INSIDE SCOOP
HOME RECEIVES LANDMARK DESIGNATION PAGE 3
COMMENTARY
LAST MAN STANDING PAGE 4
STATE
NEW FACE OF SWAT PAGE 13

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THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 134



RILEY ISN'T TALKING
SEE PAGE 14

# Santa Monica Daily Press

*Since 2001: A news odyssey*

THE CRIME AND PUNISHMENT ISSUE

# Elderly woman guilty of murder

## Co-defendant Rutterschmidt guilty of conspiracy in deaths of two homeless men

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES An elderly woman was convicted Wednesday of murdering two homeless men to collect insurance payouts, and she and a co-defendant were found guilty of counts involving conspiracy to murder for financial gain.

Partial verdicts were being read in the case against Helen Golay, 77, and Olga Rutterschmidt, 75. The judge decided to take five initial verdicts as the jury struggled with Rutterschmidt's murder counts.

Golay was convicted of the first-degree murders of Kenneth McDavid, 50, in 2005 and Paul Vados, 73, in 1999. Golay was also convicted of the conspiracy counts in both killings.

Rutterschmidt was convicted of conspiracy to murder McDavid for financial gain.

During the verdict readings, the jury was sent back into deliberations to clear up a finding. The panel had asked earlier in the day for readings of testimony by three witnesses, and jurors also asked for a laptop so they could review DVDs entered into evidence.

Prosecutors said the women collected $2.8 million from insurance policies on the lives of two homeless men who were killed in staged hit-and-runs.

Prosecutors said the women recruited their prey from among the homeless of Hollywood, invested thousands of dollars in

SEE VERDICT PAGE 12

# At the head of the class

## Franklin Elementary receives major honor

BY Daily Press Staff

SMMUSD HDQTRS Franklin Elementary School was one of 343 public elementary schools to receive the California Distinguished Schools honor for 2008.

For the current year, 839 elementary schools submitted applications and were identified for eligibility on the basis of their Academic Performance Index and Adequate Yearly Progress result. All applicants underwent a rigorous selection process conducted by the California Department of Education, with the help of many local educators from across the state, and in partnership with the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association.

"It is such an honor for Franklin Elementary to be recognized by the state superintendent for what we already knew to be true: Franklin is truly an amazing place, made so by the actions and care shown by teachers, staff, parents, and the community for the benefit of our students," said Principal Tara Brown.

"The administrative leadership team, made up of Principal Tara Brown and Assistant Principal Deanna Sinfield, and the teachers and parents work collaboratively to make phenomenal learning experiences happen for the children," said SMMUSD

SEE HONOR PAGE 10




Alexis Hawkins *news@smdp.com*

PRIDE AND JOY: **A family exits Franklin Elementary School, which has been recognized as a Distinguished School in California. The school is one of 343 public elementary schools honored.**

# SMPD looking for theft victims

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY Police officers are asking residents who have recently been burglarized to identify property recovered earlier this month when detectives arrested a suspected serial burglar.

Joaquin Palmer was arrested on April 2 at 2:30 p.m. after officers responded to the 1300 block of Franklin Avenue to investigate a burglary in progress, said SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla.



PALMER

When officers arrived, the suspect was gone. Palmer was stopped a short distance away from the location. Witnesses identified Palmer as the suspect and he was arrested for attempted burglary, Padilla said.

In the month of March there were a number of similar burglaries committed in Santa Monica. Detectives believed Palmer was connected to those crimes

SEE ARREST PAGE 11

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# WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Santa Monica Daily Press

### Surfing with Miki
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Author David Rensin and Surfer magazine editor Chris Mauro discuss Rensin's new biography of Malibu-based surfing legend, Miki Dora. Film clips of Dora in action and a book sale and signing will follow. Seating for this free event is first come, first served.

### Laugh your chakras off
717 Broadway, 11 a.m.
Led by Kim Selbert, a certified laughter yoga leader, this class utilizes simple and fun laughter exercises to promote better health. Bet you didn't know that you could change your life through the simple act of laughing. This class takes place at Shakti's Elements in Downtown.

### The Meathands have it
4455 Overland Ave. Culver City, 8 p.m.
The "Magic Meathands" perform an hour of fully improvised hilarity based on audience suggestions and participation. The show is presented by director Bill Johnson, in a great cafe that offers delicious coffee, food, drinks and comfortable couches. What sets this improv group apart is their personal connection with the audience and community, so their best material comes directly from the people around them. For information, call (310) 559-8868.

### What's new this week
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad.

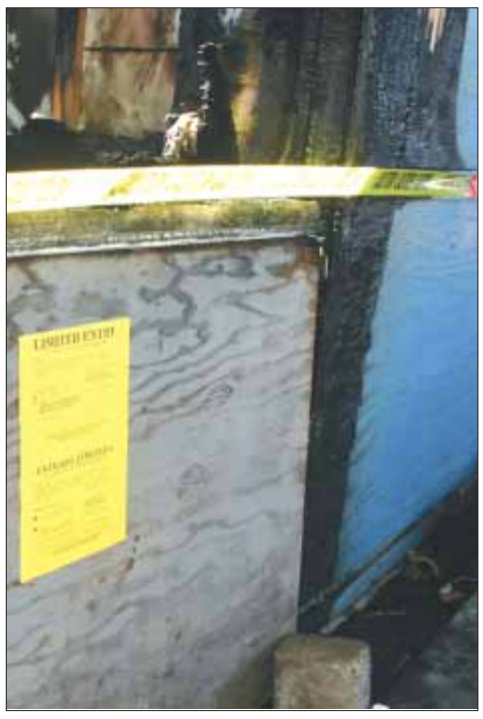
## Friday, April 18, 2008

### Spring Fling
1700 Ocean Ave.,
Ocean Spa at Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel introduces Spring Fling in partnership with State of The Heart Fitness, a weekend of exercise, relaxation and health. The retreat includes an array of fitness related activities ranging from beach walks, pool side pilates, yoga, spinning, water aerobics and hikes. For more information, call (310) 576-3108.

### Dancing with Isabelle and Reiko
1334 Lincoln Blvd., 7:15 p.m.
Learn how to dance hot salsa in a relaxed atmosphere with Isabelle and Reiko. There are two classes offered: One for beginners and another for more advanced dancers. Once both classes are over, hang out for a while and socialize with fellow students. For more information, call (310) 392-3493.

### Get your Monty on
2627 Pico Blvd., Call for times
The Santa Monica Theatre Guild at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre presents "The Full Monty." The show runs March 14 through April 12 (Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.). This musical adaptation of the comedic British film turns the "let's put on a show" genre on its ear, as a group of unemployed steelworkers prepares to present their own Chippendales-style show in working-class Buffalo, New York. For information, call (310) 828-7519.

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.



File photo

THE SCENE: **A fire at an art studio on Nebraska Avenue killed a man staying in the structure.**

# Death deemed an accident

**BY CHIARA CANZI**
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN L.A. The death of a man whose body was found in the debris of a art studio after a fire was determined to be accidental, officials reported Wednesday.

The body showed no signs of trauma, but did show signs of smoke inhalation and thermo injuries, the probable causes of death, according to a spokesman from the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office.

The victim has not yet been identified. The coroner is currently comparing X-rays from the autopsy, running them through an internal database.

In the early hours of Wednesday, April 9 the Santa Monica Fire Department responded to a reported studio fire at 3028 Nebraska Ave. The fire rapidly engulfed the small space forcing the firefighters to force their way in. The SMFD reported that a body was recovered in the debris.

The owner of the building said that a homeless man was allowed to sleep in the small quarters.

news@smdp.com

**✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?**
■ Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**

# Zimmers House saved

## John Byers designed property receives landmark designation

**BY MELODY HANATANI**
Daily Press Staff Writer

NOMA A shabby hacienda originally crafted by a famed Santa Monica architect was deemed an historic landmark this week, preserving the aging adobe structure that caused an uproar after some preservationists accused the homeowner of illegally exceeding the amount of construction he was permitted to do.

The Landmarks Commission on Monday unanimously designated the one-story house at 2101 La Mesa Dr. as an historic piece of property. The Mexican Colonial Revival style home was designed and built by John Byers, a local architect who was known for his impact on the development of Santa Monica architecture. Byers was credited with designing several structures in Santa Monica during the early 1900s, including the Miles Memorial Playhouse and his first commission — the home of former Santa Monica High School Principal W.F. Barnum on Lincoln Boulevard and Fifth Street.

"Architect John Byers provided our signature colonial revival (style)," Sherrill Kushner, a resident, said. "Byers is our local treasure."

Some preservationists and neighbors expressed concerns recently about whether the property owner, Cameron Strang, exceeded the scope of work he was permitted to perform on the house. Strang received a permit on Nov. 21, 2007 to demolish the partial roof of the garage and to stabilize the hill side and rear yard of the house.

Among the complainants was neighbor Linda Brown who nominated the property for landmark designation in February.

When he appeared before the commission, Strang, who supported the designation, pointed out that Brown had filed numerous complaints to various regulatory bodies, none of which have resulted in violations or fines. He insisted that the work was done in the spirit of the law, but expressed regret for taking down one of the original adobe walls.

