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FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2009
Volume 8 Issue 140

Santa Monica Daily Press



PACIFICA CHRISTIAN GOING STRONG
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE STAYING PUT ISSUE



HOT, HOT, HEAT

Photo courtesy Joe Clark

Santa Monica firefighters respond to a car fire on Interstate 10 near 11th Street at around 1:43 p.m. Firefighters extinguished the blaze shortly thereafter. The owner of the 2004 Volvo said she smelled smoke, pulled over to the side of the freeway and saw flames coming from the hood, Fire Capt. Milo Garcia said. Santa Monica police officers closed several lanes of traffic until the fire was extinguished.

Shriver will not run for state office

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN While the challenge of being the state's top cop was intriguing, Councilman Bobby Shriver said Thursday that he will not run for attorney general in 2010, citing concerns about being away from his newborn baby girl during the campaign.

The brother of California first lady Maria Shriver and nephew of President John F. Kennedy, Shriver, 54, is a member of perhaps America's most famous political dynasty, the Kennedy clan, and was considered by some pundits to be a viable candidate with name recognition and influential contacts in the Democratic Party.

His father, Sargent Shriver, was the 1972 Democratic candidate for vice president. Of his other uncles, Robert Kennedy was U.S.

SEE SHRIVER PAGE 8

SM officers honored for busting drunks

BY WILL WEISS
Special to the Daily Press

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY The thought of his 1-year-old son being harmed in a drunk driving accident pushes Santa Monica Police Officer Hector Tavera to work harder at his job. That motivation is paying off.

Last year, Tavera brought in a total of 51 impaired drivers, the second highest tally in the department. The highest count belonged to fellow-Officer Jason Olson, who made a personal-high 59 arrests in 2008.

"Jason and I made a concerted effort to go out and concentrate on catching impaired drivers." Tavera said, explaining that the two officers took a personal interest

SEE HONOR PAGE 10

Celebrating the globe locally

BY CATHERINE CAIN
Special to the Daily Press

CITYWIDE This weekend, celebrate the whole wide world without leaving the city. Festivals for Earth weekend are being held from the Santa Monica Pier to the Santa Monica Mountains.

The weekend kicks-off with the monthly "Nothin' But Sand" beach cleanup hosted by Heal the Bay from 10 a.m. to noon on the beach just north of the pier. The cleanup occurs every third Saturday of each month, but is expected to be larger and more productive this time as it coincides with the pier's Earth weekend festivities.

"We just expect a larger crowd," said Eveline Bravo, beach programs manager for Heal the Bay. "We try to bring out better raffle prizes."

In addition to Heal the Bay's prizes, the

SEE EARTH PAGE 9

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Be thrifty
First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica
1008 11th St.
Come for a huge thrift sale at the First United Methodist Church Friday and Saturday. For more information, call (310) 393-8258.

'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.

Yoga in the park
Palisades Park
Ocean and Palisades Ave., 10 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
Come each Saturday and start your weekend off right with an energizing and rejuvenating yoga class in Palisades Park, overlooking the ocean. All levels are welcome to join, and if you've always wanted to try yoga, this is the class for you. The classes are run on donations. Bring your own yoga mat. Call (310) 560-4317 for more information.

Sunday, April 19, 2009

Cinderella to a beat
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Audiences help romance bloom in this delightful Rudie-DeCarlo musical for kids of all ages, featuring a charming prince, a zany fairy godmother, silly stepsisters and a zealously well-meaning stepmother. Birthday and tea parties are available with every performance of "Cinderella." Admission fees are from $10.50 — $12.50. Call (310) 394-9779 ext. 2 for more information.

Monday, April 20, 2009

Game day
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Play bridge and scrabble for free every day Monday at the library. Have fun, meet new people and challenge your mind. Call (310) 450-0443 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.

Pacifica Christian baseball continues strong play

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

WEST L.A. For a team playing its first ever baseball season, Pacifica Christian appears to be bucking the trend and actually succeeding on the diamond.

The latest triumph for the Seawolves came Thursday against Mulholland League rival Westview. Pacifica Christian romped to a 17-0 win that was called after five innings due to the mercy rule.

"They look really good, especially for a young team," Head Coach Julian Chavez said. "Their bats are responding better than we have been all year.

"But, it's pitching that keeps us in every ball game."

With the win, the Seawolves improved their record to 4-2 overall and 4-1 in league play. The top three teams will make the playoffs from the seven-team league.

Keenan Pierandozzi-Howes started the game for Pacifica and went the first three innings to collect the win, his second this season. Kevin Hammer came in and pitched the final two frames.

On offense, a trio of homers paced the Seawolves to the victory. Freshmen Athen Shelp, Austin Wilson and Pierandozzi-Howes all hit round trippers. Each was of the inside-the-park variety. Chavez said this is the first time his team has accomplished the feat.

"This is a good first year, we've been able to get our feet under us," Chavez said. "Next year, we'll be much tougher."

SAMOHI BASEBALL FALLS TO DANA HILLS

A streaky season continues for Santa Monica High School's baseball team.

The Vikings lost to Dana Hills, 4-9, on Wednesday.

The game was the team's second loss in a row following a three-game winning streak. Dax Bonney, a junior who was recently called up from the junior varsity team, got the start. He went four and a third innings and gave up five earned runs. He was relieved by Brandon Hirschberger and Troy Harrington.

On offense, Samohi collected six hits. Logan Whitchurch was the lone Viking to collect two hits. It was the first action in a week for the slick hitting Whitchurch. He also scored a run and drove one in.

With the loss, Samohi is now 9-9 on the season and 1-1 in league play. Next up for the Vikings is a road game at Palisades High School on Saturday at 11 a.m.

The game is part of the Redondo Tournament.

daniela@smdp.com



PEANUTS HERE

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Roger Owens, the beloved and internationally famous Peanut Man at Dodger Stadium, tosses peanuts to a member during the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club's weekly luncheon at the Santa Monica Family YMCA on Wednesday. Owens has been pitching peanuts for the Dodgers for the past 51 years. 'I am the only pitcher that earns less than one million a year,' he said.

Interior chief says California's water system outdated

SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

RANCHO CORDOVA, Calif. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar urged California on Wednesday to modernize its antiquated water system while pledging $260 million in federal stimulus money to help fund a variety of water projects.

He and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger took an aerial tour of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the conduit through which Northern California water flows to millions of acres of farmland and some 25 million people in the San Francisco Bay area and Southern California.

The delta has become a highly troubled resource, with state water pumping, urban and agricultural pollution, and three years of below-average precipitation wreaking havoc on its habitat and the state's water supplies.

After the helicopter flyover, Salazar told reporters that California's massive system of reservoirs, pumps and canals was outdated, built a half century ago and designed for a population half the size of today's 37.7 million.

He pledged that the federal government was ready to help California overhaul its system and deal with its drought.

"It is time to modernize, it is time to make hard choices, and it's time for the federal government to re-engage in full partnership with the 21st century water system for the state of California," he said.

