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THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 139



Santa Monica Daily Press

TASTY AND AFFORDABLE
SEE PAGE 6

We have you covered

THE FEELING GOOD TAX SEASON IS OVER ISSUE



Benjamin Brayfield *news@smdp.com*

OUT IN FORCE: **Taxpayers protest against the federal government's multibillion-dollar bailout of financial institutions and other businesses Wednesday. Hundreds of similar protests across the country were organized by the New American Tea Party, a nonpartisan coalition, to raise awareness of taxpayers' disapproval of large spending to bailout failed companies. Mark Cohen, a Santa Monica resident of 30 years, lost his clothing company that he started from scratch. 'I spent $300,000 on my company and now retailers tell me they don't have a budget to re-stock merchandise,' Cohen says. 'The solution is to recognize there is a problem. Too many people except the status quo.'**

Tens of thousands rally at tax day 'tea parties'

SHANNON MCCAFFREY
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA Whipped up by conservative commentators and bloggers, tens of thousands of protesters staged "tea parties" around the country Wednesday to tap into the collective angst stirred up by a bad economy, government spending and bailouts.

The rallies were directed at President Barack Obama's new administration on a symbolic day: the deadline to file income taxes. Protesters even threw what appeared to be a box of tea bags toward the White House, causing a brief lockdown at the compound.

Shouts rang out from Kentucky, which just passed tax increases on cigarettes and alcohol, to Salt Lake City, where many in the crowd booed Republican Gov. Jon Huntsman for accepting about $1.5 billion in stimulus money. Even in Alaska, where there is no statewide income tax or sales tax, hundreds of people held signs and chanted "No more spending."

"Frankly, I'm mad as hell," said businessman Doug Burnett at a rally at the Iowa Capitol, where many of the about 1,000 people wore red shirts declaring "revolution is brewing." Burnett added: "This country has been on a spending spree for decades, a spending spree we can't afford."

In Boston, a few hundred protesters gathered on the Boston Common — a short distance from the original Tea Party — some dressed in Revolutionary garb and carrying signs that said "Barney Frank, Bernie Madoff: And the Difference Is?" and "D.C.: District of Communism."

Texas Gov. Rick Perry fired up a tea party at Austin City Hall with his stance against the federal government, as some in his U.S. flag-waving audience shouted, "Secede!"

SEE **TAXES** PAGE 12

Big Blue busted

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CITY HALL Three employees with Big Blue Bus face criminal charges for allegedly abusing a rideshare program that provides free public transit passes to city employees who pledge to leave their cars at home.

Following a random internal audit of the program, City Hall's Finance Department discovered irregularities in applications for the free passes as well as a lack of effective internal controls to guard against fraud, said Kate Vernez, assistant to the city manager, community and government relations.

As a result, City Manager Lamont Ewell called for a full investigation on behalf of the Santa Monica Police Department. The investigation was initiated March 2.

Three BBB employees were arrested Wednesday. They were identified as Crystal L. Buckner, 46, of Fullerton, a motor coach operator supervisor; Michael L. Brown, 49, of Inglewood, a motor coach operator; and Kalin J. Green, 36, of Encino, a transit operations assistant. Buckner and Green were

SEE **ARRESTS** PAGE 12

Council extends ordinance on large projects

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A proposal to extend an existing ordinance that permits certain large projects if developers promise public benefits is receiving resistance from neighborhood groups.

Several organizations, including the

SEE **DEVELOPMENT** PAGE 10

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



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.

Saturday, April 18, 2009

Living library
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Living books will share a significant personal experience or a particular perspective on life. An ex-gang member, a fat activist and a formerly homeless woman are just a few of the people who will be available for a 30-minute personal conversation. Call (310) 458-8600 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.

Crossroads improves to 10-2

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

CLOVER PARK The wind was blowing, Crossroads players were crossing the plate and co-head coaches Matt Amido and Pat Armstrong couldn't have been happier with the result.

The Roadrunners baseball team not only defeated Animo Leadership 7-0, but proved that both coaches' approach to the game appears to be gaining traction.

"Our guys did what we told them to do," Amido said. "Get them on, get them over and get them in has been our approach all year."

The Roadrunners did just that as they broke the game open during the third inning. With one out, Jaysen Chariamonte came to the plate and hit a sharp grounder to short that Animo's Rafael Valdivia couldn't handle. Brian Rosen followed and promptly sacrificed Chariamonte to second. Andres Leyva came up next and drew a clutch walk, setting the stage for Caleb Hodge.

The senior outfielder lined the second pitch he saw to center for a double, scoring a pair. Crossroads scored another in the third on pitcher Max Robinson's single, which brought home Hodge making the score 3-0.

When not at the plate doing damage, sophomore Robinson was on the mound making short work of Animo's lineup, which mustered just two hits off the crafty righty who collected four strikeouts en route to a complete game. With the win, Robinson is now 5-0 on the season and very much has the look of the team's number one starter.

"I was hitting my spots," Robinson said. "Everything went well out there today."

Although the final score was a bit lopsided, Animo did make a game of it in the fourth inning. With a man out, sophomore third baseman Damian Garcia drew a walk. James Barraza stepped in next and hit a hard liner to third that Crossroads' Josh Flyer fielded cleanly, but he failed to make a good throw to first. Garcia advanced to third on the throwing error.

Animo captain Gerardo Gonzalez, making his second plate appearance of the game, watched as Barraza stole second early during the at bat. With men on second and third, Gonzalez hit a fielder's choice to short, scoring Garcia on the play. While Gonzalez was safe at first, Barraza was caught between second and third, eventually being tagged out. With the run, Animo creeped within two runs of the Roadrunners.

Unfortunately for the Aztec Eagles, Robinson was on his game.

"(Robinson) did a good job of keeping us off balance," Animo's Head Coach Randy Garcia said.

While praising Robinson's effort, Garcia felt that it was the team's defense that didn't perform. Of the seven runs Crossroads scored, just two were earned. Animo starting pitcher Jose Pacheco pitched relatively well, but was undone by poor fielding and an

SEE BASEBALL PAGE 12



SLIDE OR DIE

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Mick 'Slinky' Noodle slides along the 20-foot power-sliding course at the third annual Levi's Power-Sliding Championships held at the Santa Monica Pier parking lot on Wednesday afternoon. Guests of the event enjoyed live music from Brooklyn rockers Matt & Kim.

Pawn shop gets assistance from City Hall

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN The last pawn shop in Santa Monica got a big boost from the City Council on Tuesday when officials approved an interim ordinance that expands the geographical area where such brokers are permitted.

The new law allows Angelo's Pawn Shop, which is located in the Mayfair Theater complex at 206 Santa Monica Blvd., to widen its search for a new home beyond what is granted in the zoning code, which limits such businesses to the BSC District — bounded by Wilshire Boulevard to the north, Broadway to the south, First Court to the west and Fourth Court to the east.

The pawn shop, which is being forced to relocate because of the Mayfair reconstruction project, will be permitted to expand its search to the C3 and C3-C districts, broadening the boundaries to encompass all of Downtown.

"In these challenging economic times, it's particularly important for the city to retain

SEE PAWN SHOP PAGE 11

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Smack back

Editor:

Steve Breen's smack on women ("Part 1: A man by any other name," page 4, April 8) would be fine if he was recounting, say, a mixed-gender basketball game in which he participated and was smack talking women opponents, with the level of his smack in the column likely an indicator of him getting his butt kicked by them. That could possibly justify this column. Can't think of anything else that would.