"In hindsight, I wouldn't have taken down the wall," Strang said at the hearing. "Was I within my rights? Absolutely."

Strang spoke of the first time he set foot on the property and how he was enamored by the architecture and its accompanying history. The homeowner, who said he is already 19 months into the rehabilitation process, said it is his goal to restore the structure.



Alexis Hawkins *news@smdp.com*

HISTORIC: **A John Byers designed home on La Mesa Drive was named a landmark on Monday.**

"Since that time, I have undertaken a lot of work and energy and money to restore the property, almost to its original state," he said.

The hacienda, known as the Zimmers House, was built in 1924 for E.W. Zimmers and underwent a series of renovations and additions over the next 84 years, including a playroom built at the rear of the property in 1949, a bathroom in 1972 and a swimming pool in 1975. Among the previous home owners was Samuel G. McClure, the president of the Santa Monica Publishing Company which owned the Santa Monica Evening Outlook. McClure lived at the home from 1936-1948.

While there was minimal debate as to whether the property qualified as a landmark, there was some discussion as to whether Strang should be granted an exemption from filing for a certificate of appropriateness permit. The reason for the exemption request was that the project is already in the final stages of plan check review. Strang pointed out that the hacienda is being cared for by a design team packed with experts respected in rehabilitation architectural circles.

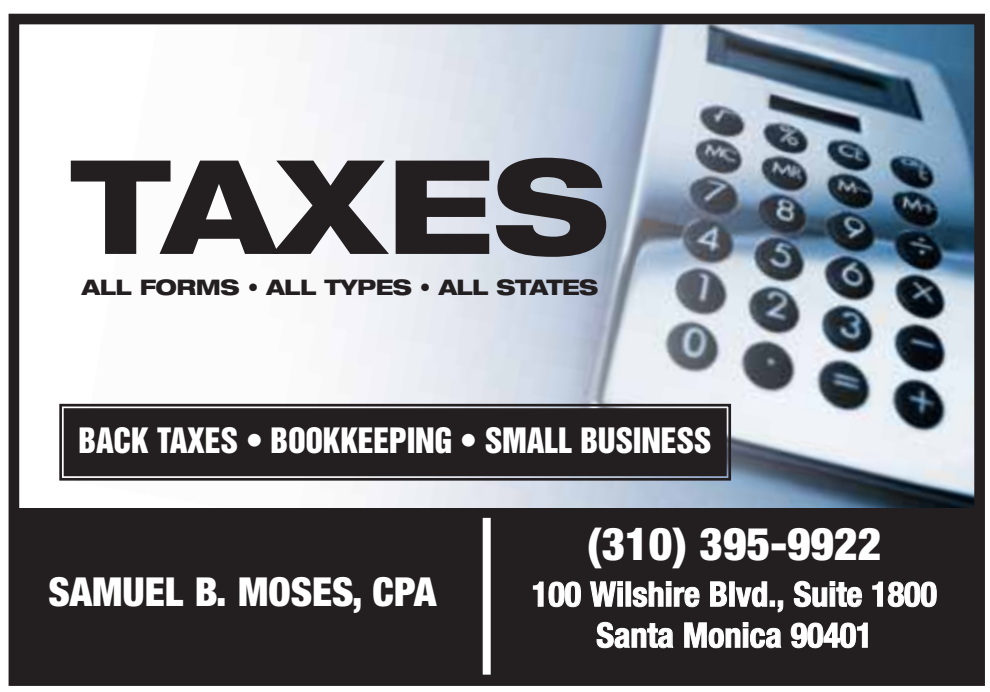
Among the projects that Strang is proposing is a plan to stabilize and restore the original portion of the adobe residence and to restore the original courtyard configuration. The project also includes the demolition of rear building wing additions. City planners said the project does comply with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

The exemption was granted.

Several commissioners were reluctant to grant the exemption because they didn't have enough time to review the proposal before the meeting and wanted to be sure

SEE **LANDMARK** PAGE 12



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

### Walker needs to take a walk

**Editor:**

Last May the City Council told the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District: If you want an additional $530,000 from the city, stop forcing parents to sign secret deals for their children to receive the special education programs they need.

SMMUSD Deputy Superintendent Tim Walker responded with the equivalent of a middle-finger salute: More coerced secret deals, perpetuating a combative climate with parents and jeopardizing desperately needed funding for the schools.

The council also required the recently completed audit of the district's special education programs. The auditors have called for district administrators to reverse the hostile attitude and actions toward parents and special needs children that the audit revealed.

The audit found that eight years ago the district conducted a similar audit and ignored the results. Imagine how much more thoroughly the current recommendations can be ignored with Tim Walker on the job.

He needs to go. Now.

**Alice Ballesteros**
Santa Monica

### Planting seeds

**Editor:**

Instead of increasing our urban forest, our City Council and City Staff are intent on de-foresting Santa Monica. They are into sticks rather than trees. Look at Santa Monica Boulevard and Broadway between Ocean and Fifth Street, Pico Boulevard, and 32nd Street between Pearl Street and Ocean Park Boulevard. No Santa Monica tree is safe from this misguided bait and switch.

City Manager Lamont Ewell, Walt Warriner and the City Council (except for Kevin McKeown) try to justify the squandering of $600,000 of taxpayer dollars to destroy and transplant healthy, thriving ficus trees on Second and Fourth streets on the ground that they will be replaced with 120 gingko biloba trees. That's analogous to justifying the killing of elephants because you are replacing them with mice.

The 23 ficus trees now on death row did not all of a sudden simultaneously become structurally unstable. Independent arborists and even the city's expert disagree with the city's latest rationalization.

The ficus trees have at least another 100 years to live. Besides being beautiful, their mature canopies are crucial environmentally, e.g., heat island effect, absorption of carbon monoxide and photosynthesis.

Gingko biloba trees have small, slow growing canopies. They are deciduous. They are sticks at least five months out of the year, meaning a hotter area, no shade, no stormwater runoff retention, no carbon monoxide absorption, no photosynthesis. We need to retain our mature ficus canopy.

City Council can spend the $600,000 to buy new trees to plant throughout Santa Monica. Our Urban Deforester can plant his gingko trees in front of City Hall. They can be a living monument, albeit leafless almost half the year, to City Hall follies. If City Hall persists on its short-sighted course, this Katz, Holbrook, Shriver, Genser, Bloom, O'Connor, Ewell, Warriner Gingko Grove can be a reminder of the City Hall that was.

**Susan Hartley**
Santa Monica

### Exposing secret motives

**Editor:**

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is no fan of the latest anti-gay initiative; the real fans and promoters of this measure are Republicans and social conservatives.

The Republican National Committee is pumping money into California, backing a voter initiative confronting same-sex marriage, figuring this hot-button issue will stoke the fires of unrest in the GOP base and entice moderates and independents to go to the polls, and while they're at it they'll vote for John McCain.

The ballot measure is another wedge issue being used by the election savvy GOP to short-change and confuse Californians and promote their presidential candidate.

**Ron Lowe**
Santa Monica



## Dispatches from Dystopia

Ryan Hyatt — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Last man standing

BEING WITH MY GIRLFRIEND MARISA'S family, I sometimes get the sense I arrived late and missed the party of a lifetime.

Jerry Le Blanc, Marisa's father, died eight years ago of lung cancer. Kerry Daveline, her sister's husband, died five years ago of melanoma. The family bonded considerably during the grueling battles these men fought. The stories told are of the best and worst of times.

As a newcomer to Marisa's family, I am the last man standing. Surviving members include Rena, Marisa's mother and widow, Mia, Marisa's sister and widow, and Mia's twin daughters, Kerry (Jr.) and Skylar, born after their father died.

Our favorite gathering place is The Stand in Encino, where we enjoy a casual meal of hot dogs and chips and afterward play with the twins at a nearby park. It's a fun and relaxing way to spend time with the little ones and catch up with the adults.

I join Marisa and the other females as "Uncle Ryan" for trips and special events around Los Angeles. We spent a weekend last year at Disneyland. We also attend Santa Monica's annual Pier de Sol benefit that raises money for the Special Olympics.

As much fun as we have, a feeling of loss sometimes pervades our gatherings. It's apparent something is missing in the lives of these darling women and girls. Marisa says it would have been nice for me to have met the other men, as we would have had a good time together.

Marisa's parents were career freelance writers. Jerry co-wrote "Five to Die," a book on the Manson family that predated "Helter Skelter" by four years, and a travel guide to Bali. He and Rena, who still earns her living writing, penned "Suddenly Rich," a nonfiction look at what sudden wealth does to people.

Jerry worked the New York Times crossword puzzle every morning over a cup of coffee with a little dog named Pf snuggled on his lap. By all accounts he was a brilliant and gentle soul.

He and Rena met in the '60s as reporters for the Los Angeles Greensheet (now the Daily News). Their marriage was one of true love, although tainted by the instability that often comes with writing professionally. Even so, they were happy to live on their own terms and married for 35 years until his death at age 71. Friends called them Romeo and Juliet.

Kerry and Mia met when they were young and were together 18 years until his death at age 41. They became involved while performing a dinner theatre production of West Side Story. He was Tony. She was a back-up dancer.