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121: one to one ADN: any day now AFAIK: as far as I know AFK: away from keyboard **A/S/L: age, sex, location** B4: before B4N: bye for now BAK: back at the keyboard BBIAB: be back in a bit BBL: be back later BBN: bye bye now BBS: be back soon BEG: big evil grin **BF: boyfriend** BFN: bye for now BG: big grin BL: belly laughing BMTIPG: brilliant minds think in parallel gutters BRB: be right back BTA: but then again BTW: by the way BWL: bursting with laughter BWTHDIK: but what the heck do I know C&G: chuckle & grin CID: crying in disgrace CNP: continued (in my) next post CP: chat post CRBT: crying real big tears CSG: chuckle, snicker, grin CU: see you CUL: see you later CYO: see you online DBAU: doing business as usual DIKU: do I know you? DL: dead link DLTBBB: don't let the bed bugs bite DQMOT: don't quote me on this EG: evil grin EMFBI: excuse me for butting in EMSG: email message EOT: end of thread F2F: face to face FC: fingers crossed FISH: first in, still here FMTYEWTK: far more than you ever wanted to know FOMCL: falling off my chair laughing FTBOMH: from the bottom of my heart FUD: fear, uncertainty, and doubt FWIW: for what it's worth G2G: got to go G: grin GA: go ahead GAL: get a life GD&R: grinning, ducking, and running GF: girlfriend GFN: gone for now GIWIST: gee, I wish I'd said that GMBO: giggling my butt off GMTA: great minds think alike GOL: giggling out loud GTRM: going to read mail GTSY: glad to see you H&K: hug and kiss HAGN: have a good night **HDOP: help delete online predators** HHIS: hanging head in shame HTH: hope this helps HUB: head up butt IAC: in any case IANAL: I am not a lawyer (but) IC: I see IDK: I don't know IHA: I hate acronyms IIRC: if I remember correctly ILU: I love you IM: instant message IMHO: in my humble opinion IMNSHO: in my not so humble opinion IMO: in my opinion IOW: in other words IPN: I'm posting naked IRL: in real life IWALU: I will always love you IYSWIM: if you see what I mean JIC: just in case JK: just kidding JMO: just my opinion JTLYK: just to let you know K: okay KIT: keep in touch KOC: kiss on cheek KOL: kiss on lips KOTC: kiss on the cheek KWIM: know what I mean? LBR: later LD: later, dude LDR: long distance relationship LLTA: lots and lots of thunderous applause **LMIRL: let's meet in real life** LMSO: laughing my socks off LOL: laughing out loud LSHMBB: laughing so hard my belly is bouncing LTM: laugh to myself LTNS: long time, no see LTR: long-term relationship LULAB: love you like a brother **LULAS: love you like a sister** LUWAMH: love you with all my heart LY: love you M/F: male or female MOSS: member of same sex MOTOS: member of the opposite sex MSG: message MTF: more to follow MUSM: miss you so much NADT: not a darn thing NIFOC: naked in front of computer NP: no problem NRN: no reply necessary OIC: oh I see **OLL: online love** OM: old man OTF: off the floor OTOH: on the other hand OTTOMH: off the top of my head P2P: peer to peer PDA: public display of affection PEBCAK: problem exists between chair and keyboard PLZ: please PM: private message PMFJIB: pardon me for jumping in but POAHF: put on a happy face **POS: parent over shoulder** PU: that stinks QT: cutie RL: real life ROTFL: rolling on the floor laughing RPG: role playing games RSN: real soon now S4L: spam for life SETE: smiling ear to ear SHCOON: shoot hot coffee out of nose SHID: slaps head in disgust SF: surfer friendly SNERT: snot nosed egotistical rude teenager SO: significant other SOMY: sick of me yet? SOT: short of time STW: search the web SWAK: sealed with a kiss SWL: screaming with laughter SYS: see you soon TA: thanks again TCOB: taking care of business TCOY: take care of yourself TIA: thanks in advance TILII: tell it like it is TMI: too much information TOY: thinking of you TTYL: talk to you later UW: you're welcome WB: welcome back WFM: works for me WIBNI: wouldn't it be nice if **WTGP: want to go private?** WTG: way to go WU: what's up WUF: where are you from? YBS: you'll be sorry YL: young lady YM: young man

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

Ad Council

You don't know what your kids are saying online. Or who they are saying it to. A lot of times neither do they. So get involved. To protect your kid's online life or report an incident, call 1-800-THE LOST or visit cybertipline.com. HDOP: help delete online predators

NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN



Your column here

Lee H. Hamilton

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Can Congress cope with the communications age?

WHEN I FIRST CAME TO CONGRESS IN the 1960s, dialogue between members of Congress and their constituents was straightforward. Every so often, a lawmaker would get interviewed on radio or television.

Many sent monthly newsletters to the folks back home.

They responded to letters, fielded and made telephone calls, and met as often as possible with the people who had sent them to Washington. It was by no means a perfect system — unless they made extraordinary efforts, legislators were often in touch with a smaller cross-section of the population than they should have been — but it worked tolerably well and was readily managed.

Today, something very like the opposite situation prevails: lawmakers are deluged by e-mail messages from constituents and grassroots lobbying campaigns; they can be in touch with millions of people at the press of a "send" button or via a quick upload to YouTube; they can blog about their experiences on the floor of the House, hold videoconferences or telephone town meetings with people back home, and Twitter their thoughts to followers any time of the day or night.

The technology allowing communications between ordinary Americans and their elected representatives, in other words, is superb. Yet for all the words that flow back and forth between Capitol Hill and the country at large, it's not at all clear how much actual dialogue is taking place.

Part of this is a function of sheer volume. As the Congressional Management Foundation wrote in a 2008 report after surveying ordinary citizens and lawmakers and their staffs about their use of the Internet, "[T]echnological developments have been so rapid that neither citizens and the organizers of grassroots advocacy campaigns (the senders) nor congressional offices (the receivers) have learned to use it in ways that facilitate truly effective communications between citizens and Members of Congress. As a result, while more messages are being sent to Congress, it seems less actual communication is occurring."

The survey found that no one is happy with the situation: Hill staffers feel overwhelmed, while almost half the people who wrote to Congress and received a reply were dissatisfied with the response and almost two-thirds believed their representatives "were not interested in what they have to say."

Let's be clear about what's at stake here. A representative democracy depends on the give-and-take between lawmakers and those they represent.

When that discourse breaks down — whether it's because high-rolling campaign donors drown out ordinary voters, or because changing technology overwhelms the ability of congressional offices to understand and represent public sentiment adequately — then it threatens the legitimacy of the system.

This presents a true challenge for Congress. Where the White House under President Obama has shown that it can use the Internet and social networking tools to mobilize a political base, it is largely a one-way street; no one expects a quick reply from the president to a letter or a text message. Congress is different. It is the tribune of the American people and we treat it accordingly: we not only expect two-way communications, we need them. That's how the system is supposed to work.

IN THE AGE OF INSTANT COMMUNICATIONS ... IT'S NOT JUST THE VOLUME OF WORDS BUT THE QUALITY OF THE COMMUNICATION THAT MATTERS.

In this period of transition to the new technologies, there are some promising signs. A few members of Congress have learned to make effective use of blogs, Facebook and even Twitter to stay in touch with constituents; the House and Senate both have channels on YouTube now, and though they're mostly filled with the equivalent of video press releases, I have no doubt that legislators will figure out more compelling ways to use them. Meanwhile, the Congressional Management Foundation, after a decade of study, is working to convene congressional staff and grassroots advocates to develop ways to aggregate, verify, and manage online communications, so that Capitol Hill doesn't find itself so engulfed by citizens' messages that it tunes them out.

In the end, adapting to new communications technology will require work on both sides of the equation.

Members of Congress will need to develop the tools that allow them to manage immense volumes of "mail," and let constituents know the best and most effective ways of passing along their thoughts. Voters who want to have an impact will need to pay attention, and not just assume that sending a quick e-mail or filling out a form provided by their favorite advocacy group will command attention.

In the age of instant communications, in other words, it's not just the volume of words but the quality of the communication that matters.

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

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

DUI crashes are not accidents

IN THE EARLY 1960S, COMEDIAN FOSTER Brooks was famous in nightclubs and on TV for his brilliant portrayal of a lovable drunk. Lenny Bruce had a routine called "The White Collar Drunk," a successful businessman who was perfectly groomed but so blitzed out of his brain he argued with everyone in the bar, including the bartender.

Richard Pryor portrayed a drunk from his neighborhood who stood in the street and "directed" traffic. The piece was hilarious and yet tragic. Film critic Pauline Kael, whose reviews were often better than the films she reviewed, claimed Pryor should have won a Best Actor Oscar.

Frank Sinatra and the Rat Pack glorified drinking, as did movies like "Arthur" and "My Favorite Year." But these days heavy drinking isn't quite so glamorous. It's like there's been an epidemic of DUI crashes resulting in innocent people dying while, almost invariably, the drunk driver barely has a scratch.

Yesterday, in Baltimore, Nick Adenhart was buried. He was 22 and a pitcher with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. But a week ago a drunk driver, with a suspended license mind you, killed Nick and friends Courtney Stewart, and Henry Pearson. The drunk driver survived, but if there's any justice, he'll spend a good chunk of his life in jail.

The day before Nick's father, Jim, a retired Secret Service agent, had flown out from Baltimore. Nick had predicted that this, his fourth major league start, was going to be special. And it was, a brilliant, six-inning scoreless victory. And yet, only hours later, Jim received a 3 a.m. phone call that all parents must dread. The outpouring of grief at Angel Stadium, and in ballparks across the country, was unprecedented. A day later, all alone, Jim Adenhart slowly cleared out his son's locker for the last time.

Donte Stallworth is a 28-year-old multimillionaire wide receiver for the Cleveland Browns. Last month, while driving his Bentley GT in Miami, he killed 58-year-old Mario Reyes, who was leaving his night shift job. Stallworth had a blood-alcohol of .126. Reports are that he's devastated by what he did. Unfortunately, it's a little late. One doesn't need reports to know that Reyes' family and friends are devastated.

Last year, 16,885 Americans died in drunk driving collisions. That's one every 31 minutes. Depending on how fast I type, a few will probably die as I write this. Maybe I should type faster.