Andrea Engstrom
Santa Monica

Supporting a tax on CO2

Editor:

As we consider government incentives for reducing carbon emissions we must approach a complex cap and trade credit solution with great caution. Creating a new limited commodity in the form of carbon credits has the potential to create more emissions initially and will most likely lead to a financial exchange that benefits bankers and Wall Street (yet again). This is not necessarily the best solution.

Prior to carbon credits being issued it will be in the best interest of companies to increase their emissions so they can secure as many credits as possible. In countries with less stringent standards, it may provide an incentive for companies to build dirty plants using old technology. This will allow them to clean up their act later at a cost that is less then the value of the carbon credits they'll receive for the "upgrade." U.S. and European companies may choose to acquire carbon credits by financing the "upgrade" of outmoded plants at a cost that is lower then the investment required to reduce their own emissions.

All of this will most likely go through bankers and financiers on Wall Street and in London where loopholes will be expertly exploited for quick and easy profits at the expense of the environment and the taxpayers. Models that include the sale and financing of outmoded equipment, upgrade paths to cleaner emissions, and the subsequent sale of carbon credits could well become another golden goose for the well connected.

So, why don't we take a simple and direct approach instead?

Tax CO2 and greenhouse gases by the ton and increase that tax using a predictable incremental formula over time. Make the discharge of CO2 a financial liability. Period.

Designate the CO2 tax for specific purposes that the American people will support. Reducing payroll taxes, providing health care, education, energy infrastructure, etc.

Of course this approach will require the use of the dirty "T" word and will incur the wrath of the oil and coal industries. A barrage of scare tactics and distorted information will be unleashed and tremendous pressure applied to lawmakers by lobbyists. It will take guts, honesty and determination on the part of Congress to legislate this change but it is exactly the sort of decisive and effective action we need now.

The steady degradation of our planet can no longer be subsidized by failing to account for the destructive effects of fossil fuels. Our air, our water, our delicate habitats and ecosystems are limited resources upon which our health and well being depend. We must not continue to treat these essential commodities like they're free and endlessly abundant. To do so assures their destruction and risks our eventual demise as a species.

Bruce Devan
Santa Monica

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The Libertarian Perspective

James P. Gray — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Quiet conscience makes one strong

IN MANY WAYS, OUR GREAT COUNTRY is now at a crossroads. Will we continue to build on the values that helped to make us great, including a reliance on our native ingenuity, creativity, and work ethic? Or will we get soft and look evermore toward bigger government to take care of us?

Today we are facing daunting challenges to our economic way of life. So it's naturally important for our general feelings of economic confidence to believe that government is "doing something" positive about the situation.

But this also brings upon us the risk that we, and the government, will see government as the solution to all of our problems. And that is a dangerous course to take for our future, and for the future of our children.

Alexis de Tocqueville, after his famous tour of the United States in 1831, drew attention to this problem when he said that people are constantly excited by two conflicting passions: they want to be led, and they wish to remain free.

So people strive to satisfy both at once, and that leads to irresolvable problems. Then de Tocqueville said that democracy would eventually collapse when the people's elected officials finally learn that they can bribe the people into voting for them with the people's own money.

We are close to that situation today. It is time for us to be aware of this fact and to take action to ensure it doesn't happen. How can this be done?

First, we must understand that government is not the answer to our problems. In fact, as stated by President Ronald Reagan, in many ways government really is the problem because it tends to destroy private initiative.

Second, we must not accept mediocrity or laziness — in anyone or anything, beginning with ourselves. I once had a clerk who had a handwritten sign on her desk that said "If it's to be, it's up to me." This means, among other things, that if a system or a government program is not working, it is up to us to fix it.

For example, if you think a television program is harmful for your children because it shows too much violence or sexual content, don't rely on government to act. Monitor what your children watch, and turn off the television if the program is unsuitable.

Let's also work to get government and its never-ending laws more out of our lives. For example, employers don't hire people just so they can discriminate against and harass them for racial, gender, or sexual-preference reasons and then fire them.

That makes no sense in real life. In fact, in almost every wrongful termination case, the employers have already "passed the test" by hiring those employees.

So we should change our laws to allow an employer to fire any employee within the first year of two — for any reason at all.

What would be the result of changing this employment law? More of these protected classes of people would have jobs. Today, if an employer gets sued for discrimination, that employer, whether found liable or not, is likely to think: "Who needs it? Why should I take a risk in the future by hiring such a person?" But if a period of immunity existed to see whether the employee was able to be productive, even if he or she didn't work out, the employer would not be deterred from hiring someone similar in the future. The current law actually works against equality in employment.

FIRST, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT GOVERNMENT IS NOT THE ANSWER TO OUR PROBLEMS. IN FACT, AS STATED BY PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN, IN MANY WAYS GOVERNMENT REALLY IS THE PROBLEM BECAUSE IT TENDS TO DESTROY PRIVATE INITIATIVE.

There is a story that, at the close of the original Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was asked what type of government the delegates had agreed upon for our country. He responded: "A Republic, if you can keep it." Our founding fathers established for us a government ruled by law but based on the individual — "We the People" as the sovereign.

But each of us must do our part. If we don't vote and oversee government, some special interest will.

As Anne Frank wrote in her diary, which became a literary classic: "A quiet conscience makes one strong." She is right.

We need that quiet conscience now. We must rely on ourselves and our innate abilities and ethics to overcome our problems of today. And we must not give in to the false but seductive allure that the answer lies with the all-knowing and all-protective government.

If it's to be, it's up to me.

JAMES P. GRAY is a retired judge of the Orange County Superior Court and the author of "Wearing the Robe – the Art and Responsibilities of Judging in Today's Courts." He can be reached at www.JudgeJimGray.com.

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Meredith Pro Tem

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

Facebook quizzes the key to finding one's identity

I'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME GETTING TO know myself recently, but not through therapy (been there, done that), a diary (there's not enough space in the Library of Congress to store my extensive body of work so I've temporarily stopped journaling until they build an annex) or meditation. I'm addicted to Facebook quizzes.

There are roughly 31,128 quizzes available on the social networking site, most of which I've taken in the past six weeks or so.

It all started when I noticed that several of my Facebook friends had taken a quiz called "Where should you live?" For most people the results were pretty straightforward — the city, country or beach. But when I took it, Italy was revealed as my domestic destiny. With visions of good food, good wine and George Clooney's villa on Lake Como dancing in my head, I wanted to see how much more insight I could gain into the past, present, future and hypothetically absurd by answering a few simple questions.

The results have been nothing short of astounding. Where else would I have learned that I'm Goodie 2 Shoes Barbie ("What Barbie are you"), Clare Huxtable ("Which TV mom are you"), the Queen from Snow White ("Which Disney villain are you") and a martini ("What alcoholic beverage are you") — not to be confused with the "What beer are you" quiz — at the same time? For free!

The "What early '80s wrestler are you" quiz revealed I am Mr. Wrestling II. Whoever he is, evidently we both have "a driving inner sense of justice" and we "do not suffer fools." After that little gem, I took the "Which crazy bitch are you?" quiz. I didn't know I was one (well, maybe a little), but it turns out I am Sinead O'Connor, otherwise known as "one fierce bitch." That led me to take the "What swear word are you" quiz. I was hoping for something juicy, like the "MF" bomb. But all I got was crap. (No, that was my word.) Still, it's good to know.

There are a few quizzes I didn't take, like, "What's your porn name," because everyone knows that your porn name is the name of your first pet (Bubble Gum) paired with the street you grew up on (Sylvan). Also, the "What type of paramedic are you" quiz is laughable since I'm so clearly the kind who'd go screaming in the opposite direction at the first hint of blood.