When Kerry became bedridden, their home became an open house. It was like a big, long slumber party where family and friends gathered regularly and the roaring fire, music, talking and laughter never ceased.

Working full-time as an executive assistant, Mia raises her 3-year-old daughters as if she were two parents, ensuring they have the best education and opportunities available. Simply put, she's tenacious. The twins attend a culturally diverse pre-school and participate in ballet and drum circles.

Mia is not a woman of great means, but she encourages the girls to share in her parents' love of travel. So, she takes them on cruises. They visit Kerry's family in San Francisco. Last year they even went to England. They are seasoned explorers and aren't shy around strangers. Dad would be proud.

**AS MUCH FUN AS WE HAVE, A FEELING OF LOSS SOMETIMES PERVADES OUR GATHERINGS. IT'S APPARENT SOMETHING IS MISSING IN THE LIVES OF THESE DARLING WOMEN AND GIRLS.**

Several family members and friends tattooed themselves with a three leaf clover with Kerry's name to show their indelible love for him before he died.

But the reminders run deeper than ink. Kevin West and Michael Moynahan, two of Kerry's closest friends organize a fundraiser to raise money for the Melanoma Research Foundation in his name.

The 5th Annual Hack N' Smack Kerry Daveline Memorial Celebrity Golf Classic will be held on Monday, April 21, at El Caballero Country Club in Tarzana. It is becoming one of the most successful events of its kind, bringing together celebrities and the health and business communities for food, fun and a day on a green. The event includes a golf tournament, silent auction, lunch, dinner and music by the Beach Toys, a Beach Boys tribute band. The twins dance with the crowd.

Although the party might not be the same without Jerry and Kerry, it's inspiring to watch people who were closest to them aid in the fight to develop treatments for cancer their loved ones never had.

**RYAN HYATT** is a former Daily Press staff writer and author of the nouveau western, "The Death of Rock 'n' Roll: A Biography of Darrell Breedlove." He is seeking a publisher for his next novel, "Stay Younger Longer," a political thriller that takes place in LA in 2046. He can be reached at ryanhyatt@gmail.com.

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## Meredith Pro Tem

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

# Fearing a blast from the past

THE FINANCIAL ADVISOR HELPING ME fill out my life insurance application last week asked as a matter of course if I'd been convicted of any traffic violations in the past five years. Naturally I lied and said no, but then I worried the life insurance people might have a way of knowing things. Kind of like a Magic 8 Ball.

I wondered if it was possible that the speeding ticket I got a year and a half ago might have possibly been noted on my permanent record, which lurks out there in a special part of the universe to which only people who know or need to know the bad things are granted access. So I erred on the side of caution, stopped anything false from being written and copped to the ticket, having learned long ago (the hard way, of course) that it's way better to admit guilt before being accused of it.

My fear of the permanent record started in the eighth grade when Alyssa Marks asked if she could copy my homework for Mrs. Repa's social studies class. I hesitated to let her do it, not so much because I was staking my flag in a chunk of moral high ground, but because social studies was one of my weaker subjects. Still, that didn't deter Alyssa, who shrugged off any quality concerns and copied from me with wild abandon.

Mrs. Repa passed back the homework the following afternoon and I was disappointed, although not entirely shocked, to see a grade of 55 at the top of the page. My curiosity was piqued, however, when I saw next to the grade a note requesting my presence after class. Not surprisingly, Alyssa received the same grade, as well as the same invitation.

"Cheaters!" Mrs. Repa hollered, piercing us with her icy blue eyes as she closed the door behind the last student after the bell rang. "I'm going to keep tabs on both of you when you go to high school next year. If either of you ever pulls something like this again, you can bet this will show up on your permanent record," she growled.

I knew then that my life was pretty much over. I knew Mrs. Repa wouldn't really wait for the next incident. She'd be proactive and mark the crime on my permanent record right away, despite my promises to rehabilitate my cheating ways. My high school teachers would all find out. They'd pass it on to the college admissions people, who would tell my professors, who would ensure I'd never graduate and become a grown-up who was allowed to have a phone in her room.

I started fantasizing ways I could be like Superman and reverse the orbit of the Earth so I could turn back time and just tell Alyssa no to copy. When that seemed difficult to coordinate, I dreamed of ways to sneak into the school office, snatch my sullied permanent record and replace it with a virginal version. Which was worse — a black mark on my permanent record or a stint in the can for breaking and entering? It was a tough call.

But the reality is, a mystical piece of paper floating around in an elusive dusty file cabinet is no longer the threat it once was (although prison still is). Not in the age of YouTube, My Space and Facebook when people are their own worst offenders when it comes to putting damaging information out there for the world to see.

Fortunately, after much thought, I think I can now safely say that my dad likely has the only remaining copy of my permanent record. I know this because while he can't remember the name of the movie he saw an hour ago, he can rattle off my offenses, in order, from the moment of my birth to the present. So barring any nude photos of me taken by a neighbor with a long lens and a Web site, I think I've escaped the perils of anything more permanent coming back to haunt me on the Internet or anywhere else.

Yes, I take some comfort in assuming the life insurance people might actually not talk to the brass at the DMV who no longer chat with the health insurance folks who stopped corresponding with the credit card underlings who brunch alone instead of with the guys at the bank who do happy hour amongst themselves rather than with the dudes at the credit bureaus who have long since erased the cops from their speed dials. They no longer need to hold quarterly conventions with "Hello My Name Is" stickers on their sweater vests and Xerox each other's notes on everyone's permanent record. They just use Google.

Finally, Mrs. Repa has met her match. Best of luck, Google.

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

## The Q Line

**(Re)calling their numbers**

Every time the City Council makes a decision there are always going to be people unhappy with it. At some time or another, just about everybody wishes the council was comprised of different members. Sometimes, addition by subtraction is the only way to go.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

**If you could recall one City Council member, which one would you choose and why?**

**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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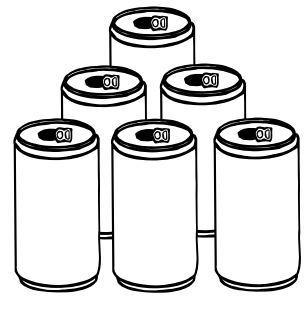
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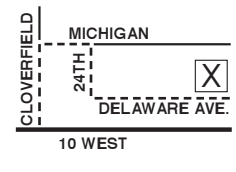
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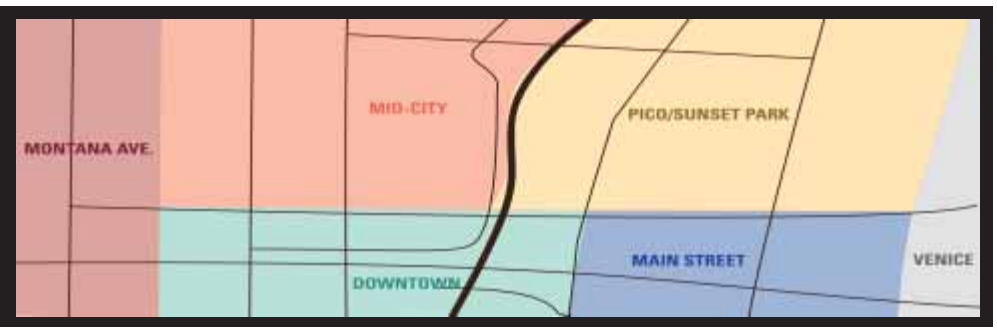



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Maya Japanese Food 2840 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 453-2612
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O' Briens 2226 Wilshire Blvd (310) 829-5303
Our Cafe 2104 Wilshire Bl (310) 828-5313
Overunder 1333 Santa Monica Blvd (310) 899-0076
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The Shack Restaurant 2518 Wilshire Blvd (310) 449-1171
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Sizzler 2025 Wilshire Blvd (310) 453-3250
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Sushi King 1330 Wilshire Blvd (310) 395-0120
Tacos Por Favor 1406 Olympic Blvd (310) 392-5768
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Abode Restaurant 1541 Ocean Av #150 (310) 394-3463
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California Pizza Kitchen 214 Wilshire Blvd (310) 393-9335
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Jinkys Cafe 1447 2nd St. (818) 981-2250
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Sushi Roku Santa Monica 1401 Ocean Av (310) 655-3372
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Shoop's Delicatessen 2400 Main St (310) 452-1019
Sparky's Fine Frozen Yogurt 3110 Main St. #12 (310) 399-4513
Urth Caffe 2327 Main St. (310) 749-8879
Via Veneto 3009 Main St. (310) 399-1843
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## The Re-View

By Merv Hecht — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Good service is the key to real success

IN THE REAL ESTATE BUSINESS EVERYONE knows that the three most important attributes are "location, location and location." In the restaurant business only a select few seem to know what most diners consider important.

There are different levels of service, even for "good" service. For example, Los Angeles is full of small, family operated restaurants where the owner is always there, and always attentive.

In the Palisades we have Sam's at the Beach, where Sam is always on guard, always checking to see if you like the food, and to suggest that you taste some new wine he has just discovered. Angelo Sambeat is usually at Dante's, in the Palisades, watching the waiters.

Over on Pico there is Lares's Mexican restaurant, where I've been eating for 30 years, and family members of the original owners are now on guard.