In Santa Monica, DUIs are a serious problem. During the first three months of 2008, 92 motorists were cited for DUI, while this year there were 95. In 2008, we had 48 DUI related crashes (almost one a week) resulting in 11 injuries and one fatality. In 2006, a former UCLA football player, Marcus Cassel, 23, died in a DUI high-speed crash as he slammed into Palisades Park. And yet, with all these senseless tragedies, there doesn't seem to be that much outrage.

Santa Monica Police Chief Tim Jackman worries that after a high-profile death, the public returns to viewing DUIs as relatively minor, something that could happen to any of us. Maybe that's true. Our last president had one DUI conviction and the vice president had two! But then again, I don't think of them as DUI "accidents." Spilling a glass of milk is an accident. When a person chooses to drink alcohol and drive, a crash that kills someone almost seems like a certainty.

To combat DUIs, Chief Jackman would like to see mandatory jail time, increased taxes on liquor to support public awareness ad campaigns, signage in bars, restaurants and in liquor and beer sections of convenience stores. It makes sense to me.

At MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving), where so many are victims of DUIs, they justifiably view it as a violent crime. They're asking the public to support a bill in Sacramento (AB 91) that would require drunk drivers install devices on their cars to prevent the ignitions from starting if the driver fails an alcohol breath test.

If you're frustrated by the carnage caused by drunk drivers you can voice your support of AB 91 to our assemblywoman, Julia Brownley, at (310) 395-3414, assemblymember.brownley@assembly.ca.gov. (Also, you could participate in MADD's annual walk, "Walk Like Madd" on May 9. Visit: www.walklikemadd.org.) MADD has honored three Santa Monica Police officers for meritorious efforts in fighting drunk driving.

Many oppose AB 91, including the liquor lobby, bars and of course DUI defense attorneys. Perhaps the most famous locally is Myles L. Berman who calls himself "Top Gun DUI" (sounds like a Tom Cruise movie).

In his ubiquitous radio commercials Berman's catch phrase is "Friends don't let friends plead guilty." Really? What if you're actually guilty? Frankly, I'd prefer a different catch phrase. It doesn't have the same pizzazz but how about "Friends don't let friends kill innocent people?"

JACK can be reached at Jackneworth@yahoo.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.











City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
REGULAR MEETING

DATE/TIME: April 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

- ARB09-024, 1515 Ocean Avenue and 1530 Second Street: Hotel
- ARB09-129, 829 Broadway :Mixed Use
- ARB09-148, 395 Santa Monica Place, Space 142: Retail
- ARB09-187, 395 Santa Monica Place, Spaces 305 and 306: Restaurant

More information is available on-line at http://santa-monica.org/planning/planningcomm/arbagendas.htm or at 310/458-8341 en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail planning@santa-monica.org, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The request a disability-related accommodation, please contact 310-458-8341 or TTY 310-450-8896 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 & 9, serve City Hall.

Two killed in Long Beach hospital shooting

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press Writer

LONG BEACH A hospital employee shot another employee to death, critically wounded another and then killed himself Thursday, police said. Police Chief Anthony Batts said the gunfire erupted just before noon at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center.

Batts would not identify those involved but said all were male. He said the motive remained under investigation but noted the violence came amid a flurry of recent shootings in the country.

"This is a trend of active shooters that you have seen nationwide," Batts said at a news conference. "This is becoming a national trend, probably because of the tension that's going on in our society today."

Batts said officers responding to the shooting found one victim inside the hospital and then discovered a second victim outside, on the north side of the hospital outside the emergency room. Both were taken to the emergency room; one was dead and the other was critical, he said.

The suspect was found dead near the second victim, he said.

"It is with a really heavy heart that I say we lost two members of our employee family and a third is critically injured," said Diana Hendel, the hospital's chief executive officer. "Our first priority was to ensure that our patients were safe and well cared for and I can assure that our patients are well cared for and are completely safe."

Hendel said the victims' families were receiving counseling through the hospital's chaplain service.

City gas department worker Dave Chamberlain told KCAL-TV he heard shots and then saw a man waving a gun outside the hospital shoot himself.

"We heard five shots and we took cover as well, and then ... we could see a man with a gun pointed at himself," he said.

A woman, Charity Perez, told the TV station her husband, a hospital valet, knew the gunman and identified him as a worker at a pharmacy. The police chief would not confirm that, pending notification of the employees' families. Laura Harris told KCAL she saw the shooter walk up, pull a gun and shoot a hospital employee in the leg.

Google growth slows in 1Q

MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Google Inc., a company with a large Santa Monica presence, eked out a higher profit in the first quarter as the Internet search leader trimmed its work force and winnowed other expenses to overcome the slowest revenue growth since the company went public nearly five years ago.

The results released Thursday illustrated how the recession is squeezing even prosperous companies like Google.

"No company is recession-proof," Google Chief Executive Eric Schmidt told analysts in a conference call. "Google is absolutely feeling the impact."

Schmidt and other Google executives repeatedly emphasized that the global economy remains in "uncharted territory."

The cautionary comments seemed to deflate investors. After initially surging more than 5 percent, Google shares backed off and had fallen 47 cents to $388.27 in Thursday's extended trading. The stock ended the regular session at $388.74, up $9.24.

Google is holding up far better than other advertising-driven businesses, largely because it relies on a marketing system that has proven to be less expensive and more effective than more traditional media.

The Mountain View-based company earned $1.42 billion, or $4.49 per share in the first quarter. That was a 9 percent increase from $1.31 billion, or $4.12 per share, at the same time last year.

If not for employee stock compensation costs, Google said it would have made $5.16 per share. On that basis, Google exceeded the average estimate of $4.93 per share among analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters.

Google's first-quarter revenue totaled $5.5 billion. That was up by just 6 percent from last year, marking the first time the company has posted less than double-digit revenue growth since its August 2004 initial public offering.

After subtracting commissions paid to its advertising partners, Google's revenue stood at $4.07 billion — about $10 million below analyst estimates.

In a telling sign of the recession's toll, Google's revenue fell from one quarter to the next for the first time. Its revenue in the prior quarter had been $5.7 billion.

Google's profits probably wouldn't be rising in a shrinking economy if it hadn't brought in a new chief financial officer, Patrick Pichette, to help manage its expenses more carefully.

Since Pichette's arrival last summer, Google has been pinching pennies — a trend that came into even sharper focus in the first quarter.

Google shaved its operating expenses to $1.52 billion during the first three months of the year, an 8 percent decline from the fourth quarter.

"They are cutting costs like there is no tomorrow," said Signal Hill Group analyst Todd Greenwald.

As part of the new frugality, Google reduced its work force for the first time. The company ended March with 20,164 employees, 58 fewer than in December. That cutback doesn't include Google's recently announced plans to lay off about 200 sales and marketing employees. In a Thursday interview, Pichette stressed Google is still hiring engineers and doesn't plan to lay off any more workers.

"Ninety-five percent of all our internal discussions are still about growth," Pichette said. "But it would be irresponsible not to watch our expenses in a tough economy like this."

Google curbed its spending on new computing centers and other major projects even more dramatically. Capital expenditures totaled $263 million, a drop of 69 percent from the same time last year.

"My personal view on this is it's all about making us a better efficiency engine, that the changes and sort of tightness with which we're running now will put us in a stronger position as the recovery comes out," Schmidt said.

Even as it becomes more stingy, Google intends to still invest in areas that could help the company finally diversify beyond the text-based ads that generate most of its revenue.

Google's top sales and marketing executive for the past 10 years, Omid Kordestani, is stepping down from that job to steer the diversification efforts as a senior adviser to Schmidt and company co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin. Nikesh Arora, Google's president of international operations, is taking over Kordestani's former duties.

Google views its YouTube video site and Android software for mobile devices as two of its biggest moneymaking opportunities.

Although YouTube hasn't emerged as a major marketing vehicle since Google bought the site for $1.76 billion in late 2006, it keeps adding more professional video that traditionally has attracted advertising. In a separate announcement Thursday, YouTube said it had struck a deal to sell video ads during full-length movies and TV shows that several major studios are allowing to be played on the Web site.

The Android software introduced last year now accounts for about 8 percent of all mobile Web browsing to rank second behind Apple Inc.'s iPhone, Google executives said Thursday. Without providing specifics, Schmidt said Android's usage will expand later this year as part of "quite significant" announcements by Google involving several new pieces of hardware.

Police probe report of USC frat house sex assaults

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A University of Southern California fraternity is under suspension while police investigate reports that as many as three women were sexually assaulted during an off-campus party, university officials said Thursday.

Michael L. Jackson, USC's vice president for student affairs, said the school has received reports that sexual assaults involving three female students allegedly occurred at the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity house early Wednesday morning.

"USC takes sexual assaults very seriously and is fully cooperating with the LAPD on the investigation," Jackson said in a statement.

"We are also conducting our own investigation into student conduct issues and have placed the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity on interim suspension until all the facts are known," he added.

