performance by Skaggs, Samohi had a bit of a let down on Tuesday against Gahr in the fourth game of the Lions Tournament. The Vikings fell, 4-5, but not before making it interesting in the bottom of the seventh inning.

With a man on first, the first baseman for Gahr snagged a line drive and stepped on the bag to record a double play and end the game.

"Hitting was really good going in to today, but we didn't really get the situational hitting that we wanted early in the game," Head Coach Rob Duron said following the game. "The thing (the team) did today was respond well to the adversity.

"We started to hit late in the game, but it just wasn't enough."

The Vikings are now 3-1 during the tournament, but will not be participating in the title game tonight. Instead, the Vikings will take on an opponent that has yet to be announced today. The time and location will be announced early today.

Because Duron has used most of his regular starters during the tournament, he has yet to decide who will be starting. Skaggs, Alonzo Gonzalez, Adam Padilla and Andrew Montanari have all started one game during the tourney.

"We're playing this kind of like we are in the playoffs," Duron said of his pitching rotation. "Our pitching is getting pretty thin."

CROSSROADS BASEBALL RETURNS TO ACTION

Following a week layoff for spring break, Crossroads' baseball team is set to return to action today against Animo Leadership at Clover Park at 3 p.m.

The Roadrunners, 9-2 on the season, are currently riding a modest two-game winning streak. Animo Leadership is 7-4. The team is currently ranked ninth in SoCal's CIF-SS Division VI.

Crossroads will take to the road to take on Brentwood on Thursday at 3 p.m.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

• Crossroads softball takes on Animo Leadership at home today at 3 p.m.

• St. Monica's baseball team, which is currently taking part in the St. Paul Easter Tournament, will play today but the opponent has yet to be determined.

• New Roads' softball will play Windward on the road at 3:15 p.m.

• New Roads' baseball team will play a game as part of the Vasquez Tournament. The location and opponent have yet to be determined.

daniela@smdp.com



Benjamin Brayfield *news@smdp.com*

BRINGING IT: **Tyler Skaggs pitching against the Braves at Lompoc High School Monday. The Vikings won the game, 6-0. The Vikings' record is 9-7.**

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May 8	Steel Pulse
May 15	The Robert Incelli Band
May 22	Queen Nation
May 29	Hollywood U2
June 5	World Classic Rockers
June 12	The Police Experience
June 19	The English Beat
June 26	Atomic Punks
July 3	Lowrider Band
July 10	Eek a Mouse
July 17	The Romantics

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NICE AND CLEAN

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Stylist Camron Colins washes Melissa Wadding's hair at Hair Cafe on Fifth Street Monday afternoon. The salon hosted a complimentary 'Color and Haircut Makeover' for underprivileged single mothers and single fathers who temporarily reside in the Upward Bound Shelter.

CVB unveils new package to help hotels book rooms

FROM **DEAL** PAGE 1

Dick Bassler, a travel agent with Lets' Travel, said he believes the promotion could have an unintended consequence that he has seen experienced by the airlines where consumers wait until the last minute to book, waiting out for a better deal.

"The hotels and tour companies are trapped because once they start doing this, they have to start eating those rooms … because they trained the public again (to wait) until the last minute to get deals," he said.

He called it a "cat and mouse game."

The CVB plans to market the promotion through an online campaign, Kim Baker, the director of marketing, said, pointing to statistics that show 85 percent of consumers book their travels on the Internet.

Best said that despite a recession, she believes that tourism will pick up again in the summer, especially among European travelers and West Coast residents.

"I think the European travelers are still fully excited about traveling to the U.S. and California in general," she said. "The dollar works for them against the Euro right now."

melodyh@smdp.com

Daily Press readers get 20% off, when calling for tickets! Mention code "LISZT"

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Boris Brott, Conductor

Arnaldo Cohen, piano

April 26, 2009, 4:00 pm

Barnum Hall on the Campus of Santa Monica High School

Kodály *Dances of Galánta*

Liszt Concerto No. 1 in E-flat Major

Bartók Concerto for Orchestra

Tickets from $20-$100

This concert is part of the 2009 Westside Gala Benefit honoring Eugene Levy, Emmy Award Winner, Comedic Actor, Writer & Director. To purchase gala tickets, call 310.678.2644. The 2008/2009 Masterpiece series is sponsored by Sandra and Jordan Laby



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BOXING

De La Hoya calls it quits

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Oscar De La Hoya called it quits in the ring Tuesday, ending a career in which he won 10 world titles in six divisions and became boxing's most popular fighter.