The larger, more commercial restaurants have a different system. To be a waiter at Ocean Avenue Seafood one has to go to training school for two weeks, with written tests every day. As a result every waiter knows the names of the oysters, and the taste and texture of each fish on the menu. And everyone is invariably courteous.

The training program is similar at Houston's on Second Street, where the venerable Bob Burns restaurant used to be. I guess they get the waitresses from some modeling agency, then put them through the restaurant training program.

I don't know how they train at Patina's restaurant at the Disney Concert Hall, but I would like to patent the system. Never have I been treated so well, even by my loving mother. It wasn't just the cordial greeting, which has become "de rigueur." The waiter's description of the foods listed on the menu was focused and intelligent. There was no rush, but he was close-by. He watched the clock for us so we wouldn't be late for the performance.

Then the wine steward Eric Espuny came over. After we chatted a while about the region of France he comes from, he showed up with six white wines and six glasses, and poured a sample of each for me to taste. They were extraordinarily well selected wines. Not one was among the usual commercial wines that most fine restaurants sell. Each had been selected because of something special. The white Chateauneuf-de-Pape Vieux Lazaret 2002 was particularly delicious, but so was an Italian wine from the far north, made from a grape I've rarely tasted. There was a Spanish Rioja 2000 white, with a touch of citrus, berry aromas and a long spice and fruit aftertaste. Eric correctly suggested that I finish the whites with my sweetbreads, then I had a glass of red to accompany my cheese plate from the best selection of cheese I've ever had in the United States (with it's own menu). Don't miss the "Torta del Casar."

Wine training seems to be the least important consideration in most of the restaurants. Not everyone can afford to hire someone like Eric Espuny, who has worked in some of the finest restaurants in the world. But everyone could learn the basics. After several encounters I've finally taught some of the local waiters not to pick up my fine bottle of wine and shake it violently while taking out the cork. I just hold the bottle firmly on the table while they open it, and they now get it.

Years ago friends took us to the new Enoteca Drago in Beverly Hills. They couldn't get a 7 p.m. reservation and settled for 8:30 p.m. Between 8:25 p.m., when we arrived, and 9 p.m. we stood in the entry waiting for a table. That wasn't so bad. For the first 15 minutes I watched all the beautiful people coming in to sit at the bar. Then I spotted the "special feature" of the restaurant, the 50 numbered bottles of wine served by the glass. They offer quite an interesting selection, although too many of them are lesser known Italian wines from the same regions.

Finally by 9:15 p.m. we were seated "upstairs." I was desperate for a bottle of wine, but not willing to spend the $200 to $300 necessary for anything really good on the wine list. Then I spotted a 1997 Barbera from an unfamiliar producer, and ordered it. Next to our table was a cabinet with fine wine glasses, and I asked the waiter if he could serve it in those glasses. Five minutes later the sommelier arrived at our table, and with a sneer announced that "those glasses are only for special customers. I'm sure you'll enjoy our regular wine glasses." I guess he put me in my place. But then I shouldn't have been so cheap as to order a $50 bottle of wine. That restaurant is no longer in business.

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



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# Franklin gets statewide designation

FROM **HONOR** PAGE 1

Superintendent Dianne Talarico.

According to the state superintendent's office, the selection criteria for this year "were more stringent than ever. Schools wrote a substantive narrative application and then were subject to an extensive site validation."

State Superintendent Jack O'Connell called each school principal to personally convey the good news.

"I was honored to be able to join in the excitement as these dedicated educators learned their schools earned this coveted title," O'Connell said. "From their stories, it became clear that they share a school-wide vision of excellence where every student can succeed and achieve at the very highest levels of performance."

The California School Recognition Program is now in its 23rd year and identifies and honors the state's most exemplary and inspiring public schools with the California Distinguished School Award. Although participation is voluntary, the award is highly sought after by schools in all areas of the state. Elementary and secondary schools are recognized during alternate years.

news@smdp.com




## MEAT AND GREET

Alexis Hawkins *news@smdp.com*

**Larry Scher (left), a student at The International Culinary School at The Art Institute of California-Los Angeles, discusses his resume with a representative from Katsuya Restaurant at a Culinary Job Fair on Tuesday. The event helped pair job seekers with prospective employers.**

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

### Millions available for homeless programs

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) announced Tuesday the availability of over $3 million in funding for homeless services programs in Los Angeles County.

Over $2.6 million in county funds are available to fund projects serving homeless families, under the renewal of the Emergency Shelter and Services (ESS) Program.

Over $691,000 in city general funds have been made available to fund new programs to provide shelter and services to homeless individuals, through the Los Angeles City Streets or Service (SOS) Expansion Program.

Under the ESS Program, which has been operating since 2006, qualified agencies provide case management services and temporary shelter to eligible California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) program homeless families to facilitate transition to stable, long-term housing. Services provided under the ESS program include a comprehensive assessment and housing plan, housing placement, and case management.

The SOS program represents new funding for programs to move clients to transitional or permanent housing and assist them to be stable in this housing for at least six months. Participants enter the program as part of the city diversion program after being arrested for misdemeanor quality-of-life offenses, as an alternative to incarceration. Services provided under the SOS program will include transportation, comprehensive assessment, case management, housing placement, referrals, program coordination, and housing accommodations.

Request for proposals for both programs are currently available on LAHSA's website at www.lahsa.org/fundingopportunities.asp.

LAHSA currently funds over 250 homeless services programs with approximately 100 service providers in Los Angeles city and county. For more information about the ESS or SOS programs, or about LAHSA's other programs, please contact Syd Peterson, LAHSA Communications Manager, at 213.689.4094 or speterson@lahsa.org.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) was created in 1993 to address the problems of homelessness in Los Angeles County. LAHSA plans, funds and administers programs that assist homeless individuals and families in their transition to permanent housing. LAHSA is the lead agency in the HUD-funded Los Angeles Continuum of Care, and coordinates and manages over $70 million annually in federal, state, county and city funds for programs providing shelter, housing and services to homeless persons.

DAILY PRESS

LOS ANGELES

### County tells residents to be prepared

A recent study by a group of earthquake experts states that there is a 67 percent chance that a magnitude 6.7 or larger earthquake will strike the greater Los Angeles area sometime in the next 30 years.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health would like to encourage people to evaluate their disaster readiness in light of that study.

"Residents of Los Angeles County have always known the question is not if an earthquake will strike, but when," said Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, director of public health and health officer. "This study reminds us of the importance of being prepared for an earthquake or other type of natural disaster. Having a family communication plan and an emergency kit can provide the necessary resources to help you and your family get through a difficult situation."

The 10 essential Items, as recommended by the Emergency Survival Program in the county's Office of Emergency Management, include: Water, food, cash and important documents, clothes, first-aid kit, medicine, radio, toiletries and tools.

These items will help ensure that people have access to basic essentials when other resources may not be available during an emergency. It is also vital that families put together a communications plan, in case they are separated or at work or school when a disaster strikes. This plan should include information on how to contact each other and designate a safe place to meet.

For more information on earthquake and disaster readiness, call (866) 999- 5228 or visit the Just Be Ready: Prepare Together Web page at www.publichealth.lacounty.gov.

DP

# Suspected serial burglar arrested

FROM **ARREST** PAGE 1

and obtained a search warrant to check Palmer's home and cars. During the search detectives recovered numerous items linking Palmer to eight other burglaries.

Detectives also recovered other property that has yet to be linked to a victim of a crime. Detectives are also researching pawn receipts found for property connected to recent cases.

The District Attorneys' Office has filed nine felony counts of residential burglary against Palmer with a special allegation of a third strike. More charges may be filed if additional victims are identified.

Palmer has numerous prior arrests and convictions for burglary, robbery and rape, Padilla said.

The police are seeking assistance in identifying the property still in their custody. Those who believe they were the victim of a recent burglary can view the property at www.santamonicapd.org/Bulletins/PublicBulletin-08-002.ht.

Property recovered includes multiple cell phones, gold watches, earrings, a PlayStation 3 and a Donny Hathaway CD.

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# Women turned on each other during trial

FROM **VERDICT** PAGE 1

insurance policies on them and in putting them up in apartments, then drugged them and ran them over in secluded alleys.

Both men initially appeared to have been victims of hit-and-run accidents, and police linked the cases only in late 2005 when a detective investigating one overheard a colleague describe a similar case.

In his closing argument, Deputy District Attorney Bobby Grace called the women "the worst of the worst."

"They didn't need this money. They weren't poor and destitute. They went out of their way to target men who had nothing," the prosecutor said.

The jury saw a secretly recorded video of the two in a lockup after their arrests. Rutterschmidt was seen berating Golay, saying it was her actions in taking out 23 insurance policies that raised a red flag when the men died.

"It's your fault," Rutterschmidt told Golay. "You can't have that many insurances. ... You were greedy. That's the problem."

On insurance policies, the women represented themselves as a cousin and a fiancee of McDavid. Golay said she thought McDavid loved them.

On the tape, Rutterschmidt snapped: "I was the cousin. You were the fiancee. Baloney."

Defense lawyers admitted the women were involved in insurance fraud but denied a murder conspiracy.