The fraternity's local chapter did not immediately respond to phone and e-mail requests for comment.

Police said a 19-year-old student told officers she passed out after drinking punch at the party and awakened to find herself partially undressed. She said she believed she had been molested.

"Based on a lengthy investigation, detectives believe that there might be additional victims and witnesses," the Los Angeles Police Department said in a statement.



CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Alleged auto burglars busted

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, AT 2:25 A.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to several reports of auto burglaries in or around the 1300 block of Cedar Street. While speaking with residents, officers observed a suspicious vehicle parked in the area and detained two occupants. Inside the vehicle officers said they found several items strewn about that appeared to have been stolen. Officers discovered three other suspects in the area who they believed were involved in the auto burglaries. Officers said the suspects were in possession of stolen property from at least 10 auto burglaries and are believed responsible for 20 similar burglaries that occurred the night before in the northern section of the city. The suspects were arrested and booked for auto burglary, conspiracy and possession of stolen property. The suspects were identified as Esmeralda Aguirre, 19; David Andres Lopez, 18; a 17-year-old boy and a 17-year-old girl — all of Los Angeles. Bail was set at $20,000 for Aguirre and Lopez. Information on the fifth suspect was not available. The burglaries allegedly occurred between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 6, AT 4:15 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1300 block of the Third Street Promenade — Gap — regarding a report of a theft at the clothing store. When officers arrived, they made contact with store security who said they observed a woman select several pairs of sandals and other clothing items valued at $144.99 and put them in a bag before leaving the store, allegedly failing to pay for the items. Once outside the store, security detained the woman until police arrived. Officers placed the suspect under arrest for petty theft. She was identified as Maria Macedo Peralta, 32, from Los Angeles. Her bail was set at $1,000.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, AT 6:34 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2400 block of Pico Boulevard — Rite Aid — regarding a report of a theft that just occurred. When officers arrived, they spoke with store security who said the suspect walked into the store carrying a brief cast. The suspect allegedly concealed $151 worth of merchandise inside the briefcase and walked out of the store, failing to pay for the items. An employee told security guards that the suspect was caught stealing from the store before, police said. Security detained the suspect until police arrived. Officers placed the suspect under arrest for commercial burglary. He was identified as David Rule Yardley, 59, from Malibu. His bail was set at $20,000. Items recovered included replacement razors, lip gloss, anti-aging cream, envelopes and eye liner.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, AT 8:38 A.M.,
Officers responded to the Chess Park on Ocean Front Walk after receiving a report of a man smoking marijuana. When officers arrived, they located the suspect and discovered he was in possession of over 23 grams of marijuana packaged for sale. The man was arrested and booked for possession with the intent to distribute and for outstanding warrants. He was identified as Thomas Edward Ulatowski, 61, a transient. His bail was set at $23,500.

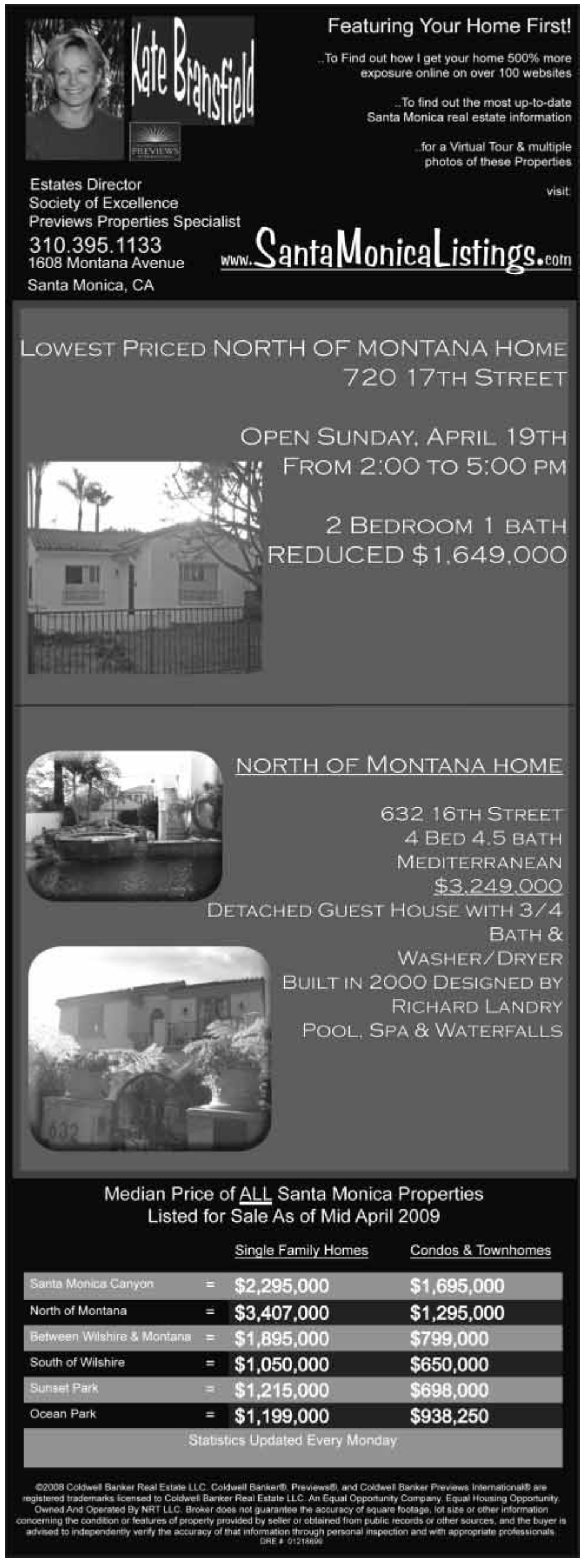
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, AT 2:07 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 400 block of Pico Boulevard regarding a report of a theft in progress. When officers arrived they detained three men in possession of a case of wine containing 24 bottles, one of which was broken. The alleged victim told officers that the suspects removed the case of wine from his secured storage area without his permission. The suspects were arrested and booked for burglary. They were identified as Alfredo Gomez Barba, 46, a transient; Mathew Gibson Bernard, 30, a transient; and Terry Parker, 59, a transient. Bail was set at $20,000 for Parker. Barba was also booked for violation of probation. No bail was set. Gibson was also booked for violation of probation and six outstanding warrants. His bail was set at $26,000.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, AT 2:49 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1400 block of the promenade — Urban Outfitters — regarding a report of a theft. When officers arrived, they made contact with store security who said a woman set off the store's alarm system when she tried to leave. Security detained the woman and searched her bag, discovering she was in possession of stolen merchandise, police said. Officers interviewed the woman at the scene and determined she entered the store with the intent to steal. Officers placed her under arrest for commercial burglary. She was identified as Angela Bernadette Charles, 20, of Los Angeles. Her bail was set at $20,000. Officers recovered a sweater, shirt and sunglasses valued at $144.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, AT 9:19 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1600 block of Ocean Avenue regarding a report of a disturbance. When officers arrived, they made contact with a woman who said a man approached her and her family and asked for money. When the family refused, the man allegedly followed them into a nearby restaurant and grabbed the woman by the collar. Officers attempted to detain the suspect, but the man would not cooperate. Officers used a Taser on the suspect and were able to take him into custody. He was booked for disturbing the peace, battery, and resisting arrest. He also had two outstanding warrants, police said. The suspect was identified as Douglas Johnson, 44, a transient. His bail was set at $21,920.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, AT 12:17 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2100 block of Lincoln Boulevard — Santa Monica Motel — regarding a report of an assault. When officers arrived, they made contact with the alleged victim who said he was assaulted in one of the rooms. Officers later learned that a man and a woman had a dispute with the victim and physically assaulted him. The victim was bleeding profusely and taken to a local hospital. Officers arrested the man and woman for assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury. During a search officers discovered the two were in possession of marijuana, police said. They were also charged with possession of a controlled substance. They were identified as Jeffrey Kevin Servantes, 43, a transient, and Eden Cane Breshnahan, 32, a transient. Their bail was set at $30,000 each.

Editor in Chief KEVIN HERRERA compiled these reports with the help of SMPD Sgt. Renaldi Thruston.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CIVIC CENTER

Detour on Fourth

A major on-ramp to the Santa Monica Freeway will be closed through Sunday while crews replace the pavement at the intersection of Fourth Street and Olympic Drive, city officials said.

"The city will work very hard to minimize the disruption that this project may cause," officials said in a statement. "Nevertheless, some traffic delays are anticipated."

Traffic safety officers will be dispatched at various locations to keep the traffic moving. Traffic signal timing will be modified to facilitate the movement of traffic on Colorado Boulevard, Fourth Street, Pico Boulevard and other streets adjacent to the project area.