He announced his decision at an outdoor plaza across the street from Staples Center, where a statue of the 36-year-old Golden Boy stands.

"I've come to the conclusion that it's over," the native of East Los Angeles said before hundreds of fans. "It's over inside the ring for me."

De La Hoya retires four months after he was thoroughly beaten by Manny Pacquiao, his fourth loss in his last seven fights. It's been several years since De La Hoya beat a truly daunting opponent. He finished with a record of 39-6 and 30 knockouts.

"This is the love of my life, boxing is my passion, boxing is what I was born to do," he said. "When I can't do it anymore, when I can't compete at the highest level, it's not fair. It's not fair to me, it's not fair to the fans, it's not fair to nobody."

De La Hoya said he based his decision on not wanting to let down his fans or himself. But he admitted he struggled to make the final decision.

"Now I understand why athletes have such a tough time retiring from something that you feel so passionate about, from your sport that you're always thinking you can try one more time," he said.

"I can still train hard and I can still compete, but when you're an athlete that has competed on the highest level for a lot of years, it's not fair. It's not fair to step inside the ring and not give my best."

De La Hoya maintained the same stern expression on his face throughout his remarks, with his voice breaking only when he thanked his father, Joel, who sat on the stage with the boxer's wife, Millie.

"I remember the times when he would take me to the gym and never gave up on me," De La Hoya said. "We've lived some tough moments inside the ring, we've been through everything, but my father was always there for me. Thank you for pushing me as hard as you can."

De La Hoya began boxing at age 5, following in the path of his grandfather and father. He won an Olympic gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona Games, launching a pro career that brought him worldwide fame and riches.

He will stay involved in the sport as a promoter with his successful Golden Boy Promotions company. He had been juggling the roles of boxer and promoter in the last few years.

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #2975 – FURNISH AND DELIVER ONE NEW AND UNUSED SEWER COMBO JETTER/VACUUM UNIT.

- **Please refer to the bid packet for further details. The bid packet can be downloaded at: http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/biddtl.cfm?BidNo=333&Status=Bidding**
- **Submission Deadline is May 1, 2009 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-2211, or by e-mailing your request to kimberlie.nimori@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

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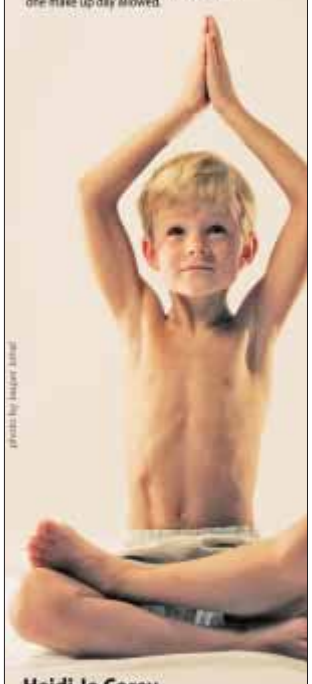


photo by Jasper Johal

Heidi Jo Corey
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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 57°

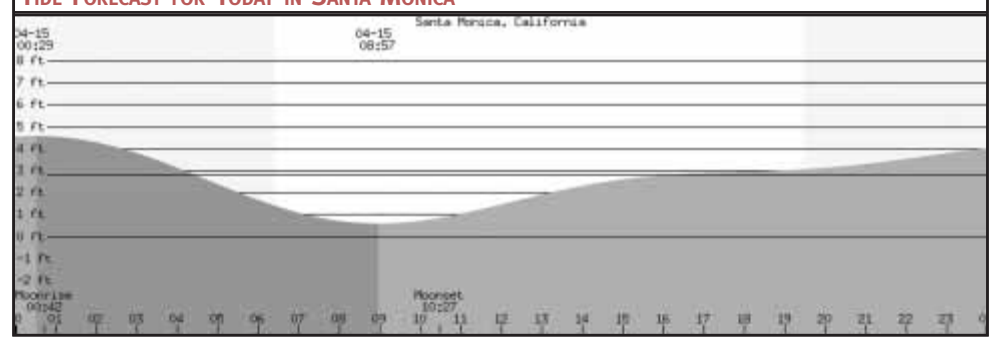
Swell Forecast (10-15 FT)

The southern hemi is expected to back off slightly as the lagging periods (14 seconds) arrive. Wind swell though is expected to be the dominant swell in the water.