"We'll concede it's pretty sleazy what's going on here with the insurance," Golay's attorney, Roger Jon Diamond, said. He said the idea was to insure old, sick homeless people who would die more quickly.

But prosecutors pointed out that most of the policies were for accidental death, not death due to natural causes.

By the end of the five-week trial, the women had turned on each other.

Diamond said in his closing argument that when Rutterschmidt began recruiting younger homeless men, she may have had her own scheme to have them killed.



RUTTERSCHMIDT



GOLAY

Rutterschmidt's lawyer claimed his client was "simple minded" and obsessed with Golay, a relatively wealthy woman she met in 1999. Deputy Public Defender Michael Sklar accused Golay of manipulating Rutterschmidt to buy a car used as a weapon but said it was Golay alone who committed murder.

Golay funded the scheme and wrote the checks, Sklar told the jury.

Golay's lawyer, failing in a last-minute attempt to sever the women's cases, claimed Golay's own daughter, Kecia, 44, drove the car that ran over McDavid. Kecia Golay was not charged and did not testify in the trial.

There were no witnesses to the killings. But prosecution evidence included identification of Rutterschmidt by the man who sold her a car that was found to have McDavid's DNA on its undercarriage. There was also evidence that the car required a tow from an intersection near where McDavid's body was found an hour later, and that Golay's auto club membership number was used to summon the tow truck.

A key prosecution witness was a homeless man who said he was targeted to be another victim but left when he was pressured by Rutterschmidt for personal information and to sign documents.

Jimmy Covington, 48, said he was approached by Rutterschmidt on a Hollywood street in 2005 and was promised benefits, a place to stay and money.



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Alexis Hawkins *news@smdp.com*

WORK IN PROGRESS: **The John Byers designed Zimmers House on La Mesa Drive is currently being restored by its owner.**

# Historic hacienda becomes landmark

FROM **LANDMARK** PAGE 3

they could still have input as the project progresses.

Chairwoman Nina Fresco said she had just received the plans shortly before the meeting and felt uncomfortable approving the exemption even though she had spent a considerable amount of time on the site.

"I personally feel the need for more time to understand this," Fresco said.

Steven Jones, an attorney representing Brown, also expressed some reservations with the exemption, complaining that he did not know a hearing was going to take place until last Thursday.

"We just want to make sure that this is done correctly and we want to make sure we know what is being proposed because right now we don't know," Jones said.

Kushner, a preservationist, also encouraged the commission to impose the certificate of appropriateness restrictions on the project, noting that any further work should be done with great sensitivity.

Strang responded that he has had an open door policy with this project and that he had extended an invitation to his neighbors, including Brown, to view the plans.

The project itself received support from several architects, including Winston Chappell who owns a firm in the Pacific Palisades and has worked in historic renovations.

"I think this is a case study in how to do a John Byers house," Chappell said.

William Ryall, who owns an architectural firm in New York City, was in town looking at John Byers houses, an activity he partakes in during vacations.

"I was very favorably impressed with the work going on," Ryall said.

melodyh@smdp.com



# Family's sole surviving son denied GI benefits

**BY GARANCE BURKE I** Associated Press Writer

FRESNO Army Spc. Jason Hubbard was forced to leave the combat zone after his two brothers died in the Iraq war, but once at home the soldier faced another battle: The military cut off his family's health care, stopped his G.I. educational subsidies and wanted him to repay his sign-up bonus.

It wasn't until Hubbard petitioned his local Congressman that he was able to restore some of his benefits.

Now that Congressman, Rep. Devin Nunes, plans to join three other lawmakers in introducing a bill Wednesday that would ensure basic benefits to all soldiers who are discharged under the sole survivor policy. The rule is a holdover from World War II meant to protect the rights of service people who have lost a family member to war.

"I felt as if in some ways I was being punished for leaving even though it was under these difficult circumstances," Hubbard told The Associated Press Tuesday. "The situation that happened to me is not a one-time thing. It's going to happen to other people, and to have a law in place is going to ease their tragedy in some way."

Hubbard, 33, and his youngest brother, Nathan, enlisted while they were still grieving for their brother, Marine Lance Cpl. Jared Hubbard, who was 22 when he was killed in a 2004 bomb explosion in Ramadi.

At their request, the pair were assigned to the same unit, the 3rd Brigade of the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii, and deployed to Iraq the next year.

In August, 21-year-old Cpl. Nathan died when his Black Hawk helicopter crashed near Kirkuk. Jason was part of the team assigned to remove his comrades' bodies from the wreckage.

Hubbard accompanied his little brother's body on a military aircraft to Kuwait, then on to California. He kept steady during Nathan's burial at Clovis Cemetery, standing in dress uniform between his younger brothers' graves as hundreds sobbed in the heat.

But Hubbard broke his silence when he found his wife, pregnant with their second child, had been cut off from the transitional health care the family needed to ease back to civilian life after he was discharged in October.

"This is a man who asked for nothing and gave a lot," said Nunes, R-Calif., who represents Hubbard's hometown of Clovis, a city of 90,000 next to Fresno. "Jason is one person who obviously has suffered tremendously and has given the ultimate sacrifice. One person is too many to have this happen to."

Hubbard went to Nunes, who began advocating for the former soldier in December, after hearing the Army was demanding that he repay $6,000 from his enlistment bonus and was denying him up to $40,000 in educational benefits under the GI bill.

After speaking with Army Secretary Pete Geren, Nunes got the repayment waived, and a military health policy restored for Hubbard's wife.

But the policy mandated that she be treated at a nearby base, and doctors at the Lemoore Naval Air Station warned that the 45-mile trip could put her and the fetus in danger. Hubbard said doctors offered alternative treatment at a hospital five hours away.

Meantime, Hubbard and his two-year-old son went without any coverage for a few months.

The family's predicament also prompted the Congressman to inquire about the well-being of the 51 other sole survivors whom the Department of Defense has identified since the Sept. 11 attacks.

The Hubbard Act, scheduled to be introduced Wednesday, would for the first time detail the rights of sole survivors, and extend to them a number of benefits already offered to other soldiers honorably discharged from military service.

The bill — co-sponsored by Rep. Jim Costa, D-Calif., Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga. — would waive payback of their enlistment bonuses, allow them to participate in G.I. educational programs, give them separation pay and access to transitional health care.

# LAPD SWAT team undergoing major changes

**BY THOMAS WATKINS**
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Police Department's elite SWAT team is undergoing a major overhaul after a special panel found several shortcomings with the unit, including the way it responds to and documents callouts, officials said Tuesday.

A panel of legal experts and officers from other departments spent 18 months examining SWAT after a 2005 shootout in which an officer accidentally shot and killed a toddler being used as a shield by her gun-wielding father.

The panel released a summary of findings and recommendations Tuesday, but not the full report.

Put together four decades ago, the LAPD's SWAT team is the nation's oldest. While the report praised the 63-member unit for its successes and said it usually "performs ably and often admirably," SWAT had become "insular, self-justifying and resistant to change" and found the unit reluctant to criticize its own.

Panel chair Assistant Chief Sharon Papa said this was partly due to the highly competitive nature of SWAT. Traditionally, officers had to become members of SWAT's parent Metropolitan Division before they could apply for to the team.

"They almost view themselves as entities unto themselves," Papa said of SWAT and Metro.

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Metro Briefs

WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

Imagine The Possibilities
Imagine a faster commute, synchronized signals, more left turn lanes and more rail lines to more places. Metro is now planning LA's future and wants your input. See what's achievable today and possible tomorrow with more investments in traffic solutions. Share your vision at *metro.net/imagine* or call 213.922.2833.

Beat The High Cost Of Gas. Go Metro.
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Get Updates On Westside Transit Options
Find out the latest on mass transit options for the Westside, including possible extension of the Metro Red or Purple Lines. Community update meetings will be held the first two weeks in May on the Westside Extension Transit Corridor Study. Visit *metro.net/Westside* or call 213.922.6934 for times and locations.

Get Involved In Metro Service May 14
Help make a difference in the transit service in your community. Attend the Metro Westside/Central Governance Council meeting Wednesday, May 14 at 5 pm at La Cienega Tennis Center, 325 S La Cienega Boulevard, Beverly Hills. For information, search "Metro Westside/Central" at *metro.net*.

Metro's 25-Year Plan Sparks Widespread Interest
And the hits just keep on coming! More than 12,000 visitors have reviewed Metro's Long Range Transportation Plan on the internet. On average, the plan for LA's transportation future gets 550 views a day. Find out for yourself what the excitement is all about at *metro.net/imagine*.