After the work has been completed, the heavily trafficked intersection will look and function better and require less maintenance, officials said.

The closure is expected to have the following key impacts:

• Fourth Street between Colorado Avenue and Pico Boulevard will be closed to through traffic. Civic Parking Structure access will be maintained from Pico.

• The on ramp at Fourth and Olympic will be closed.

• The off ramp at Fourth will be temporally changed to two right turn lanes only. City Hall traffic exiting the I-10 Freeway at the Fourth Street off ramp may either turn right at Fifth Street or Fourth and make a left on Colorado.

• City Hall traffic will be able to access the I-10 Freeway eastbound at the Lincoln Boulevard on ramp.

• Traffic access to the Double Tree Hotel and adjacent buildings will be maintained from Pico.

If parking at the Civic Auditorium parking lot, use the Main Street entrance. Traffic flow will be restored to normal on Monday, April 20, and final striping will follow.

For more information, call City Hall's project hotline at (866) 755-7679 and ask for the community outreach representative, Vikki Zale. DAILY PRESS

VENICE

Healthcare for the less fortunate

Venice Family Clinic has received a $10,000 grant from L.A. Care to provide comprehensive primary health care services to low-income, uninsured and homeless men, women and children with disabilities on the Westside of Los Angeles.

L.A. Care Health Plan is a public entity and community-accountable health plan serving Los Angeles County residents through a variety of programs, including Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, L.A. Care's Healthy Kids, and L.A. Care's Medicare Advantage Special Needs Plan. With nearly 800,000 members, L.A. Care is the nation's largest public health plan.

Venice Family Clinic was one of 29 grantees chosen through a competitive process as part of L.A. Care's initiative to support projects that improve access to care for people with disabilities in Los Angeles County. The grant supplies one height-adjustable exam table, two wheelchair accessible weight scales and two assistive listening devices for use at the Clinic's two largest sites – the Milken Family Foundation Medical Building at 604 Rose Ave. in Venice, and the Simms/Mann Health and Wellness Center at 2509 Pico Blvd. in Santa Monica.

Venice Family Clinic's mission is to provide free, quality health care to people in need. Established in 1970 by founder Dr. Phillip Rossman, and co-founder Dr. Mayer B. Davidson, the clinic has grown from a small storefront operation into the largest free clinic in the country. With the help of approximately 1,500 volunteers, including nearly 500 physicians, Venice Family Clinic provides a medical home for more than 23,500 low-income and uninsured patients through eight sites in Venice, Santa Monica, Mar Vista and Culver City. DP

Shriver concerned about time spent away from newborn

FROM **SHRIVER** PAGE 1

attorney general and U.S. senator, and Ted Kennedy has served in the U.S. Senate for decades.

"I just kept looking at that little baby and kept thinking to myself that I could not be on the road for four or five days, come home on the weekend and then be back on the road," Shriver said in an interview with the Daily Press. "I can't do that. I've been waiting my whole life to be a dad and I'm not going to blow it right as I'm just starting it.

"It's frustrating because I had a lot of amazing conversations with people … and I love working hard, but this is the right decision for me," Shriver, a graduate of Yale Law School, added.

Shriver's wife, Malissa Feruzzi, gave birth to their daughter, Rosemary, in January.

It was just last month that word spread of Shriver's desire to explore a run for attorney general.

Harvey Englander, a Democratic political strategist who managed both of Shriver's successful runs for Santa Monica City Council, confirmed rumors, saying, "There's been a wide variety of people who have come to him and who he has used as a sounding board to talk about the job of attorney general and the role it takes, the profile it has in terms of moving California forward."

Shriver's departure from a field he never officially entered leaves San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris, Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, and a trio of Assembly Democrats — Ted Lieu, Alberto Torrico and Pedro Nava — in the race on the Democratic side. Republican Sen. Tom Harman has also filed paperwork to run, according to the Sacramento Bee.

Incumbent Attorney General Jerry Brown is widely expected to run for governor, leaving an open seat.

Shriver was re-elected to a second, four-year term on the City Council in November. During his tenure he has focused on finding housing for homeless veterans and bringing more transparency to special education in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

kevinh@smdp.com

Locals celebrate Earth weekend from the beach to the mountains

FROM **EARTH** PAGE 1

first 200 people to bring six empty plastic bottles to the cleanup will receive a Clear2Go water bottle from the Clear2Go company.

"Clear2Go is a portable, reusable water bottle with its own replaceable filter that is doing its part to save the earth one bottle at a time," said Drew Cary, a spokesman for Clear2Go.

The cleanups don't end at noon, however. The pier aquarium, which is backed by Heal the Bay, will continue to have beach cleanups throughout the weekend.

"For anyone looking to meet their Earth day criteria, it's really fun spending two hours on the beach giving back to the ocean environment," Bravo said.

The aquarium is offering its own incentive to clean — free admission to the aquarium and its events.

"We've got a variety of different events happening," said Tara Treiber, education manager at the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium.

An art exhibit at the front of the aquarium displays art created solely from washed up trash and items found along the water line.

Treiber feels the most popular attraction will be the aquarium's remotely operated vehicle (ROV), available from 11 a.m. — 5 p.m. The ROV captures images from underwater that can be seen by those operating it from the pier.

"Families and children can pilot it under the pier," Treiber said. "It tends to get a lot of people out there."

Treiber is also counting on the sea lions to gather a large crowd, and said she's hoping for about 500 attendees.

"We never know because it's a weather dependent thing down here," she said.

The pier is also providing information about marine protected areas, a state initiative that would essentially create protected state parks under water. Staff scientists will explain their importance and their purpose in an effort to garner more support for the parks.

Of course, the most popular attraction inside the aquarium is the mischievous octopus that flooded the aquarium several weeks ago.

Children in kindergarten through second grade were encouraged to create artwork demonstrating what the octopus did after everyone went home. Kids from grades three to five were asked to write a story describing how the octopus flooded the aquarium and why. The winners will be announced on Sunday at 11 a.m., and their work will also be on display.

"In honor of [the popularity], we decided to turn it into a contest," Treiber said.

Earth day activities are not limited to the beach, however. The Topanga Earth Day Festival is celebrating all weekend long with live music, a creek cleanup and an interactive children's area.

"Every year there's an annual Topanga Creek and berm cleanup," said Molly Drobnick, who does publicity for the event and organizes speakers and hospitality.

Rosi Dagit, a turtle researcher and scientist, is leading the group of volunteers, teaching them about local ecology.

"There's a children's area that features ecological themed performances," Drobnick said. "It teaches kids about sustainability."

Like the pier, the Topanga festival also features a fine art gallery.

"A lot of those artists have been shown at Santa Monica-based galleries, but really they're national and international artists," Drobnick said.

One example of the artwork shown is a line of clothes made out of plastic bags, Drobnick explained.

"Last year we had 5,000 [people]. We're hoping for that, hope for more," Drobnick said.

Each day of the festival is started off with yoga led by internationally-known yogi Sean Corne. Bringing in the day with yoga puts people in a good mindset for the festival, organizers said.

The pier aquarium is asking for a $5 donation from every person, although the minimum fee is $2. The Topanga event asks for a donation of $10, though Drobnick said this guideline is malleable and suggested a donation of some trees would more than suffice.

Additionally, two thirds of the money earned at the festival will go to various nonprofit organizations.

"The main purpose of the festival is to give back," Drobnick said.

The California Wildlife Center, based in Malibu, is the primary recipient of the donations. Drobnick said that due to a lack of funds, the center may have to close.

"They rescue, rehabilitate and release injured, hurt, sick or abandoned wildlife only native to the So-Cal area," she said.

For those really focused on reducing their carbon footprint, the Big Blue Bus provides an efficient alternative fuel ride to the various Earth weekend festivities. The buses are listing environmental fun-facts on the reader board located at the front of the bus in support of Earth Day.

The aquarium is located below the carousel on the pier, and is open to the general public. Call (310) 393-6149 for more information. The Topanga festival is held at the Topanga Community House Fair Grounds at 1440 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd. Visit www.topangaearthday.org for event details.

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Photo Courtesy SMPD

PUTTING IN WORK: **Santa Monica Police Officers Hector Tavera (left) and Jason Olson received awards from MADD for citing 110 drivers on suspicion of driving under the influence during 2008.**

Personal investment helps officers stay motivated on job

FROM **HONOR** PAGE 1

in cracking down on drivers who shouldn't have been behind the wheel. "The more arrests he would make, the more it motivated me to go out and be vigilant and work hard; it would motivate me to go out there and look for them."

Tavera and Olson were recently honored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for their contributions to the SMPD's overall number of arrests of drivers under the influence. They were acknowledged at MADD's police recognition breakfast on March 19 along with other members of SMPD for its 159 DIU arrests on the year.