Long Range Synopsis

Thursday the 16th some of the southern hemi should linger and wind swell should decline. South facing breaks are looking at waist to chest high sets.

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 **April 4, 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 -- 37 / 0
- 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 Lachusa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	F	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A+	ns
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth	C	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce 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+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	D	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	A	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

The Servant (1963) (NR) 1hr 52min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Dragonball: Evolution (PG) 1hr 25min
1:10, 3:20, 5:35, 7:45, 9:55

Fast & Furious (PG-13) 1hr 39min
1:00, 3:30, 6:15, 9:00

The Mysteries of Pittsburgh (R) 1hr 35min
1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35

Sunshine Cleaning (R) 1hr 42min
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

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

Duplicity (PG-13)
1:20, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50

Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) 1hr 42min
2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Observe and Report (R) 1hr 46min
12:40, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:20

Monsters vs. Aliens (PG) 1hr 34min
1:00, 3:15, 5:45, 8:00, 10:10

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
RealD 3D
2:40, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40

Fast & Furious (PG-13) 1hr 46min
Closed Captions and Descriptive Video
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

Fast & Furious (PG-13) 1hr 46min
2:20, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30

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

Adventureland (R) 1hr 46min
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50

Shall We Kiss? (NR) 1hr 57min
1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00

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

How To Be (Se) 1hr 23min
7:30

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

I Love You, Man (R) 1hr 50min
11:10 a.m., 12:10, 1:40, 2:40, 4:10, 5:10, 6:40, 7:40, 9:10, 10:10

Knowing (PG-13)
1:10, 4:20, 7:10, 10:20

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

The Haunting in Connecticut (PG-13) 1hr 32min
12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:30, 9:50

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

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

Close to home, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Reach out for the impossible and make a dream happen. Your always-present leadership skills emerge. A spontaneous insight could lead to a spontaneous argument if you aren't disciplined. Tonight: A force to behold.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Togetherness is exactly what works. If you're at work, establishing the immediate team and working with each other make all the difference. You'll be able to turn a situation around if you follow another's lead. Tonight: Try another form of togetherness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Don't groan over the nuts and bolts of a problem. Investigate your potential with an eye to a new frontier. Extremes hit, and you are able to do quite the juggling act. Sudden events involving an older relative, friend, boss or work could leave you floored. Tonight: Fasten in your seatbelt.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Work might not be fun, but it proves to be effective. As you do what you have to, you suddenly become aware of new information. News from a distance or travel could knock on your door. Tonight: Easy works.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Where others are stumped, you not only have the ingenuity but also the drive and endurance to follow through. Consider revamping your schedule or doing something very different. Tonight: Easy does it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You wake up with your mind already on overtime. Use your creativity to make it a little more fun to go to work and deal with different people. Loosen up when dealing with a child or loved one. Observe how people are changing right in front of your very eyes. Tonight: Midweek break.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ If you're really out of sorts, decide to work from home, if that is possible. The unexpected could prove to be a wonderful happening if you don't react. Open doors and greet a new approach. Much seems to be changing right under your feet. Tonight: Close to home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ An associate tries to avoid an issue; don't take it personally. Approach others differently, reflecting who you are and letting go of control needs. You might be pleased at the end result. Tonight: Favorite people, favorite hangout.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Cinch in your belt and be willing to say no. A sudden awareness of what motivates you could make it hard for you to speak. This too will change before you know it. Fatigue could play into a decision. Tonight: Pay bills first, then decide.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Finally energized, you feel as if you can take on anything. Unexpected developments might force you to regroup. Of late, you have been changing and feeling differently. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Recognize when you can accomplish more by backing off rather than getting into the mix. Use a financial insight. How you see others and yourself could be ready for updating. Are your goals the same now as they were several years ago? Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Emphasize your goals. You might be revising some of them, as well as your circle of friends. Be careful with anger or frustration. How you let another know you have had enough does make a difference. Trust that. Tonight: Joining friends after work.