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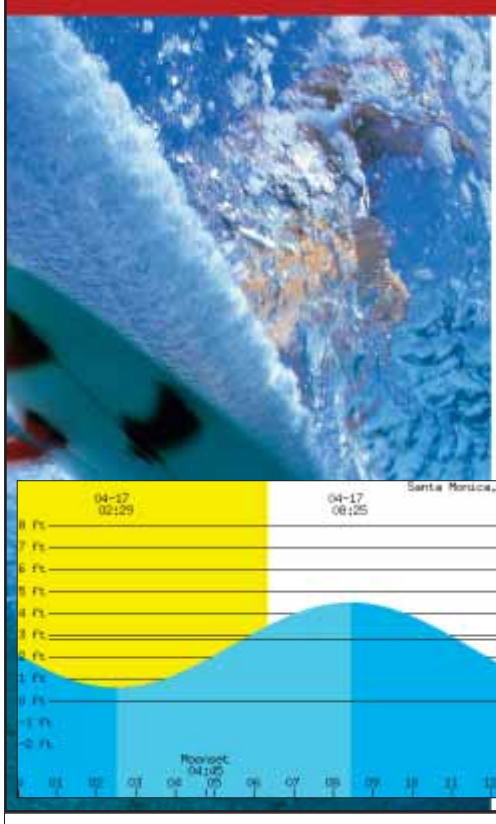


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## SURF REPORT



**SURF CONDITIONS** **WATER TEMP:** 54-60°

### SWELL FORECAST ( 3-4 FT )

**Today is looking smaller as SW and NW swells back off. Knee to waist high most everywhere seems like a reasonable expectation. A mild Santa Ana is expected Thursday with offshore winds mostly in the 10 mph range; however, wind-prone spots, especially north of OC, could see some 15 mph winds in the morning. Air temps should increase a bit.**

### LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SW FOR 20TH INTO 21ST DOWNGRADED...
HEAVY NW WIND SWELL BEING WATCHED FOR WEEKEND INTO NEXT WEEK...

### 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 1, 2008**

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 -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 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 | B | ns |
| Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth | A+ | ns |
| El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso 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 | D | ns |
| Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach | B | ns |
| Puerco State Beach at creek mouth | A | ns |
| Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd. | F | 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 | B | ns |
| Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero) | C | 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 | C | ns |
| Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach | F | ns |
| Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach | F | 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 | A+ | 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) | A+ | 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'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.

**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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NBA

# Heat coach Riley quiet about future

**BY TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Sports Writer

MIAMI Pat Riley has been hearing questions about his coaching future for weeks. He still isn't ready to answer.

The Miami Heat coach and president, who announced last summer he would remain on the sideline through the end of the 2009-2010 season, refused to say Wednesday if that plan has changed.

Yet he's aware Wednesday night's finale against Atlanta could be the 1,904th and final regular-season game of his Hall of Fame coaching career.

"Yes, I've given thought to that fact," said Riley, whose team will finish with the league's worst record this season and by far his worst as a coach.

Riley said he'll likely meet with Heat owner Micky Arison next week to decide his future.

"Borne out of that conversation, I'll make a decision," Riley said. "The conversation with him is going to be important for a lot of reasons. I really want to do what's in the best interest of the Heat."

The Heat, who spent much of the season without Dwyane Wade, Alonzo Mourning, Udonis Haslem and Dorell Wright because of injuries, took a 14-67 record into Wednesday's game. They needed a win to match the expansion 1988-89 club for the worst mark in franchise history.

Riley dismissed the notion that he wouldn't want his career to end on such a down note, saying "there's no perfect time.

"When you're in the midst of this kind of season, you've got to give it thought," Riley said. "I've been at this 25 years. I know what's going on. Hard evaluation on yourself is the first thing that you have to really assess."

Until this season, Riley—a coach of five NBA championship teams—had endured only two other sub-.500 seasons in his career. He retired after the second one, making the stunning decision to step aside just days before the start of 2003-04 season and turning the team over to longtime top assistant Stan Van Gundy.

Riley then took over again when Van Gundy, just as shockingly, stepped down 21 games into the 2005-06 season. Riley led that Heat team to that year's NBA championship, but Miami has gone 58-109 in regular-season and playoff games in the two seasons since winning that title.

And those two seasons have, at times, been draining.

"Coach Riley, he's a competitor. No matter what, he wants to win," guard Chris Quinn said Wednesday. "Whether it's the 82nd game of a 14-win, 15-win season or in the playoffs, he wants to win. Just like anybody else, when you cross through those lines, your competitive (nature) takes over and you want to win the game."

Riley missed 22 games last season to have surgeries on his hip and knee, then missed four games this season to scout players who may be available to the Heat in this year's NBA draft. Miami has the best chance of obtaining the No. 1 pick in this year's draft, and by having the league's worst record is assured of getting a top-four selection.

"There's a lot of great possibilities," Riley said. "We're not locked-in. We're not stuck. We have options."

It's not a coincidence that Riley's original plan to coach three more seasons was in line with the number of years that remained on Shaquille O'Neal's contract entering the 2007-08 campaign. But the O'Neal era in Miami ended somewhat acrimoniously in early February, when the Heat sent him to the Phoenix Suns in exchange for Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks.

Riley, who also won NBA titles as an assistant coach and a player, takes a 1,209-694 record into Wednesday night's finale. Include his 171 playoff victories, Riley has a .632 winning percentage in his coaching career, a stat that helped him be voted earlier this month into the 2008 induction class for the Basketball Hall of Fame.

NFL

# Losman likely staying in Buffalo despite trade talk

**BY JOHN WAWROW**
AP Sports Writer

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. J.P. Losman doesn't appear to be going anywhere despite his request that the Buffalo Bills trade him.

"J.P.'s on this roster and he's a part of this organization. And we anticipate J.P.'s going to be on this team," Bills chief operating officer, Russ Brandon, said Wednesday.

"He's here and that's how we're approaching it," Brandon added.

Losman, who attended Venice High School, has one year left on his contract, but wants out of Buffalo after losing the starting quarterback job to rookie third-round pick Trent Edwards last season. It was the second time in three years Losman lost the No. 1 job. Veteran journeyman Kelly Holcomb beat him out midway through the 2005 season.

Losman reclaimed the job the following year, but that's not likely to happen again with the Bills intent on moving forward with Edwards as their starter this season.

Unhappy with how he's been treated, Losman made his trade request public through his agent, Gary Wichard, in early January. Wichard stressed that his client would play out his contract, but added he didn't foresee any way Losman would re-sign with the Bills once he becomes a free agent.

That means the Bills stand to lose Losman for nothing if they don't trade him.

The second of Buffalo's two 2004 first-round draft picks, Losman has been attending the team's offseason workout program, which began last month.

Brandon said the Bills value having two experienced quarterbacks on their roster, and noted there were more than 60 quarterbacks who made at least one start in the NFL last season.

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**Stop-Loss (R) 1hr 53min**
1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50
**Street Kings (R) 1hr 47min**
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55
**Under the Same Moon (PG-13) 1hr 49min**
1:45, 4:15, 6:50, 9:25

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1:10, 3:30, 5:45, 7:55, 10:05
**21 (PG-13) 2hrs 03min**
1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:30**Nim's Island (PG) 1hr 35min**
2:00, 4:20, 6:45, 9:05
**The Ruins (R) 1hr 31min**
3:00, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00
**Prom Night (PG-13) 1hr 38min**
1:30, 2:40, 3:40, 4:50, 5:50, 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:10

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
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**Bra Boys (R) 1hr 30min**
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 8:00, 10:15
**Remember the Daze (R) 1hr 41min**
12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15
**The Counterfeiters (NR) 1hr 38min**
1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
**Smart People (R) 1hr 33min**
12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

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**1313 Third St.**
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**Drillbit Taylor (PG-13) 1hr 42min**
11:30 a.m., 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10
**10,000 B.C. (PG-13) 1hr 49min**
11:40 a.m., 4:30, 9:40
**Run Fat Boy Run (PG-13) 1hr 40min**
2:10, 7:00
**Superhero Movie (PG-13) 1hr 25min**
12:30, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:30
**Leatherheads (PG-13) 1hr 54min**
11:50 a.m., 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
**Shine a Light (PG-13) 2hrs 02min**
1:10, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
**The Take (NR) 1hr 36min**
12:40, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:20

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

# Moods change, Libra

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★★ Plug into work, knowing there is a tomorrow and you might want to relax and enjoy others. Still, you cannot avoid it – you feel certain responsibilities. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★★★ Just be spontaneous, and you could be delighted by the end results. Avoid overthinking. Use your good mind and sixth sense. Tonight: Say you are tired when you are.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★ If you want to work with your door closed, you will. In your defense, much is going on that you would prefer not to reveal. Tonight: Add that special touch of lightness.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★★ Your ability to draw someone out seems scarcely needed, as he or she talks your ear off. Listen well, as this person can be quite closed at times. Work with timing and the moment. Tonight: Happy to be home.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★★ Your awareness about finances could be important, but also might be instrumental to leading you in a new direction. Your high energy helps you dissolve any problems. Consider a strong exercise plan. Tonight: Speak your mind.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★★★ Use your high energy and drive. What would you most like to accomplish? Now is the time to proceed. Keeping up the pace and not stopping too long is very important right now. If you feel as if you need to slow down, do. Tonight: Treat yourself to a new item.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★ Don't worry if you are dragging. Just be sure you have the necessary energy to complete a project. New beginnings become possible. Tonight: Moods change. Go for what you want.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★★ Use the daylight hours to zero in on what you want. You could have pushed too hard or been rough on a friend. Invite this person out for lunch. Tonight: Call it an early night.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★★ Others inform you that there is another way or a different approach. You take charge and move a situation to the next step. See how you feel and decide what you want, because you will find time to do just that. Tonight: Smile the whole way.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★★★ Get more information if you feel uncomfortable with a situation. Listen to what is being shared. Communication comes forth with a child or romantic attachment. Tonight: A must appearance.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★★ Know exactly what you want and where you are heading. Relate on a one-on-one level. You get down to the intrinsic issues between you and someone else. Loosen up about what you feel is necessary. Tonight: In the whirlwind of life.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★★★ Bend over backward to make what is needed happen. You'll find that someone pitches in. The two of you make a team that might be very hard to say no to. Tonight: Set the mood for the weekend.