Some of the quiz results were so obvious. Like the "Which movie are you" quiz revealed that I'm "The Notebook." Well, of course. Why else would I regularly weep while passionately embracing my soul mate in the pouring rain as we canoe amid a flock of swans? All signs pointed toward chocolate (duh) even before I took the "What cake are you" quiz. And the findings of the "Are you as awesome as I am" and "What kind of drunk are you" (yes and yes) quizzes were just as plain to see.

The results of some quizzes were blatantly wrong. Like the "What '90s sitcom are you?" quiz tried to tell me I was "Full House" when clearly I'm so much more "Hangin' with Mr. Cooper." Also inaccurate were the results of "What Marvel super hero are you" quiz. It said I was Mr. Fantastic. I don't know who he is, but I do know that I'm no super hero if not Jayna, the girl Wonder Twin (never mind that she's Hanna-Barbera, not Marvel) with the power to transform into the bucket that holds my twin brother when he's morphed into just enough water to fit inside a bucket.

Quizzes I'm on the fence about taking include, "Are you a Michigander" (I'm pretty sure the answer is no since I've never been, but it can't hurt to have 100 percent clarity), "How Kentuckian are you" (not at all, I think), "What's your Bible IQ" (Old Testament or New?), "What type of drug dealer am I" (while it seems wrong, it's also strangely intriguing) and "Which moo cow are you" (ditto).

And then there are the quizzes I can't wait to take, such as "What kind of mermaid are you" (because who isn't dying to know if she's an Ariel or a Madison). There's also "What kind of make up are you," "What's your second name" (presumably created for people with short-term memory loss and/or those with just one, i.e. Bono, Cher, Madonna, Jacko), "What are you wearing" (it'll be just like having my own personal stalker!) and "What kind of bread are you."

I'll be shocked if I'm anything but rye, but maybe finding out that I'm focaccia is exactly what this journey of self-discovery has been all about.

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

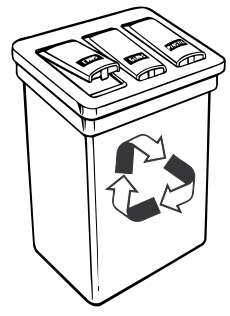
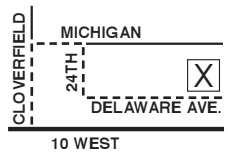
So this week's Q-Line question asks:

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

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


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The Broad Stage
The concert is sponsored by the SMC Associates, a community support group of Santa Monica College since 1981.
THE SMC Associates

Rye: American whiskey is coming back

KELLY DINARDO
For The Associated Press

There's a modern day whiskey rebellion brewing.

Rye, once the quintessential American whiskey (it even was distilled by George Washington), is pushing back from an obscurity triggered in part by Prohibition, but also by the post-Prohibition rise of its cousin, bourbon.

Last year, rye sales were up 30 percent over 2007, according to the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States. And since 2007, more than 15 new brands have come to market, including Jim Beam's premium.

"Cocktail trendsetters across the country really dig on rye," says Duggan McDonnell, a bartender at San Francisco's Cantina. "And tastemakers love the flavor profile. It's being rediscovered and applied to a ton of cocktails. What was hip long ago is cool again."

Whereas bourbon is distilled primarily from corn, rye must be distilled from a mash of at least 51 percent rye grain. That difference is part of what accounts for rye's bite. Rye tends to be more bitter and spicier than bourbon. Many ryes have a peppery undertone.

"Rye's got that Cassius Clay uppercut," says McDonnell. "People don't sip it as much because it doesn't have that svelte, back palette finish that bourbon does."

It's that spicy, complex flavor that makes rye so much fun to play with in cocktails.

"It's great with citrus flavors," says Colleen Mullaney, author of the cocktail cookbook "It's 5 O'Clock Somewhere." "Grapefruit, lemon and orange flavors lighten rye up a bit. But it can also handle full-flavored liqueurs and bitters."

Rye is benefiting from the booming speakeasy culture, which has renewed interest in playing with cocktails. More so-called mixologists are rediscovering old recipes, putting new spins on the classics and creating wholly new concoctions with unusual spirits.

"The revival is really nationwide," says Mullaney. "You can see it everywhere from people entertaining at home who want to whip up a pitcher of signature cocktails to the fancy cocktail lists at bars and hip restaurants."

For example, using rye instead of bourbon in a Manhattan makes for a version of the classic that's far less sweet. McDonnell serves it in a carmen amaya (a mix of rye, Cointreau, fresh lemon, muddled basil and amontillado sherry), and a prize filly (a mix of rye, flavored bitters and maraschino liqueur).

SUMMER RYE SPARKLING CIDER

Start to finish: 5 minutes
Servings: 1
2 lemon wedges
1 ounce rye
1/2 ounce apricot brandy
2 to 3 ounces sparkling apple cider

Squeeze one lemon wedge into a tall glass, then drop it into the glass. Fill the glass with ice. Add the rye and apricot brandy, then top with sparkling cider. Stir gently, then garnish with a lemon wedge.
(Recipe adapted from Kathy Casey's "Sips & Apps," 2009, Chronicle Books)

Iced coffees that are easy on wallet and waistline

J.M. HIRSCH
Associated Press Writer

Warm weather and a serious caffeine habit can make it hard to resist those fancy iced java jolts from the coffee shop.

But shelling out all that cash to suck down all those calories can thin your wallet while plumping your waistline.

So I started tinkering with at-home versions, trying to come up with something equally enticing, less expensive and at least a little healthier. And if they were fast and easy, all the better.

Here's what I learned:

• Don't use regular ice. As it melts, it waters down the drink, and watered down coffee is tasteless at any temperature. Instead, pour brewed coffee into ice cube trays and freeze it. Keep a bag of these cubes in the freezer for use whenever the mood strikes.

While you certainly can brew a pot especially for this, it's easy (and economical) to freeze the remnants of each morning's pot.

• Ditch skim milk in favor of fat-free half-and-half. Most standard skim milks lack body and taste. Fat-free half-and-half is remarkably creamy and works well in frozen drinks (including smoothies).

• Invest in flavored syrups. These are what the coffee shops use to juice up their pricey drinks. They come in many flavors and are cheap. A 750-milliliter bottle costs less than $10 and makes about 25 servings.

• No espresso maker? Pick up a jar of instant espresso powder. It's an easy way to add tons of flavor to an iced coffee drink. It's also great mixed into baked goods, such as chocolate cakes and brownies.

CARAMEL-CHOCOLATE COFFEE COOLER

Start to finish: 5 minutes
Servings: 2
1 double shot espresso
1/2 cup fat-free half-and-half
1 cup coffee ice cubes
1 tbs. vanilla flavoring syrup
1 tbs. caramel flavoring syrup
Whipped cream, to top
Caramel sauce, to drizzle

In a blender, combine the espresso, half-and-half, coffee ice cubes, and vanilla and caramel syrups. Puree until smooth, then transfer to a tall glass. Top with whipped cream and drizzle with caramel sauce.

Nutrition information per serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 164 calories; 40 calories from fat; 4 g fat (3 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 20 mg cholesterol; 25 g carbohydrate; 3 g protein; 0 g fiber; 102 mg sodium.

MOCHA ORANGE FREEZE

Start to finish: 5 minutes
Servings: 2
1 cup fat-free half-and-half
1 1/2 cups coffee ice cubes
3 tbs. chocolate syrup (the sort used to make chocolate milk)
1 tbs. sugar
Whipped cream, to top
Zest of 1/2 orange

In a blender, combine the half-and-half, coffee ice cubes, chocolate syrup and sugar.

Puree until smooth. Transfer to a tall glass, then top with whipped cream. Sprinkle with orange zest then drizzle with chocolate syrup.