Happy birthday

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

This year, the pressure to produce and excel weighs heavily on you. Establish new limits as to what you will produce or what you want to create. You might be at a period in which past goals don't jibe with who you are now. Close the gap! If you are single, you'll meet someone probably working or networking. Get to know this person well before you pronounce him or her as your sweetie. If you are attached, the two of you need to do more together in the outside world. Avoid power plays over control. You are wasting your time with this game. CAPRICORN pushes you hard and demands a lot.

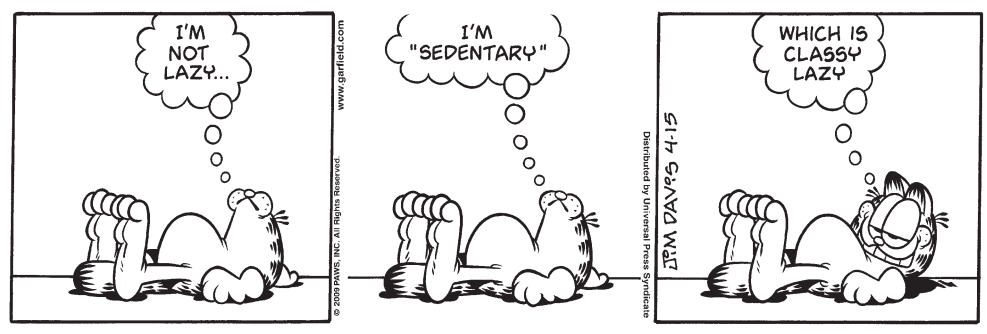
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



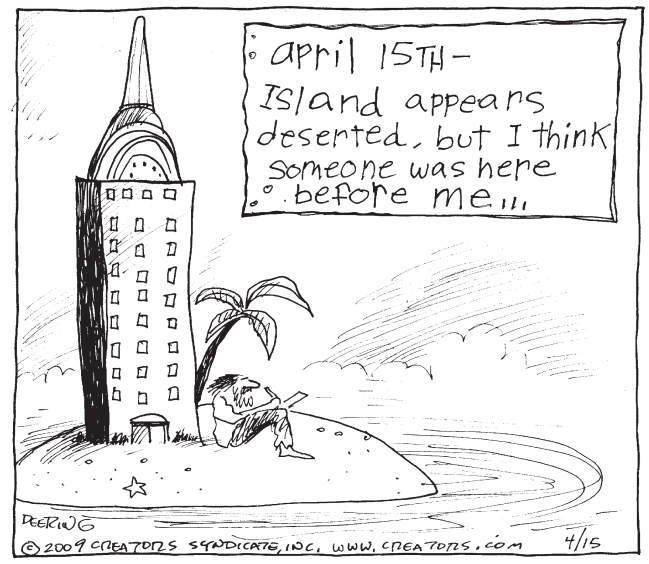
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



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

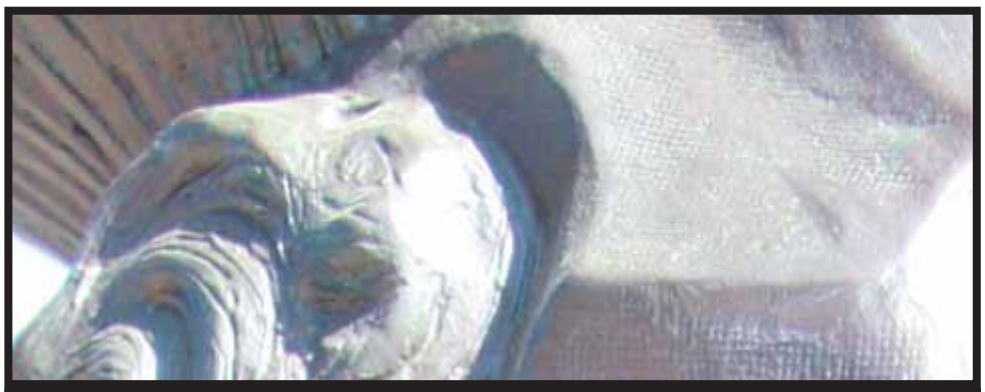
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Frenzied
5 Rigid fellow
11 Swear
12 Broad-way's Stritch
13 Walking aid
14 "My word!"
15 Middle Earth resident
16 Boot part
17 Boot-shaped nation
19 New reporter
22 Slugger Bonds
24 Get a run
26 Clip contents
27 "Picnic" playwright
28 "Bye!"
30 Thin cookie
31 Conclude
32 Rowdy fellow
34 Depend
35 Letter after pi
38 Kick out of office
41 Poet Khayyám
42 Olive's love
43 Thyme, for one
44 Furniture style
45 Casino figure