## Happy birthday

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

New beginnings become possible if you work well with others. Teaming up with a key partner can make a big difference. You often might question when you can relax and have a good time, as there appears to be so much work on your plate. If you are single, the old adage of "work hard and play hard" starts making sense. You could be the veritable wild child of your crowd once you let your hair down. You'll meet many people. Winter could provide an enticing suitor. If you are attached, arrange for several getaways for you to relax and for the two of you to enjoy each other. LIBRA has a different style. Observe.

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# Janric Classic 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 Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
**BRONZE**

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

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## 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**

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

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# Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



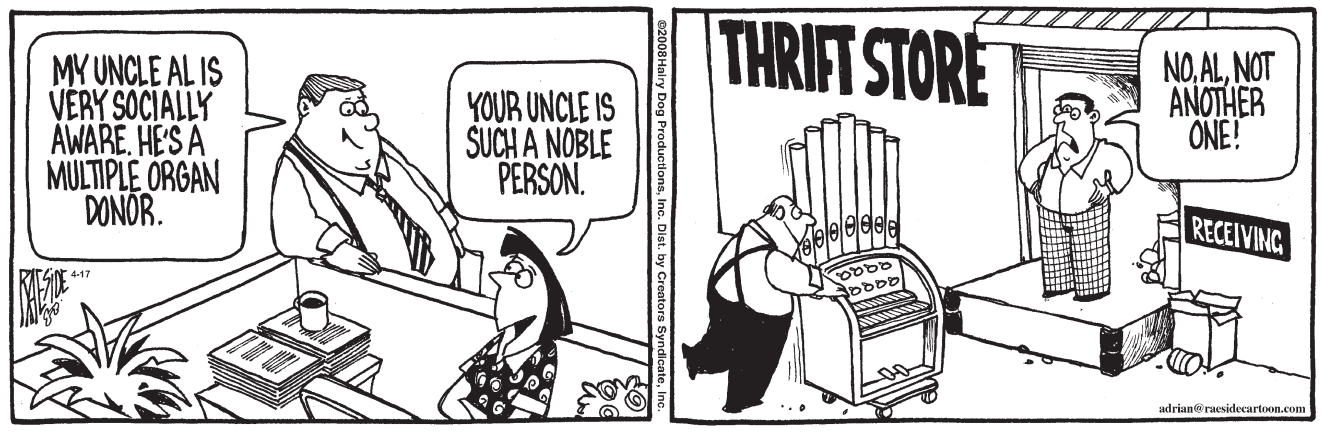

# The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



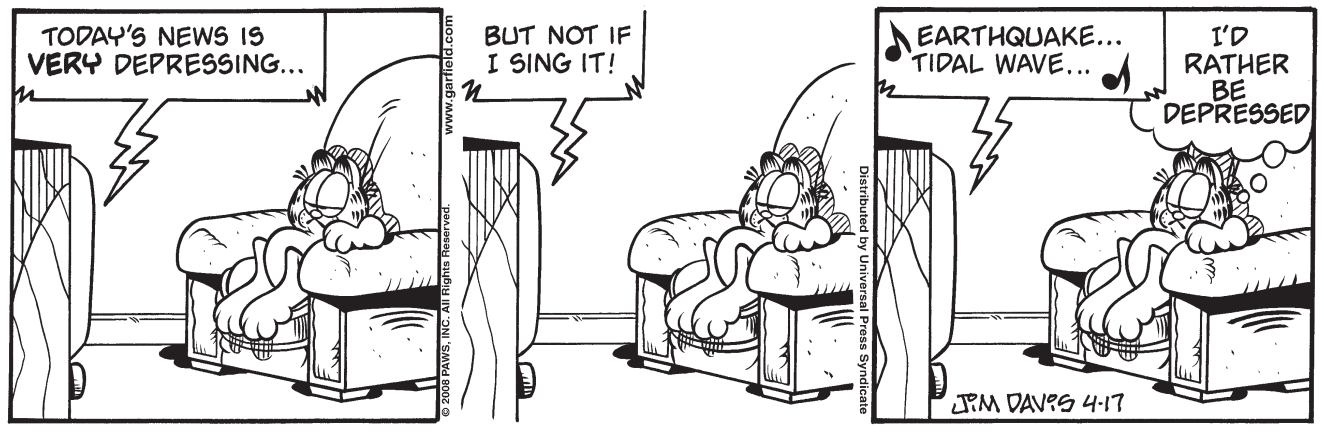

# The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside




# Garfield

By Jim Davis

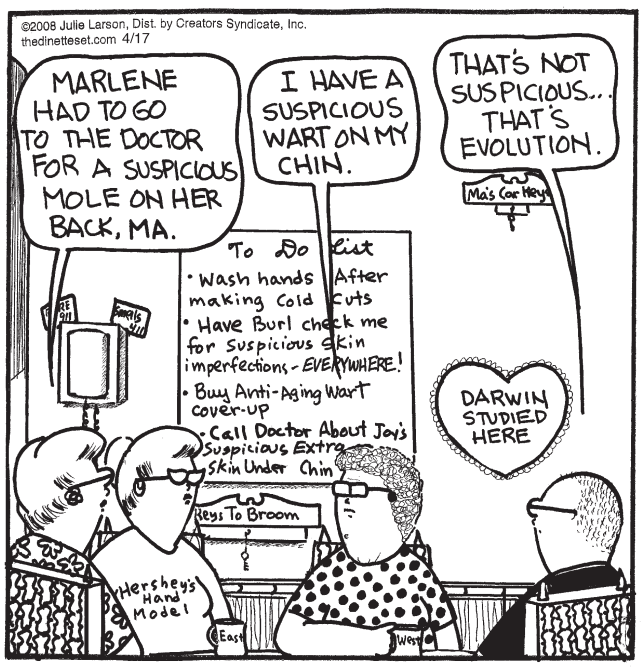



# Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



## The Dinette Set by Julie Larson




## Strange Brew

By John Deering




## Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly




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## MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

**The first one to identify where this shot was taken wins a prize from the Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.**

## CROSSWORD

**By THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

**1** Boost
**5** Spanish dessert wine
**11** War of 1812 port
**12** Zoo inhabitant
**13** Nick's wife
**14** Light
**15** Unequal, as a game
**17** "It's a mouse!"
**18** Do some tailoring
**22** Roofing material
**24** Disparaging
**25** Bowler, e.g.
**26** Curly-haired cat
**27** Conspicuous
**30** Fold
**32** Kitchen gadget
**33** Quarrel
**34** Glasses choice
**38** Western desert
**41** Golden Spike setting
**42** Held forth
**43** Big truck
**44** Sires
**45** Catch

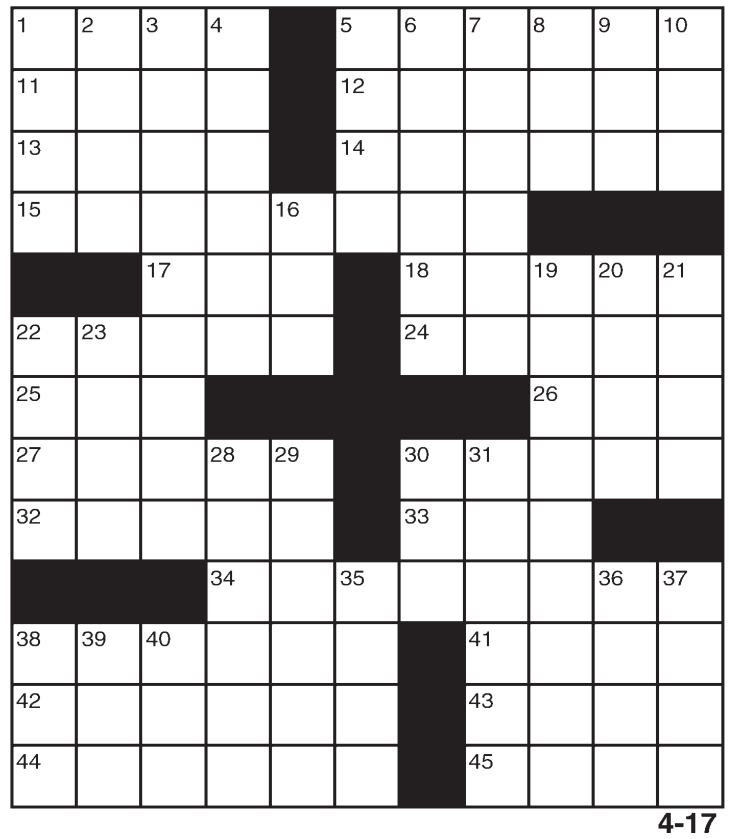
**DOWN**

**1** Late-night star
**2** Pressing need
**3** Circus star
**4** China buy
**5** Hotel worker
**6** Ticks off
**7** Ornamental tree
**8** Paris pal
**9** Gangster's gun
**10** Hearty brew
**16** Mamie's hubby
**19** Strong alcohol
**20** Creative germ
**21** Printed matter
**22** Mall unit
**23** Kilauea flow
**28** Sales come-on
**29** Hot dish holder
**30** Old hand
**31** Crop pest
**35** G-men
**36** Priest of the East
**37** Fleet member
**38** Crime cartel
**39** Valuable rock
**40** Bender