Nutrition information per serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 234 calories; 36 calories from fat; 4 g fat (3 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 20 mg cholesterol; 39 g carbohydrate; 5 g protein; 0 g fiber; 122 mg sodium.



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Simple Real Food

Amanda Cushman
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No longer curious

MY NEIGHBORHOOD IS SLOWLY becoming more, how shall I say it, gentrified, sophisticated, hip and cool. When little gourmet stores and café's begin popping up all around with words like "organic" and "artisan," you know the neighborhood has turned that corner. Well, Mar Vista is coming into its own. We now have both the above with those exact words to describe the various eating and drinking establishments coming to this sleepy unknown part of the Westside.

Recently I visited one of these places called The Curious Palate on Venice Boulevard within walking distance of my home. It is a small, cute take-out market and kitchen which has about four tables inside and four on the street for you to enjoy your meal. They also have a very nice selection of gourmet products such as olive oil, vinegars, chocolates and the like.

The day I had lunch there I met a friend and it was very busy when we arrived at noon. The service was decent, although the prices a bit steep for a salad and sandwich.

I was thrilled to see the place in my quiet neighborhood, which did not have a hint of gourmet food or drink for miles around except Venice Grind, which is a so-so coffee shop that sells pre-made sandwiches and not so great coffee.

The Curious Palate is run by "two friends who share a passion for all things delicious," it says on the menu. What could be bad with a description like that?

I was looking forward to my lentil salad with feta, roasted peppers, avocado and special homemade dressing. Doesn't that sound fabulous? I am a huge lentil fan and make them all the time in our house so this was a true test of a place. I also ordered a "Big Curious Salad" that supposedly came with greens, feta, olives, beets, baby artichokes, olives, roasted peppers and "Elliot's famous vinaigrette."

I must say I was not impressed and how hard is it to season things properly? Well, I have found after trying many hundreds of places it is not easy to use salt for most chefs and God only knows why as it is the single most important ingredient in food. Hello! Salt brings out all the flavor and without it, you taste nothing!

That said, they obviously didn't use enough if any salt in their famous dressings.

My curious salad was quite the opposite — a pile of greens with very little vinaigrette and a small serving of beets to one side and one artichoke heart that was as baby as you can get (as in teeny weeny). Where was the feta, olives (two tiny ones), roasted peppers (one strip) and this vinaigrette was hardly there let alone famous. The lentils, I hate to say, were not much better; almost no feta, avocado or the special homemade dressing was once again not to be found.

Both salads were over-priced at $9.50 and $3.45 respectively and my friend's order was also a bit on the high side. An egg salad sandwich for $7.95! What! These are eggs after all, not smoked salmon. Her sandwich was decent but not as described on the menu; served with "lemon, thyme, guanciale bacon from Salumeria." Where and what the heck is that?

I will try it again and order something else to give them a second chance, although I must say I was bummed that there wasn't a great gourmet place in my neighborhood after all.

Now here is a great lentil salad, enjoy!

Curried Lentil Salad with Walnuts
Serves 4

Ingredients
1 cup French lentils
1 bay leaf
1 red pepper, diced
4 scallions, thinly sliced
1/2 cup walnuts, roughly chopped
1/3 cup chopped mint
2 cloves garlic, minced
6 tbs. lemon juice
2 tsp. curry powder
Salt, pepper
1/4 cup olive oil

Procedure
1) Combine the lentils and bay leaf in a medium saucepan with cold water to cover by 2 inches. Bring to a simmer and cover. Simmer about 20 minutes until tender. Drain. Transfer to a medium bowl and remove bay leaf. Add the red pepper, scallions, walnuts and mint.
2) Combine the garlic, lemon and curry in a small bowl and whisk. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add the olive oil slowly and taste for seasoning. Toss the dressing with the lentils.
3) Serve at room temperature.

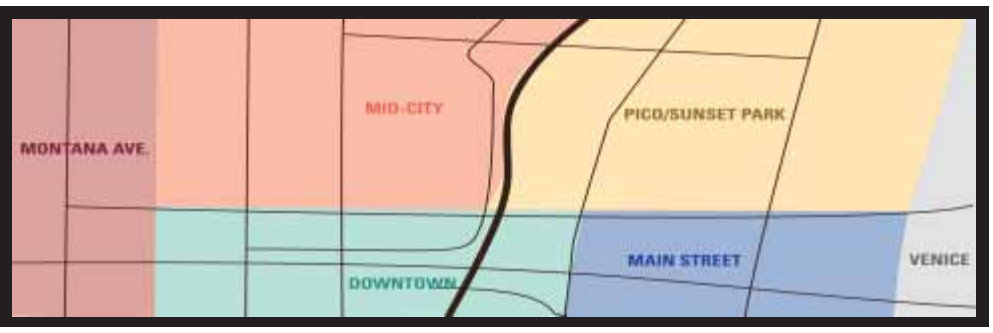
AMANDA CUSHMAN is a culinary educator who has cooked professionally for 25 years. She teaches privately for groups of two to 20 students. She has developed hundreds of recipes for cookbooks as well as food magazines and Web sites. She can be reached amandascooking@gmail.com.



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Development agreement ordinance to be extended

FROM DEVELOPMENT PAGE 1

Ocean Park Association, Friends of Sunset Park, and the Pico Neighborhood Association, sent letters to the City Council this week opposing the continuation of an interim ordinance that requires development agreements for projects that are more than 7,500 square feet or contain more than 15 housing, artist studio or single room occupancy units.

The regulations, which were initially adopted in 2007, applies to the Industrial Conservation (M1) and Light Manufacturing Studio District (LMSD), which are contiguous and roughly bounded by Colorado Avenue to the I-10 Freeway and nearly running the entire east-west length of the city. The area is home to mainly industrial and creative uses.

The City Council on Tuesday adopted the extension of the ordinance upon first reading, which is when the issue is open to a public hearing. The ordinance is expected to be finalized at the next meeting, extending the regulations through early 2012.

The action comes months after a ballot initiative that seeks to cap commercial developments to 75,000 square feet a year was defeated.

The Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City, which authored the initiative, also wrote a letter in opposition to the ordinance.

Neighborhood groups argued that instead of permitting development agreements, which they blast as rarely providing public benefits in exchange for more density and height, there should be a moratorium on projects bigger than 7,500 square feet until the Land Use and Circulation Element is finalized.

Many of the neighborhood groups also opposed the ordinance when it was first enacted.

The Friends of Sunset Park board of directors wrote that past developments in the Special Office District have resulted in worsening congestion caused by cut-through commuter traffic in the neighborhood.

"Past development agreements in Santa Monica have resulted in minimal public benefits, maximum environmental impacts, and no compliance reviews, as legally required to ensure that terms of the agreements for the public's benefit were enforced," the board wrote in the letter.

Some groups, including the Pico Neighborhood Association, argue that development agreements are being used to destroy affordable housing. The FOSP board said that the development at the Village Trailer Park where a new residential complex is proposed to be constructed, will result in the loss of home ownership for 109 very low income families.

The LUCE, which is a 20-year update of the general plan, was initially set to return to council this year but most likely will not return for final adopt until next winter.

Eileen Fogarty, the planning and community development director, said the ordinance is meant to prevent "piecemeal development" in the industrial area, which she believes will conflict with the LUCE goals for the two districts, which will feature transit-oriented development focused around the Exposition Light Rail and affordable housing.