"Just these two officers arrested 110 drunk drivers," said Tina Pasco, executive director of MADD Los Angeles. "MADD believes that every time a drunk driver is removed from the road, a life is saved. The citizens of Santa Monica were threatened by drunk drivers 110 times, and these officers protected them."

Pasco elaborated, saying that Olson and Tavera were among 326 peace officers responsible for the arrests of some 26,000 drunk drivers in the county of Los Angeles last year.

"Californians share the roadways with 311,000 drivers who have three or more drunk driving priors, and nearly 45,000 who have 5 or more," Pasco said, adding that because of the amount of time it takes to tabulate such data, the most recent figures on impaired drivers in California come from numbers gathered in 2007.

Olson and Tavera both said that they are motivated by the danger that impaired drivers pose to others on and off the road, and by their duty to protect the citizens of Santa Monica, but both said their greatest encouragement comes from a source much closer to home.

"As an officer, I know that more people are killed by drunk drivers than homicides in a given year," Olson said. "Part of why I do this job is to help people and protect people. The interest in protecting lives caries over not only to the people I protect in the community, but also for members of my family who are out on the road as well."

Tavera said that while he has always worked hard to keep drivers and citizens safe in Santa Monica, everything changed when his first son was born in July of 2007.

"Having my son has really changed my perspective on things," he said. "When I'm on patrol, driving around I know that somebody could have just left a bar and could run a stop sign or a red light and hit me. It's scary. But when I see my son … he's so vulnerable and so young. A traffic accident could be very detrimental to his health, even at low speeds."

Because of extensive training and years of experience, spotting impaired drivers is not difficult for SMPD officers.

"Especially when it's late at night and there aren't a lot of drivers on the road, an impaired driver really stands out," Tavera said. "I don't think people appreciate how poorly they drive even when they've only had a drink or two. It may not seem like it when you're impaired, but when you step back and observe the driving, it's really bad."

Both of the officers said they felt honored to be recognized by MADD and that they are proud of their accomplishments and the department's exemplary work in keeping drunk drivers off the road, mentioning the recent death of Angel's pitcher Nick Adenhart as evidence to this point.

"It's an honor to be recognized for the accomplishment, but I don't do it for the reward; I do it for the satisfaction of taking impaired drivers off the road and protecting the citizens of Santa Monica," Olson said.

Pasco did not mince words when expressing the importance of the work the officers have done.

"These officers know that when they go home, they've saved lives," she said. "There's nobody to thank them, but MADD gets it; the California Office of Traffic Safety gets it, and the chief of police from Santa Monica gets it. This is a very serious threat."

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Improved notary laws on the way?

KATHY MATHESON
Associated Press Writer

The small row house had been unoccupied for months, but it was still a home. And if she had really wanted to sell it, Virginia Coontz says, she certainly would have spelled her name right on the title transfer.

Even with her name wrongly spelled "Coonzt," the sale went through and she ultimately lost the house. Prosecutors said she was a victim of a title fraud ring that collected about $400,000 by selling off more than 80 properties — unbeknownst to the true owners — through the help of corrupt notaries.

Experts on real estate fraud say the years-long scheme shows why a patchwork of state laws governing the work of notaries, who certify title transfers and other official documents, should be strengthened.

With a notary seal, criminals can steal the title to a house, take out a mortgage, drain the equity in the property and even give themselves power of attorney to access a victim's bank accounts.

"Notaries really are the gatekeepers for fraud in real estate transactions, yet we don't put in the type of mechanism that would help law enforcement track down the crooks," said Dave Fleck, a former Los Angeles County prosecutor specializing in real estate cases.

States have widely varying rules for becoming a notary public, many not requiring a background check. About 20 states don't mandate that notaries keep journals of their transactions, and even fewer require a thumbprint from home sellers when notarizing property transfers — a regulation recently enacted to help combat title fraud in the Chicago area.

Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham said stricter regulations in Pennsylvania may have prevented Coontz's nightmare and the heartache of dozens of other victims, including owners who lost title to their homes and unwitting buyers who spent thousands of dollars on properties they never really owned.

In the scheme, ring members scouted for abandoned homes — the owners were dead or living elsewhere — looked up the property records and began the forgery process with the help of four notaries, prosecutors said. They then sold the homes, usually for a few thousand dollars, to unsuspecting families, many of them immigrants with little understanding of real estate procedures.

Abraham said a thumbprint requirement might have deterred criminals posing as home sellers because they likely would not have wanted to leave behind evidence of their identities.

The district attorney tried to add that mandate to legislation in Pennsylvania in 2000, along with a requirement to photocopy the ID cards of those seeking notary services. Her effort failed, partly because the Pennsylvania Association of Notaries said the proposals would be too onerous. Association president Marc Aronson said he believes such provisions would get more backing today.

Under current law, Pennsylvania notaries need personal knowledge, "satisfactory evidence" — a government-issued ID card — or a creditable witness to verify someone's identity, he said.

A thumbprint requirement has been the law in California since 1996, providing an invaluable tool for tracking down forgers and also helping protect notaries from being victimized, Fleck said.

"Notaries do so many transactions, they ... rarely if ever are able to pick people out of lineups," Fleck said. "The notary memory is really not a tool for law enforcement, so we need to rely on something else."

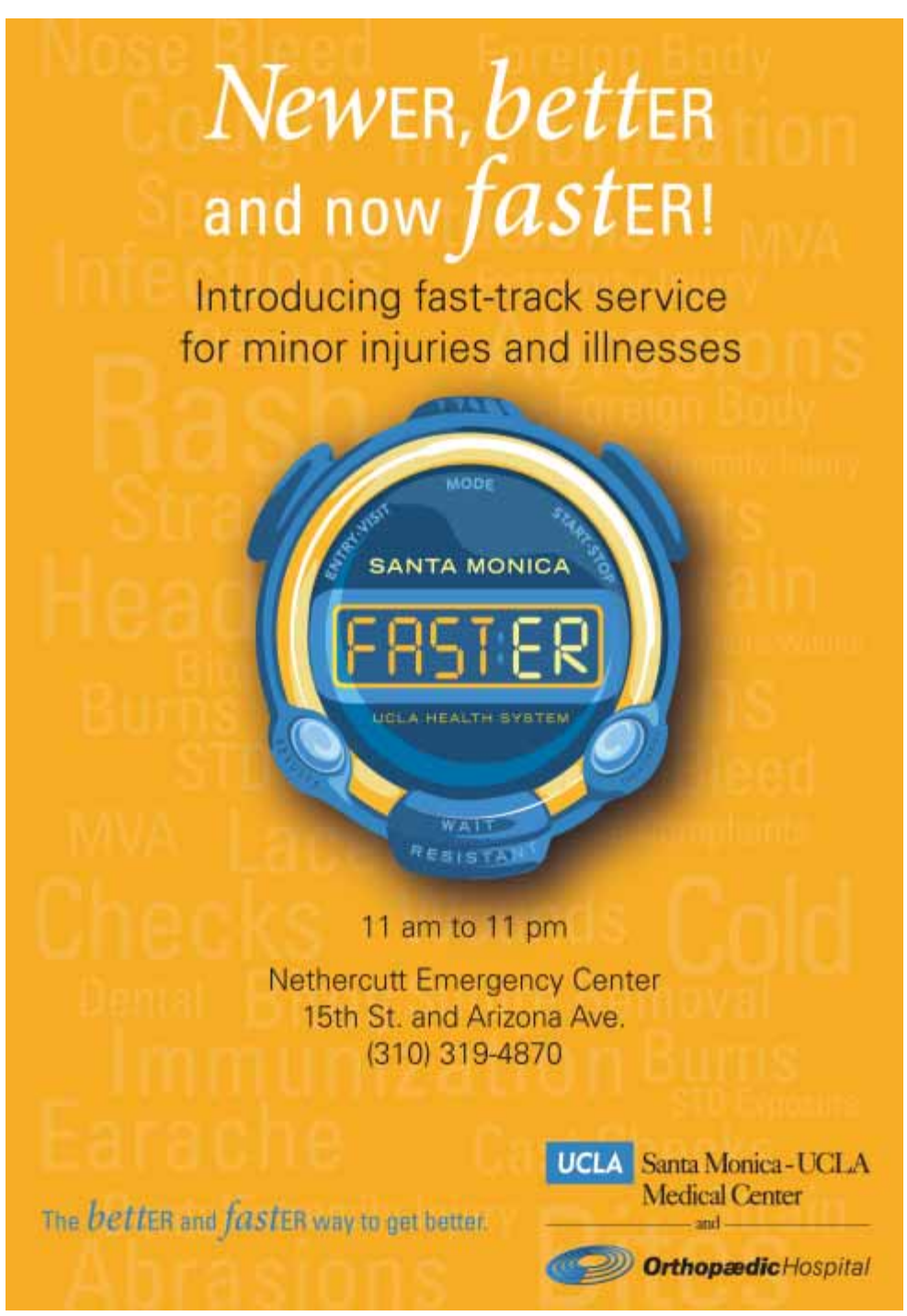
The National Notary Association, based in greater Los Angeles, is pushing for all states to require notaries to keep transaction journals, said executive director Tim Reiniger. Only 29 states and U.S. territories, including Pennsylvania, currently do, though legislation is pending in several other states.