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | A | G | S | ■ | H | E | S | T | O | N |
| O | B | O | E | ■ | E | X | P | I | R | E |
| B | E | L | T | ■ | L | A | R | E | D | O |
| E | L | F | ■ | A | L | L | Y | ■ | ■ | ■ |
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| L | A | D | L | E | S | ■ | A | S | K | S |

**Yesterday's answer**

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**4-17**

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Fantasy 5: 1 7 12 35 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 3 8 3
EVENING: 6 1 3

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1.44.92

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## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ China's societal self-improvement in preparation for the 2008 Olympics continues. The Beijing Tourism Bureau ordered hotels to re-translate English signs, hoping to avoid such notorious past gaffes as "Racist Park," which is now "Park of Ethnic Minorities," and a cafe's attempt to salute Western visitors with "Welcome, big nose friends." And the Beijing Olympics Committee has been training hostesses for months to stand in military-like precision, straight enough to hold a sheet of paper between their knees, and to smile continuously, showing "six to eight teeth" (even if placing a chopstick in the mouth sideways is necessary for practice). There are height and weight requirements for the hostesses, and each must have an upper- to lower-body ratio of no more than 11-to-13, to eliminate, according to local newspapers, "big bottoms."

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**1961** about 1,500 CIA-trained Cuban exiles launched the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in a failed attempt to overthrow the government of Fidel Castro.

**1521** Martin Luther went before the Diet of Worms to face charges stemming from his religious writings. (He was later declared an outlaw by Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.)

**1524** Giovanni da Verrazano reached present-day New York Harbor.

**1790** American statesman Benjamin Franklin died in Philadelphia at age 84.

**1861** the Virginia State Convention voted to secede from the Union.

**1941** Yugoslavia surrendered to Germany in World War II.

**1964** Ford Motor Co. unveiled its new Mustang model at the New York World's Fair.

**1969** a jury in Los Angeles convicted Sirhan Sirhan of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

**1969** Czechoslovak Communist Party First Secretary Alexander Dubcek was deposed.

**1970** the astronauts of Apollo 13 splashed down safely in the Pacific, four days after a ruptured oxygen tank crippled their spacecraft.

**1990** the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, the civil rights activist and top aide to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., died in Atlanta at age 64.

## WORD UP!

**objurgate** \OB-juhr-gayt\, *transitive verb:* To express strong disapproval of; to criticize severely.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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## Notices

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Case No. SS016606
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of JOSHUA SANTANA for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: LORENA LIMON filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: JOSHUA SANTANA to JOSHUA MATTHEW SANTANA-LIMON. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: 05/08/2008 Time:8:30, Dept. A, Room 104
The address of the court is 1725 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA. 90401
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: MAR. 25, 2008
GERALD ROSENBERG, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 4

**SELL YOUR CAR FAST!**
Advertise your used car for sale in the only **LOCAL DAILY** newspaper in town.
FOR ONLY **$45**
**Run it until it sells!***




1964 Pontiac Catalina
New Transmission, new paint job. 150K original miles. Immaculate condition inside. Kept in garage for many years. Must see!
$3,000 (310) 458-7737

Ad shown actual size

**Package includes:**
- Ad runs until your car sells. Period.*
- Large format photograph.
- 20 word description.
- **FREE** online placement!

**Call us today at (310) 458-7737**
**Take advantage of this great offer.**

Santa Monica Daily Press

***Terms and conditions.** Ad will run for thirty (30) consecutive days. After 30 days, ad will expire and advertiser must call to schedule a free renewal. Ads are renewed for an additional 2 weeks. Advertiser must call within 5 days of ad expiration to renew. If renewal is placed after 5 days of ad expiration, advertiser must pay full price. Photographs must be submitted digitally in JPG or TIFF format. Email photographs to anniek@smdp.com. Photographs only appear on print edition. 20 word description maximum; additional words 50 cents. Call for more details. Private parties only. Terms subject to change without notice.

Your ad could run here!
Call us today at (310) 458-7737

## Services

BILL WALTER - LOCKSMITH
Residential & Commercial
License # LCO-4438
Emergency Service 24/7
(310) 396-7784

**T.I. Now !**
**Tenant Improvement Project Management**
Banking
Entertainment
Hospitality
Restaurant
Retail
Site D.D. and Development
Call Henry @ (805) 660-2855

YOUR AD COULD RUN HERE! CALL US TODAY AT (310) 458-7737

**FREE 1ST VISIT**
✦ Expert Psychotherapist and Life Coach
✦ For young adults (18-39)
✦ 20 Years of Experience



Roxy DeCou
LCSW BCD
Sliding scale
Insurance Accepted
Lcs # 8622
**Call (310) 456-6197**

## Nannies

SOUTHBAY NANNIES
Now accepting families and nannies. (310)985-4399. www.sbnannies.com

## Services

### Eldercare

**EXECUTIVE HOME ------CARE------**
***ELDERCARE IN-HOME SPECIALISTS***
- **Caregivers**
- **Companions**
- **CNA/HHA**
- **LIVE-IN/ LIVE-OUT**

**Bonded • Insured**
**Licensed-Fully Screened**
MEMBER BBB AAA RATED
FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED BUSINESS
**310.859.0440**
*"CARE YOU CAN COUNT ON"*

### Gen. Contracting

**A/C CONSTRUCTION**
General Construction
Commercial & Residential
**Remodel & Add ons**
Honest. Reliable.
FREE ESTIMATES
— Sabbath Observed—
**310.278.5380**
*Lic# 804884 Fully Insured*

Your ad could run here!
Call us today at (310) 458-7737

SIGN UP TO GET FREE AMBER ALERTS ON YOUR CELL PHONE.
wirelessamberalerts.org
Wireless AMBER Alerts Ad Council
A child is calling for help.

## Services

### Handyman




Your ad could run here!
Call us today at (310) 458-7737

**The Handy Hatts**
Painting and Decorating Co.
**SINCE 1967**
RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL
SPECIALISTS IN ALL
DAMAGE REPAIR
"EXPERT IN GREEN CONCEPTS"
*Free estimates, great referrals*
**FULL SERVICE HANDYMAN FROM A TO Z**
Call Brian @
(310) 927-5120
(310) 915-7907
LIC# 888736
"HOME SWEET HOME"

Your ad could run here!
Call us today at (310) 458-7737

### Therapy

**STILL SMOKING?**
**Life is short — Why make it shorter**
**John J. McGrail, C.Ht.**



**Certified Hypnotherapist**
**(310) 235-2883**
www.hypnotherapylosangeles.com

**Gina Marchese** FULL SKIN CARE
**60 MINUTE BASIC FACIAL**
**$60.00 w/COMPLIMENTARY EYEBROW WAX!**
VALID ONLY MONDAY-WEDNESDAY
**320 SANTA MONICA BLVD**
OFF 3RD STREET PROMENADE IN BAY CITIES BEAUTY SUPPLY **(310) 562-1592**



# Kate Bransfield

COLDWELL BANKER PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL

Estates Director
Society of Excellence
Previews Properties Specialist
Coldwell Banker - Montana Avenue
310.395.1133

## Over $55,000,000 of Real Estate Sold in 2007

Featuring Your Home First!

....To find out how I get your home 1,000% more exposure online on over 100 websites

.....To find out the most up-to-date Santa Monica real estate information

....for a Virtual Tour & multiple photos of these Properties

visit:

www.SantaMonicaListings.com

## Open Sunday, April 20th

## 2:00 - 5:00 pm



### 249 - 18th Street

$2,349,000
Charming 1923 Spanish
3 Bedrooms - 2 Baths
in Coveted Gillette's Regent Square
Elegant Living Room
Wood Burning Fireplace
Original Wood Floors
French Doors
Den/ Study with French Doors
1990s Remodeled Kitchen
Sparkling Pool and Spa
New Decks
Separate Structure = Studio/Playroom
8940 +/- square foot lot

## Average Price of Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Mid - April 2008

| | | Single Family Homes | Condos & Townhomes |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Santa Monica Canyon** | = | $ 2,059,056 | $ 1,200,000 |
| **North of Montana** | = | $ 4,110,750 | $ 1,835,895 |
| **Between Wilshire & Montana** | = | $ 1,841,333 | $ 919,343 |
| **South of Wilshire** | = | $ 866,632 | $ 735,631 |
| **Sunset Park** | = | $ 1,351,025 | $ 778,563 |
| **Ocean Park** | = | $ 1,715,786 | $ 1,370,405 |

**Statistics updated every Friday**

## What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.