> **"PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT THE BENEFITS NEGOTIATED BY THE CITY ARE NOT NECESSARILY THE SAME AS THE ONES THAT RESIDENTS SEE AS BENEFITS."**
>
> **Mary Marlow**
> President, Ocean Park Association

"We were seeing development coming in with inadequate services, inadequate infrastructure and inadequate open space," Fogarty said. "Throughout all of this, the applications that were coming forward were not consistent with the goals the council and the community had talked about for the Land Use and Circulation Element."

Fogarty, who said LUCE is on a fast schedule to completion, said that there has been less development pressures recently. There are four development agreements pending.

"(The ordinance) has been a very effective tool to manage piecemeal development and ensure the council and community can plan for the future and appropriately evaluate the scale, type and use and the infrastructure of future development," Fogarty said.

The Ocean Park Association said in a letter on Tuesday that the development agreements have become too common, arguing that it threatens to make a "mockery" of the LUCE revisions.

Mary Marlow, the president of the association, said there is an accountability issue with the agreements, questioning what happens to the conditions imposed on the developer if the contract changes and whether public consent is then required.

"People are saying that the benefits negotiated by the city are not necessarily the same as the ones that residents see as benefits," Marlow said in an interview on Wednesday.

During the council meeting, Mayor Ken Genser said that officials decided to move forward with development agreements once it became clear that a moratorium would have some vulnerability in court, forcing City Hall to spend a lot of time defending it.

He said two development agreements have come to the council, one of which did not receive unanimous support.

Officials stressed that the agreements have to be approved by the council.

Councilman Kevin McKeown said that while he has reservations about approving any development agreements before fully knowing what is slated to happen in the industrial area, he believes extending the ordinance is necessary.

"I do think continuing this ordinance is the prudent thing to do, it's the most practical thing to do," he said. "It's not the most ideal thing to do."

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MOVING: **People walk in front of Angelo's Pawnshop to the Stars next to the Mayfair Theatre on Santa Monica Boulevard Wednesday.**

New law allows pawn shop to search area for new home

FROM **PAWN SHOP** PAGE 3

its Downtown businesses to support long-term economic stability of the city," Eileen Fogarty, the planning and community development director, said. "Existing Downtown businesses need flexibility to relocate elsewhere in Downtown where their customer base has been established."

The ordinance will become final once council adopts it upon second reading at its next meeting.

The issue first came to light at the council meeting on March 24 when Mayor Ken Genser requested staff draft an ordinance to help Angelo's Pawn Shop remain in Santa Monica.

"They are having great difficulty in finding a location and they asked we expand this area," Genser said at the time.

The shop is located on the west end of the Mayfair Theater, which was constructed in 1911 by J. Euclid Miles and Charles Tegner, who was one of the city's founders, opening what was then known as the Majestic, the first theater in Santa Monica.

The 49,000 square foot complex will be redesigned into a mixed-use development, featuring 38 apartment units, ground-floor retail and two levels of subterranean parking.

The project will be constructed behind the theater's facade, which will be preserved.

Angelo's Pawn Shop has been in the same location since it was founded 23 years ago. The manager of the pawn shop declined to comment.

The theater remained shuttered for about 14 years behind a barricade of boards erected after the historic building was heavily damaged by the 1994 Northridge Earthquake that essentially took it out of commission for good.

The project was delayed by a lawsuit and several rounds of discussions with the Architectural Review Board before receiving final approval last June.

Construction began last month.

melodyh@smdp.com

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WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

Metro Unveils LA's Largest Solar Project

There's a lot more than just a roof over Metro's downtown LA maintenance facility. Some 6,720 solar panels generating 1,000 kilowatts of electricity are atop Metro's Support Services Center, the largest solar project in LA. That and other "green" improvements will cut the facility's $1.1 million annual energy bill by 50%.

$9.8 Million For Wilshire Bus Lanes

Metro is receiving $9.8 million in federal funds for work on dedicated curbside bus lanes for Wilshire Boulevard during the morning and evening rush hours. The project along portions of LA's busiest transit corridor between Downtown and Santa Monica could improve travel times on buses an average of 24%.

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Westside Subway Extension Meetings April 13-23

The public is getting an opportunity to comment on the proposed extension of the Metro Red or Purple lines. Five community update meetings are being held April 13-23 on alternatives being proposed for the Westside Subway Extension. Visit *metro.net/westside* or call 213.922.6934 for times and locations.

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BBB employees booked for theft

FROM **ARRESTS** PAGE 1

both booked for grand theft, Brown for petty theft.

"This is really unfortunate because it is a good program and these three people used it inappropriately," Vernez said. "Whether it's a dollar or a thousand dollars, when it comes to public funds the city takes these matters very seriously and now the courts will review the case."

The three employees are expected to be arraigned at the LAX Courthouse this week.

Vernez would not comment further on the arrests.

The employees have been placed on administrative leave.

City Hall has been conducting random audits of the rideshare program for the last two-and-a-half years. The rideshare program is in its 10th year and is meant to reduce carbon emissions, Vernez said.

Only full-time employees and as-needed employees with six months or more of continuous employment are eligible for the program.

A benefit is a free EZ transit pass that allows users to ride almost any bus or train in L.A. County. The passes are valued at $70 and must be renewed each month. For seniors, the disabled and Medicare riders the pass is $35, according to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Web site.

In addition to the EZ passes, City Hall also enforces Ordinance 1604, which promotes ridesharing.

Employers in Santa Monica with 10 to 49 employees are required to provide each of their workers with information about ridesharing, educating their employees about air quality issues and alternatives to driving to work.

Under the ordinance employers of 50 or more people, including City Hall, offer incentives to get employees out of their cars. A yearly survey tracks each employer's progress in reducing drive-alone trips, according to City Hall's Web site.

City Hall also has a mandatory Parking Cash Out Program created by a state law requiring employers of 50 or more people who lease their parking and subsidize any part of their employee parking to offer workers the opportunity to give up their spaces and rideshare to work. In exchange, the employer pays the employee the cost of the parking space.

City Hall also promotes clean air events like Bike to Work Week, Rideshare Week, Clean Air Month, Try Transit Week and Walk to Work Week.

Under the Sustainable City Plan, City Hall's goal is to increase the average vehicle ridership to 1.5. In 2008 that goal was surpassed with a 1.6 average.

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Crossroads travels to Brentwood

FROM **BASEBALL** PAGE 3

offense that was stuck in neutral for much of the afternoon.

Crossroads was able to pad its lead late in the game with three runs in the bottom of the fifth. Sophomore shortstop Andres Leyva led off the inning with a triple deep down the left field line. Hodge followed with a walk, chasing Animo's Pacheco from the game. Valdivia came in to face Robinson and induced a soft dribbler back to the mound, allowing the reliever to look Leyva back to the bag at third while tossing to second to force out Hodge.

With men at the corners, Garrett Baer came to the plate and drew a walk loading the bases for catcher Jake Berg-Rosenblatt, who hit a blooper to left that Gonzalez misplayed. Two runs scored on the play, making the score 5-1. Flyer followed by beating out a grounder to short, scoring Baer and making it 6-1.

The Roadrunners added an insurance run in the sixth when Robinson collected his second RBI of the game.

Next up for Crossroads is a road game against rival Brentwood today at 3 p.m. Brentwood is 5-6 on the season.

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FreedomWorks promoted tea party protests

FROM **TAXES** PAGE 1

In Atlanta, thousands of people gathered outside the Capitol, where Fox News Channel conservative pundit Sean Hannity was set to broadcast his show Wednesday night. One protester's sign read: "Hey Obama you can keep the change."

Julie Reeves, of Covington, brought her Chihuahua Arnie, who wore a tiny anti-IRS T-shirt. "I want the government to get its hand the hell out of my wallet," Reeves said.