DOWN

1 Valentine trim
2 Track
3 Verified
4 Need to pay
5 Defy authority
6 Small streets
7 Post
8 Crater part
9 Count start
10 Susan of "L.A. Law"
16 Cow chow
18 New York city
19 Followed conven-tion
20 Spur on
21 Saloon quaff
22 Diamond corner
23 Church reply
25 "Bye!"
29 Ensign's answer
30 Tot's question
33 Modify
34 Smell awful
36 Knotty
37 Spheres
38 High times
39 Japanese drama form
40 Hotel amenity
41 Cry of insight

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

Yesterday's answer

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

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				■	12					
13				■	14					
15			■	16				■	■	■
■	■	17	18				■	19	20	21
22	23				■	24	25			
26				■	■	■	27			
28				29	■	30				
31			■	32	33				■	■
■	■	■	34				■	35	36	37
38	39	40				■	41			
42						■	43			
44						■	45			

4-15

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 18 25 36 42 51
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: $92M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 2 4 12 34 46
Meganumber: 16
Jackpot: $9M

FANTASY 5: 9 12 13 23 35

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 2 5 1
EVENING: 6 9 2

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1.43.08

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ It was thought to be the backwoods version of an "urban legend," but the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department reported in March its first documented case of a deer hunter's attempting to avoid detection after shooting a doe (instead of the permissible buck) by gluing antlers onto its head. Marcel Fournier, 19, used epoxy and lag bolts, said a game warden, but the finished product looked awkward because of the angle of placement and the size mismatch of the antlers. (Fournier was jailed for 10 days and fined, and had his license revoked.)

■ "It was initially just an experiment," said the 26-year-old, Sebastopol, Calif., midwife apprentice who last year talked her boyfriend into photographing her cervix for 33 straight days so that she could chart its physical changes while monitoring her own mood, libido and body temperature. It was not easy, she told the Santa Rosa Press-Democrat in February. "It's so dark in there (that) even with (a lamp shining on it), the camera wouldn't focus." However, the boyfriend made it work. "He's a very talented guy." Eventually, the photos made it to the Internet, with her cooperation.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1959 Cuban leader Fidel Castro arrived in Washington to begin a goodwill tour of the United States. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles resigned for health reasons. (He was succeeded by Christian A. Herter).

1986 the United States launched an air raid against Libya in response to the bombing of a discotheque in Berlin on April 5th; Libya said 37 people, mostly civilians, were killed.

1989 96 people died in a crush of soccer fans at Hillsborough Stadium in Sheffield, England. Students in Beijing launched a series of pro-democracy protests; the demonstrations culminated in a government crackdown at Tiananmen Square.

WORD UP!

labile \LAY-byl\, adjective:
1. Open to change; apt or likely to change; adaptable.
2. Constantly or readily undergoing chemical, physical, or biological change or breakdown; unstable.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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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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Notices

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Property located on 5353 Yarmouth Ave #203, Encino, CA 91316. Belongs to Vladimir Oganesov. It is NOT abandoned or unclaimed. A letter questioning assets has been mailed to the trustee via certified mail No. 70081140000134630611. Trustee Mila, Inc. has yet to respond.

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20090312219 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ATC-WEST HEALTHCARE SERVICES; MD STAFFING SOLUTIONS, 5601 W. SLAUSON AVE, SUITE 234, CULVER CITY, CA 90230, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : GNO HEALTHCARE INC., 5601 W. SLAUSON AVE, SUITE 234, CULVER CITY, CA 90230 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: GNO HEALTHCARE INC., PRESIDENT, DORIKA BECKETT
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/5/2009. 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 4/1/2009, 4/8/2009, 4/15/2009, 4/22/2009

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South of Wilshire	$1,050,000	$650,000
Sunset Park	$1,215,000	$698,000
Ocean Park	$1,199,000	$938,250

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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