The association is also calling for stronger vetting and better education of notaries.

Twelve states do background checks before commissioning notaries, Reiniger said, and of those, only California requires fingerprints. Pennsylvania requires would-be notaries to take a three-hour class and obtain an endorsement from their state senator.

Without strengthening Pennsylvania's notary laws, Abraham said title fraud will continue as a "cottage industry" in Philadelphia, where a shrinking population has left behind many rundown, unoccupied row houses; she estimates about 500 homes have been stolen over the past few years. It's a problem that has been prevalent in a number of cities, including Chicago and Detroit.

Fifteen people, including the four notaries, were charged in February in the Philadelphia scam that cost Coontz her home and ran from 2004 to 2007. Last week in San Diego, a notary was among 24 people charged in a $100 million mortgage scam involving 220 properties.



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On the Prowl

Taylor Van Arsdale
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Living in perfect eHarmony

IF YOU'RE LIKE MOST NORMAL single people in your mid-30s, and you no longer hit the bars scoping for action, you've probably tried an online dating site. Most of us are loathe to admit this fact, but really, who wants to have a computerized matchmaker fix you up with the love of your life? It sounds so sterile, so unromantic ... so staid.

I tried eHarmony – the dating site designed for optimum pairing – which matches you against "29 dimensions of compatibility; scientifically-based predictors of long-term relationship success." The site boasts, "A patented Compatibility Matching System" that "narrows the field from millions of candidates to a highly select group of singles." I have no idea what the heck this means. But I do know this: two years ago, when I first attempted to use this service, it took me over three hours to fill out the questionnaire only to be told "one out of 20 individuals may not fit the parameters of our service." Already feeling like a failure from a failed relationship, receiving a "pass" e-mail from the emissaries of matchmaking didn't exactly foster confidence.

Not one to let things go, I tried again a few weeks ago. They've since improved the initial questionnaire to a mere 20-minute drudgery. I received the same response. "No." Scientific matching. Indeed. Highly select group of singles. Harumpf. Why wasn't I selected? I wanted to know. Perhaps it was something in the way I answered all 564 questions? Did I do something wrong? I responded honestly. Was there something wrong with me? Per the site's promise I received my free personality profile. The main components: extroverted, intelligent, leader-type personality. You would think a guy would want a vivacious, smart girl, and yet, the e-mail prompt told me, "One of the requirements for successful matching is that participants fall within certain defined profiles ... unfortunately we're not able to make our profiles work for you." I didn't get it. How could I possibly be unmatchable?

Undeterred, I went on Yahoo and created a bogus name and e-mail. I decided to answer all the questions differently. By differently I mean, I lied. When a question asked, "Do you consider yourself shy," I checked off "very much." If one asked if I had a hard time in a room full of people I did the same. For my job description instead of "writer" I wrote, "consultant." For college completed, I wrote "some." I answered their questions exactly opposite as I would have. Do I leave my room a mess? Yes. Do I like to work out? Yes, very much. Am I good at conflict/resolution? No, not at all. Do I consider myself more of a follower or a leader? Oh, a follower, no question about it.

Ten minutes later – I was welcomed to eHarmony. My personality profile was returned with the following key traits: very reserved, focused and flexible, sometimes steady – sometimes responsive, very content and consistently taking care of myself. My actual results: outgoing, focused, very responsive, sometimes curious – sometimes content, and usually taking care of others. I had figured it out. eHarmony wants demure, physically fit, namby-pamby sheep-like women – Stepford Wives if you will.

Now most people would leave it at that. But I'm not most people, and I wanted to see this "select group of hot men" and since you can't view the members photos until you sign up I thought why not purchase a month plan and date some of them. Excited and feeling as if I'd just broken the DaVinci code, I clicked on some of the men's profiles with whom I was instantly matched. These profiles included: electricians, truck drivers, machinists and pipefitters. Not a college grad in the bunch. I tentatively clicked on the pipefitter. Yikes. I clicked back to my main match page immediately. I tried another and another and another. I'd yet to find a guy with a full head of hair or a full set of teeth. So here's the deal. These guys are ugly. I mean imagine Clint-Howard-and-Ron-Perlman-had-a-baby-together ugly.

The women on the testimonial page seem relatively cute (keep in mind I had no way to view their actual profiles), so one can only assume they either have no self-esteem or they're desperate (OK, I can totally relate) and don't care that their "dream man" looks like an in-bred Arkansas hillbilly.

Not one of my potential mates had any social skills. One confessed, "It's really hard for me to write this profile." By the look of the guy's girth (450 pounds), it's probably hard for him to do anything. Another man, still grieving from the loss of his wife, had as his "photo page" a series of pics of he and his wife, complete with captions: My darling dead wife and me eating breakfast. My beloved wife before the cancer took her. My lovely wife blowing me – don't go there – a kiss. My wife after chemo (not a particularly great shot), and my personal favorite: a photo of the guy and his daughter crying at her funeral!

Suddenly I was supremely happy at having been rejected. For anyone else who has been dissed by this site, take heart. If you've been nixed by eHarmony you're probably a good-looking, ultra-cool hepcat and you should feel honored. Now, you may think it all ends here, but in an effort to keep you, my readers, happy, there's a part deux to this tale. I've been out on dates with some of these freaks and in two weeks ... I'm gonna tell you all about it.

TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE has been married, widowed, duped and dumped, and is back in the dating fray at time when most of her friends are married with kids. All stories are true. She's sick of dating freaks, but she does it for you. Write to her at Tailfish@roadrunner.com.

Disneynature's 'Earth' tells the whole story

SANDY COHEN
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES How do you make a movie when the whole planet is your set?

That's the challenge Alastair Fothergill and Mark Linfield faced in making "Earth," the first film from the new Disneynature label, set to hit theaters on Earth Day, April 22.

The filmmakers, also responsible for the Discovery Channel series "Planet Earth," spent five years collecting footage. They worked with dozens of camera crews, filming at 200 locations in 64 countries to tell a sweeping story about the planet's landscapes, seasons and species.

"I've worked on some pretty massive projects in my time, but they're completely dwarfed by the scale of 'Earth,'" Fothergill said.

Narrated by James Earl Jones, the film follows three animal families as they lead their young through the first year of life: A male polar bear searches for food beneath melting Arctic ice as his two tiny cubs and their mother emerge from their snow den to greet the first rays of spring sunlight; a mother elephant in Africa's sun-scorched Kalahari Desert guides her calf through a blinding sandstorm in a quest for water after months of drought; a humpback whale and her new calf begin a 4,000-mile journey from the warm waters of the tropics to the food-rich seas of Antarctica.

Besides being "emotionally engaging," Fothergill said, focusing on animal families "has a sort of ecological resonance of us as human beings preserving our planet for our children."

Fothergill and Linfield made "Earth" and the Discovery Channel series concurrently, using detailed storyboards to keep the projects separate. Where the 11-part TV series is "habitat-based," Linfield said, with installments on oceans, forests and the like, "Earth" is a character-based narrative.

The filmmakers relied on advances in camera and film technology to capture the natural behavior of their main characters and 39 other animal species. A gyro-stabilized aerial camera attached to a helicopter revolutionized the filming process, Linfield said.

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Rappers tone down bling

DIONNE WALKER
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA The hip-hop world is a less bling-bling place these days.

The music genre has been defined as much by diamond-encrusted watches and platinum chains as its gritty urban lyrics. But in the last couple of years, it has scaled down its flash, a trend insiders say has become more pronounced during the recent recession.

Make no mistake: The industry that made an urban household name out of New York's Jacob "Jacob the Jeweler" Arabov isn't entirely reversing course. (Case in point — Lil Wayne's "A Milli," one of last year's biggest songs, which had the rapper bragging wildly about being a "young millionaire.")

But "the day of conspicuous consumption is gone," says Tamara Connor, an Atlanta-based stylist who has created looks for chart-topping rappers, including Lil Wayne.

"We're still going to see some bling, but it's just not going to be as much," Connor says. "Instead of four diamond necklaces, it might just be a diamond bracelet — and it's a piece the celebrity wears all the time. They're not changing their jewelry out everyday."