The tea parties were promoted by FreedomWorks, a conservative nonprofit advocacy group based in Washington and led by former Republican House Majority Leader Dick Armey of Texas, who is now a lobbyist.

Organizers said the movement developed organically through online social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter and through exposure on Fox News.

While FreedomWorks insisted the rallies were nonpartisan, they have been seized on by many prominent Republicans who view them as a promising way for the party to reclaim its momentum.

"All you have to be is a mildly awake Republican candidate for office to get in front of that parade," said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform.

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DEA: Mexican cartels hit Central America

DEVLIN BARRETT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Mexican drug cartels are creeping south into Central America, U.S. drug enforcement officials said Wednesday, as the Obama administration put new pressure on drug kingpins ahead of the president's trip to Mexico City.

Drug Enforcement Administration officials said there are growing signs the stepped-up law enforcement efforts on the U.S.-Mexico border are driving the cartels south toward Central America.

"We're looking at what happens south of Mexico as well, because that's just as important as what's happening on our border," said DEA Chief of Operations Thomas Harrigan. "With more and more success the Mexican government has, literally they're pushing these cartels further south and potentially it could be a problem in Central America."

It's already happening, said Anthony Placido, the DEA's chief of intelligence.

There have been significant seizures of cartel weaponry in Guatemala, and shootouts among Mexican cartels with operations in Central American countries. The cartels "definitely have" moved south, said Placido.

"We've seen running gun battles in places like Guatemala and Honduras between rival Mexican cartels," he said.

Last month in an appearance before Congress, U.S. State Department official David Johnson said that Central American officials "have identified gangs, drug trafficking and trafficking of arms as the most pressing security concerns in that region."

The acting head of the DEA, Michele Leonhart, told reporters that more efforts along the U.S.-Mexico border alone will not be enough to dismantle the cartels.

"A seizure on the border is not going to break the backs of the cartels. What breaks the backs of the cartels are the partnerships with the U.S. and Mexican counterparts in country, in Mexico," she said.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said the DEA's assessment on the cartels moving south is a serious concern. She said the violence moved based in part on enforcement on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

"It is an ever-changing environment that we have to face," she said.

Napolitano spoke in El Paso, Texas, where she announced she has picked Alan Bersin, a former federal prosecutor, to take the new post of "border czar" to oversee efforts to end cartel violence along the border and slow the tide of people crossing illegally into the United States.

Separately, the White House on Wednesday announced that three Mexican organizations had been added to a list of suspected international drug kingpins: the Sinaloa cartel, Los Zetas and La Familia Michoacana.

The move came a day before President Barack Obama travels to Mexico.

The three Mexican groups were added to the U.S. government's blacklist of drug syndicates, known commonly as the Drug Kingpin Act and aimed at financially cutting off significant foreign narcotics traffickers, their organizations and operatives worldwide.

Those on the list are denied access to the U.S. financial system and all trade and transactions involving U.S. companies and individuals.

La Familia Michoacana, also known simply as La Familia, moves massive amounts of cocaine from Colombian drug dealers, according to U.S. officials.

Los Zetas was formed by ex-military men who became hit men for the other cartels.

The Sinaloa cartel, often referred to as the Mexican Federation, began in the 1970s and now controls most of the seaports along the Pacific coat of Mexico, officials say.

The president has already promised to dispatch nearly 500 more federal agents to the U.S.-Mexico border, along with X-ray machines and drug-sniffing dogs.

Obama aims to ease tax dread

LIZ SIDOTI
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama declared on tax-filing day that he aims to ease the dread of deadline day with "a simpler tax code that rewards work and the pursuit of the American dream."

"For too long, we've seen taxes used as a wedge to scare people into supporting policies that increased the burden on working people instead of helping them live their dreams," Obama said. "That has to change, and that's the work that we've begun."

His words were hardly met with universal applause. Across the country, protesters met at statehouses and town squares to oppose Obama's federal spending since he took office. Organizers said they wanted to channel the spirit of the Boston Tea Party's rebellion.

"The system is severely broken, and we the people let it get that way," said Des Moines businessman Doug Burnett. "What can we do? My answer is revolution."

Outside the White House, protesters threw an apparent box of tea bags over the fence. U.S. Secret Service officers cleared Pennsylvania Avenue and Lafayette Park near the compound and sent in a robot to inspect the suspicious package while the White House went on lockdown.

The Secret Service later said the package was not dangerous.

Obama also met with several working families to underscore his efforts to make the tax code more fair and less complex.

Obama noted April 15 "isn't exactly everyone's favorite date on the calendar." But he said the day is a reminder to leaders in Washington that they have a responsibility to the people who elected them.

The president noted that he's asked his economic advisers to report back by year's end on possible tax changes.

"We need to simplify a monstrous tax code that is far too complicated for most Americans to understand but just complicated enough for the insiders who know how to game the system," Obama said.



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE (SMC)

RFP # SD 0409

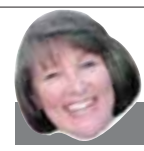
SOUP AND SALAD SERVICE VENDOR

Notice is hereby given that SMC is calling for responses to this Request for Proposal (RFP's), from qualified Vendors who can provide all management, staff, materials, equipment and insurances to perform Food Service preparation and vending in the SMC Cayton Center campus cafeteria.
The RFP is due on **May 12, 2009, 2:00 p.m. local time.**
The space available to perform the Food Service storage, preparation and vending is approximately 870 square feet in addition to 1885 square feet of dining and patio area and includes utilities (water, gas, electrical) for the Fee which will be paid by the Vendor to SMC.
The Menu **must include** but not be limited to a variety **of Soups and made to order Salads.**
To requests for a copy of **RFP SD 0409**, please send a **Letter of Interest referencing RFP SD 0409 in writing** by: fax, email or mail service to: Ardelle Jarvis, Purchasing Department (Fax: 310 - 434 3654, email:avjtbo@yahoo.com) or Santa Monica College 1900 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405 -1628.
A mandatory pre-proposal walk-through will be held on **April 30, 2009** at Cayton Center cafeteria, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 900425-1628 at 3:p.m.
NOTE: All Proposers are required to attend the mandatory walkthrough to familiarize themselves with the food storage, preparation and vending area.
Phone calls for information concerning the RFP will not be accepted.

To be published April 16, 2009

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Play Time

Cynthia Citron — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

'Brief Affair' with Hitler?

ANNA (JENNY O'HARA) HAS BEEN almost dying for years. But each time she is carted off to the hospital, she rallies, bounces out of her "deathbed" and returns to her home in Brooklyn. While fiercely clinging to life, however, she is slowly losing her grip on reality. Or so it seems.

Her grown children have once again gathered at her bedside. Seth and Abby (Arye Gross and Marin Hinkle) are twins, both gay, and both apparently dedicated underachievers. Seth is creatively content with his career: he writes obituaries. Abby lives in California with her partner and their baby girl, conceived, as Anna derisively assumes, "with a turkey baster."

"I like returnable children," Anna says.

Anna talks about Seth's musical history: he studied viola at Juilliard, an instrument, she says, that was "designed for recessive personalities" and dismisses it with the comment that "the viola is the same as a violin, except that no one cares about it."

With this fast-paced beginning, playwright Richard Greenberg quickly establishes the relationships in his play "Our Mother's Brief Affair," commissioned by, and now having its world premiere, at the South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa. While the initial story line and characters will be familiar to those who saw Greenberg's earlier play "Everett Beekin," which premiered at the South Coast Rep in 2000, "Our Mother's Brief Affair" veers off in an entirely new and unexpected direction.

As in the earlier play, there is another character: Anna's husband Abe, who storms around the stage in fits of bad temper. He is played by Matthew Arkin, who also plays Anna's secret lover, Phil, her partner in their "brief affair."

Perhaps because she believes she may actually die this time, Anna suddenly reveals to her children the family secrets she has been squelching for years. She tells them about her romance with Phil, their clandestine meetings while Seth was having his viola lessons at Juilliard, the excitement of having a private adventure of her own. "It wasn't the sex, it was the secrecy," she explains.

And then she provides a shocking postscript. Phil wasn't actually Phil; the name was a pseudonym adopted by an infamous political informant whose deception and double-dealing led to the deaths of his family members. To which an enraged



photo courtesy

MOMMY DEAREST: **The cast of 'Our Mother's Brief Affair' shine under MacKinnon's direction.**

Seth explodes, "It's like discovering that your mother had an affair with Adolph Hitler!"

There is also a childhood misdemeanor that has tormented Anna all her life, but it is so relatively insignificant that her children are easily able to lift that burden from her shoulders. Nevertheless, in the end Seth and Abby are left to ponder their mother's stories and try to determine which, if any, are true.

"Our Mother's Brief Affair" is a fascinating play, mostly because the actors are so good under the tight direction of Pam MacKinnon. But also for the star turn delivered by Jenny O'Hara, well-known in Los Angeles and New York, but here making her South Coast Rep debut. She is funny, quirky, mentally adrift, shrewd, and dreamy, and is a real delight to watch.

Further, Sybil Wickersheimer has designed a deceptively austere setting which turns out to serve the story well. It is a neighborhood park, surrounded by brick buildings, with a bare tree off-center and a scattering of benches that serve as various backgrounds as the story moves along. As each actor completes a scene, he retires to a less prominent bench, so no one ever actually leaves the stage. And no one in the audience leaves either. They remain gripped to the very end.

"Our Mother's Brief Affair" will continue at the South Coast Repertory, 655 Town Center Dr., Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., through May 3. Call (714) 708-5555 for tickets or purchase them online at www.scr.org.

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



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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 57°

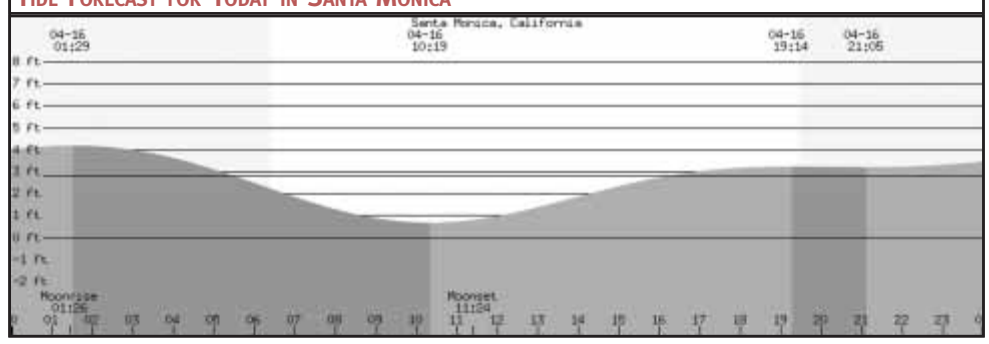
Swell Forecast (4-7 FT)

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

Long Range Synopsis

Friday the 17th wind swell and southern hemi decline further: waist most everywhere...by the looks of things today.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



LIVING LIBRARY PROJECT

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Saturday, April 18
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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601 Santa Monica Blvd.
Registration begins at 10 a.m.
www.smpl.org

Living books will share a significant personal experience or a particular perspective on life. An ex-gang member, a fat activist, and a formerly homeless woman are just a few of the people who will be available for a 30 minute personal conversation.

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Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library

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 -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / 0S
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / 0S

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A	0S
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	0S
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	0S
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	0S
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	0S
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	0S
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	0S
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	0S
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	F	0S
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	0S
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A+	0S
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	C	0S
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	0S
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	0S
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	0S
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	0S
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	0S
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	0S
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	0S
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	0S
Tuna Canyon	A+	0S
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	D	0S
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	0S
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	B	0S
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	0S

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	0S
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A	0S
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	0S
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	F	0S
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	0S
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	C	0S
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	0S
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	0S
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	D	0S
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	0S
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	0S
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A	0S
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	0S
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	0S
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	0S
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	0S
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	0S
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	0S
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	0S
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	0S
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	0S
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	0S
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A	0S

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
0S -- 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

Read My Lips (Sur Mes Lèvres) (R) 1hr 55min

The Woman Next Door (NR) 1hr 45min
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

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

Make an appearance, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Take a stand, and recognize just how much you need to do. Once you get the ball rolling and get others to do their share, you'll feel much better. Be aware of how much you can accomplish if you just go for it. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Think past the obvious. Ask yourself how much your views and beliefs are coloring what is happening. The smart move is to pull out and try a different perspective. Pretend you are a different person, someone you know. Tonight: Brainstorm away.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Work with others and realize each person's uniqueness. Surprises surround an offer. You look around and see people for who they are, perhaps for the first time. Excitement surrounds your work and destiny. Tonight: Easy does it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Defer as much as you can. The ball really isn't in your court, no matter how you look at the situation. You will get some interesting feedback and ideas. You can decide what is what in your due time. Tonight: Anything goes, if you can relax.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Your energy needs to be plugged in where it can and will make a difference. You could be a little tight or serious-minded. Trust that this attitude will keep you from any radical or unworthy decisions or risks. Unexpected developments around a partnership could have you shaking your head. Tonight: Put your feet up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You flourish when commanding your ship. Knowing you are A-OK could make all the difference in your security and attitude. Observe what is going on with different people. Tonight: Say yes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ How you say what you need impacts others' responses. Build greater security through open talks. Consider a home office or working from home more often. You could be much harder on yourself than in the past. Tonight: Order in.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Speak your mind in reference to a mutual goal. Others could be so negative that they cannot see a way out. The unexpected occurs with a child or loved one. As a result, you seem to open up more, at least in finding solutions. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Accepting more on your plate might be unavoidable and hard. Learn to delegate more if you can. Listen to facts, especially those that impact your checkbook. Be smart. Make key decisions accordingly. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Your attitude sets a precedent for others. Look honestly at the long term and your willingness to incorporate new ideas. Reach out for others and ask for more feedback. The unexpected forces you to renew your thinking. Tonight: As you like it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Clearly you need to gather more facts. Listen to what you are hearing from a key partner. Understand what is happening and decide where you can make a difference. A radical financial decision could be too costly of a risk. Tonight: Take some much needed private time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Understand the impact of your expectations. Others could be extremely negative and difficult. Co-workers have much to share. Listen well. Many ideas could sprout in this environment, especially if you are open. Tonight: Join friends.

Happy birthday

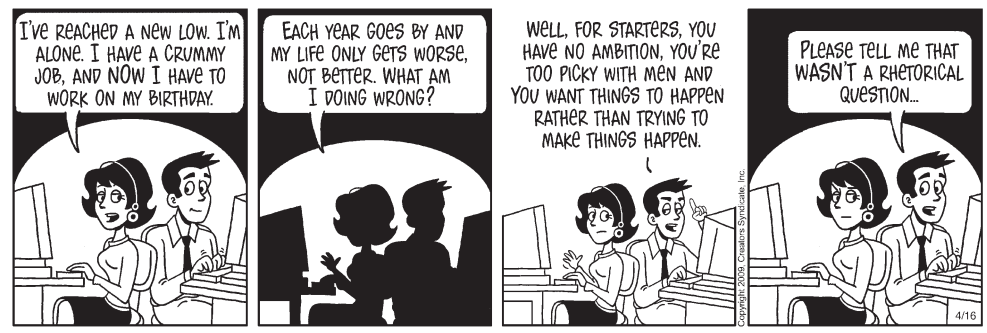
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★ Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year, you need to be more aware of your image and the direction of your career. You have worked long and hard to achieve what you have during the past few years. Revise your path. Dealing with higher-ups allows for a new type of thinking. Realize when you are heading down a negative path. Learn the art of reframing. If you are single, you could meet someone because of your visibility. If you are attached, open up different avenues of communication. Accept feedback, and share more of your fears. CAPRICORN tosses you into the limelight.

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 ★★★

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

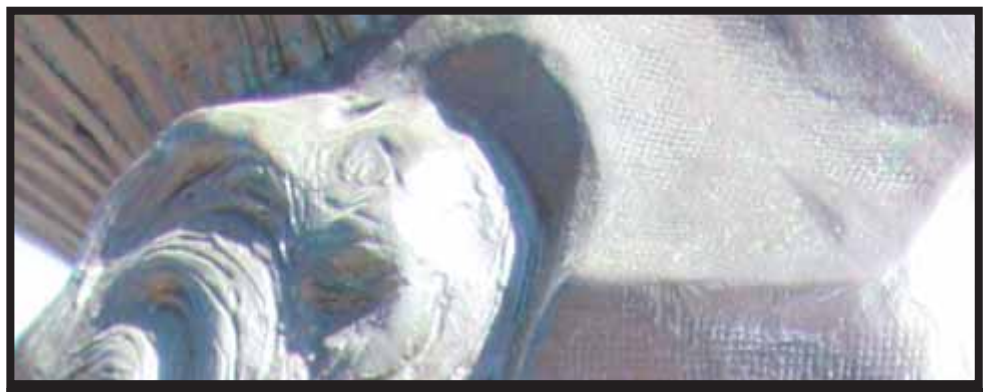
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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 Spill over
5 Climbed
11 Zorro accessory
12 Bested in a pie contest
13 Poker payment
14 Homes
15 Rapid plunge
17 Cartoon frame
18 Composer's creation
22 Underhanded
24 Lukewarm
25 Motor need
26 Big weight
27 Gave the once-over
30 Writer Brookner
32 Cook's mint
33 — de plume
34 Boastful sort
38 Russian tyrant
41 Sticky stuff
42 Sword-making city
43 Miseries
44 Toadies
45 Russian denial

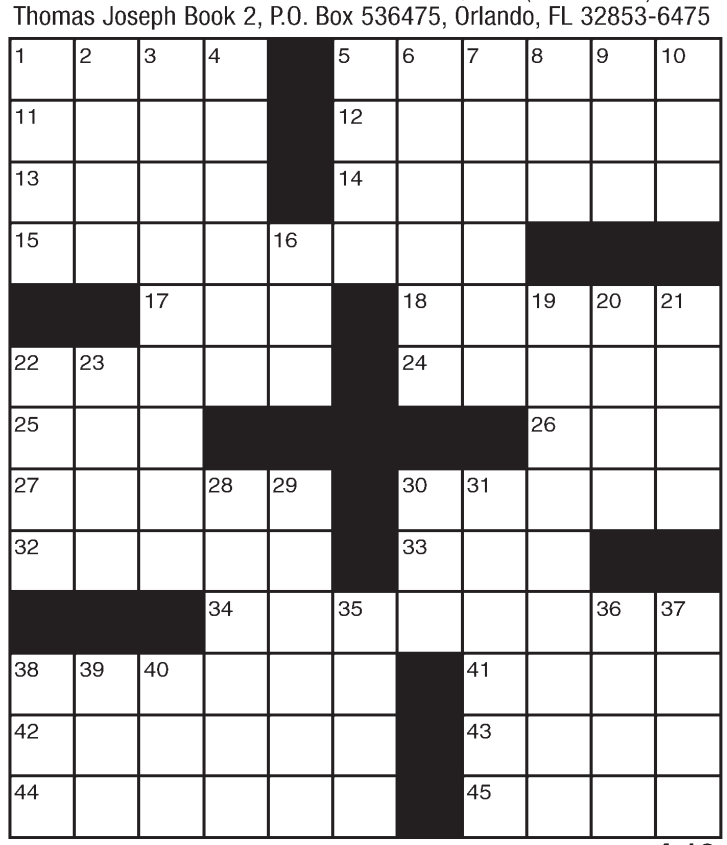
DOWN

1 Jazz style
2 Turner of film
3 To the eye
4 Disrobed
5 Shower need
6 Picasso, for one
7 Right away
8 Young fellow
9 Summer in Paris
10 — Moines
16 Crafty
19 At best
20 Real hoot
21 Writer Ferber
22 Flue filth
23 Weather map mark
28 Symbol
29 Make fun of
30 Director Lee
31 Bean
35 Shortly, in poems
36 Occupy the throne
37 Midterm event
38 Hog home
39 Water tester
40 Capp and Capone

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

Yesterday's answer

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



4-16

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MEGA MILLIONS: 4 11 22 48 50
Meganumber: 42
Jackpot: $109M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 7 18 34 35 43
Meganumber: 25
Jackpot: $9M

Fantasy 5: 2 12 22 23 24

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 6 6 6
EVENING: 1 1 1

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1.45.52

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

■ Christos Kokkalis, 19, allegedly doing 65 mph in a 30 mph zone, was charged with assault in Framingham, Mass., in March, for reacting badly to a pedestrian's hand gesture suggesting he slow down. According to a police report, Kokkalis swerved across a street into the man's path, drove by, turned around and did it again. The report said Kokkalis denied fault, claiming that his car "turns on its own" because of an "alignment" problem.

■ Herman Rosenblat, whose best-selling "memoir" of his Holocaust love affair with his wife was yanked off the market by the publisher when parts were proven false, insisted to ABC News in February that he never lied. Of his heartbreaking, well-worn story that his non-imprisoned future wife lovingly tossed apples to him over a fence at his concentration camp (which physically could not possibly have happened, according to historians), Rosenblat said: "It wasn't a lie. (E)ven now, I believe it, that she was there and she threw the apple to me. In my imagination, it was true."

■ In March, Dominique Fisher, a "tattooist," received a probation-type sentence by Britain's Burnley Crown Court despite having carved her name and other marks with a box cutter on her new lover's body while he was passed out. She and Wayne Robinson had been on a four-day drinking binge, and he panicked when he sobered up. However, Fisher said that Robinson knew all along that she did tattoos and told him, "I thought you'd like it."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1962 Walter Cronkite succeeded Douglas Edwards as anchorman of "The CBS Evening News."

1996 Britain's Prince Andrew and his wife, Sarah, the Duchess of York, announced they were in the process of getting a divorce.

2007 in the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history, student Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people on the campus of Virginia Tech before taking his own life.

WORD UP!

outré \oo-TRAY\, *adjective*: Unconventional; eccentric; bizarre.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

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. 20090336706 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ENTRE TRAINING, GUIDED BUSINESS PLAN, 1226 N. OGDEN DR, #6, W. HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046, COUNTY OF LA. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : MELANIE RAE ROBINSON, 1226 N. OGDEN DR, #6, W. HOLLYWOOD, CA 90046 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: MELANIE RAE ROBINSON
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/10/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 4/9/2009, 4/16/2009, 4/23/2009, 4/30/2009

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For more information on Life Rolls On Foundation visit their website at www.liferolison.org

ZJ BOARDING HOUSE



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Wetsuits must be in good condition. No holes please.

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North of Montana	$3,407,000	$1,295,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,895,000	$799,000
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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