Photo shoots, for example, are being done with fewer of the specialized medallions considered a calling card for the likes of Rick Ross, whose chain with a likeness of his head — complete with black diamond beard — has an estimated value of $30,000.

Instead you might see a rapper in an off-the-shelf diamond cross or wearing lower-quality stones. "You can save $3,000 a carat if you do non-ring quality diamonds for studs (earrings)," Connor notes.

Ben Baller, head of Los Angeles-based jeweler I.F. & Co., says the shift is most pronounced among up-and-coming rappers, for whom a steady income is seeming like less of a sure thing. Rap sales have declined along with the rest of the music industry.

Before, a new artist might spend $25,000 of a $30,000 advance on a chain, according to Baller, who counts Fat Joe as a client.

"Now they would rather try to spend $5,000 and $6,000," he says, adding, "they're willing to talk about options by using sapphires, using very, very low quality gold.

"Some people (are) even wanting to mix diamonds with cubics (cubic zirconia) so it would not be completely ungenuine."

Cost cutting is major for the industry in which the carat-weight of one's ring could carry more cache than record sales. Ostentatious fashion has been in hip-hop's DNA since Slick Rick donned layers of opulent gold chains in the '80s.

The flash reflected the music style born of the streets of New York, its stars often hard-knock kids who christened their new success with thick rope chains and designer sweatsuits.

While over-the-top bling didn't represent all of rap fashion — gritty gang looks, Afrocentric garb and even preppy styles have all been adopted and embraced as part of rap style at some point — in the late 1990s and the early part of this decade, bling seemed to have reached its apex, complete with gold and diamond pimp cups and diamond grills for the teeth. (In fact, its around that time the term bling was born.)

"It was about creating a signature," according to Memsor Kamarake, fashion director of Vibe magazine.

But in recent years, rap kings like Jay-Z and Diddy have displayed their swagger with looks that were more boardroom than bling, with button-down shirts and designer suits.

Though Young Jeezy may still sport a huge chain at times, flashy jewelry is not integral to his image.

"He'll wear a scarf and no jewelry, maybe a bracelet, with a baseball hat, a T-shirt and a pair of jeans — that's not a lot of bling," says Connor, who has also styled the Georgia artist.

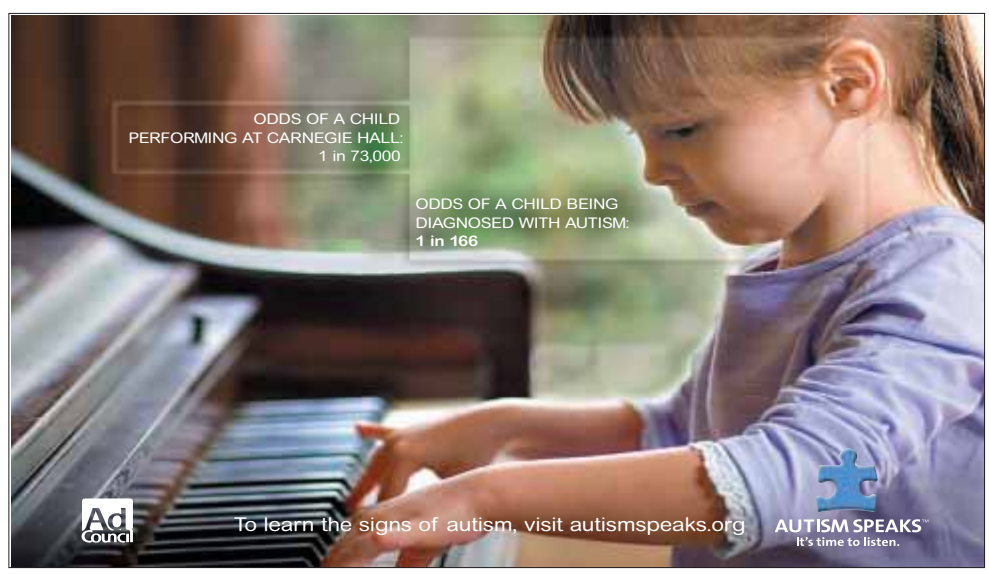
Rappers aren't giving up glamour altogether, they're just not wearing it 24-7. In the past, several chains were de rigueur for a grocery-store run, now they're reserved for a show or nightclub, says Baller, who also is seeing more artists trading in old chains instead of buying new ones.

And rapper T.I. has the A.K.O.O. clothing line, which features military-inspired woven shirts, polos and denim, with most items ranging from $44 to about $200. Ralph Reynolds, who is A.K.O.O.'s creative director, said the clothing label reflects a more price-conscious customer in hip-hop.

"Some of those same people who would reach and stretch and do everything they could to get that Louis (Vuitton) will now say, 'I already have these two bags, let me pay the rent,'" Reynolds says.

Even Kimora Lee Simmons, the Baby Phat designer known for her extravagant lifestyle, toned down the glitter in her most recent collection.

"Fabulosity is not — the girls are seeing — that $5,000 pair of shoes," she says.



NFL

Madden calls it a career

RACHEL COHEN
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK John Madden's last game as a football announcer was a thrilling Super Bowl decided in the final seconds.

The perfect ending to a run as one of sports' most popular broadcasters, now that Madden called it a career Thursday. Yet it didn't fit Madden's style to think about his retirement that way.

"I'm a grinder," he said on his Bay Area radio show. "You just grind and get through it and when it's all over, you think about it. You don't rush into any decisions."

Madden's exuberance for football and blue-collar persona endeared him to TV viewers for three decades. Boom! As sudden as his signature call, he's leaving midway through a six-year contract with NBC's "Sunday Night Football."

"I think his work ethic and passion and love for the game made him apart from everybody else," said longtime broadcast partner Pat Summerall.

Madden said his health is fine, but at the age of 73, he wanted to spend more time with his family. His 50th wedding anniversary is this fall, and his five grandchildren are old enough to notice when he's gone.

"The thing that made it hard is not because I'm second guessing: 'Is it the right decision?' But I enjoyed it so damn much," Madden said. "I enjoyed the game and the players and the coaches and the film and the travel and everything."

Cris Collinsworth will replace Madden, moving over from the network's studio show, NBC Sports chief Dick Ebersol said. Collinsworth filled in when Madden took a game off last October.

Ebersol called Madden "the absolute best sports broadcaster who ever lived."

Madden traveled by bus because of a fear of flying, and with the two Bay Area teams struggling and not hosting any Sunday night games, he would be on the road and away from his family the entire season.

Not that Madden expects to sit at home all the time. He'll keep using the bus and stay busy with his many endorsements. His "Madden NFL Football" is the top-selling sports video game of all time.

Still, he noted this will be his first season away from the sport since he was a freshman in high school.

Madden was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2006. He began his pro career as a linebacker coach at Oakland in 1967 and was made head coach two years later, at 33 the youngest coach in what was then the American Football League.

Madden led the Raiders to their first Super Bowl victory and retired in 1979. He joined CBS later that year.

He worked at CBS until 1994 when the network lost rights to broadcast NFL games, leading him to switch to Fox. He left Fox in 2002 to become the lead analyst for ABC's "Monday Night Football" and joined NBC in 2006 when that network inaugurated a prime-time Sunday game.

Madden won 16 Emmy Awards and became one of the most recognizable voices in television, mixing high-volume enthusiasm with serious analysis on the telestrator.

"He was so consistently entertaining — that guy you really wanted to have on the couch with you, but larger than life," Ebersol said. "I think people stayed with a rout or a bad game that Madden might have to broadcast in the second half (more) than they ever would have stayed with anybody else."

For the last several years, Madden said, he waited until two months after the season to determine whether to continue, not wanting to rush into a decision.

"The last game I did was the Super Bowl, which was pretty good," Madden said. "But, again, that wasn't planned. I didn't say, 'I want to go out on a high note.'"

He surprised Ebersol when he told him last week he was retiring. Ebersol flew to California on Wednesday morning and spent 11 hours with Madden, trying to persuade him to change his mind. Ebersol even offered to allow Madden to call games only in September and November and to take October and December off.

His longtime agent, Sandy Montag, said Madden won't change his mind now that his retirement is official. Madden didn't want a dramatic farewell — he didn't even appear on a conference call Thursday with Ebersol and Montag.

"It wouldn't have been me to say the week of the Super Bowl, 'This is my last game,'" Madden said during his brief radio appearance.

Summerall said he knew Madden would be something special the first time they worked together.

"He didn't talk down to people," Summerall said. "He talked as if he was sitting next to you and explaining things to you."

MUSM: miss you so much
BF: boyfriend
OLL: online love
POS: parent over shoulder
WTGP: want to go private?
LMIRL: let's meet in real life
HDOP: help delete online predators

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Ad Council
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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 55°

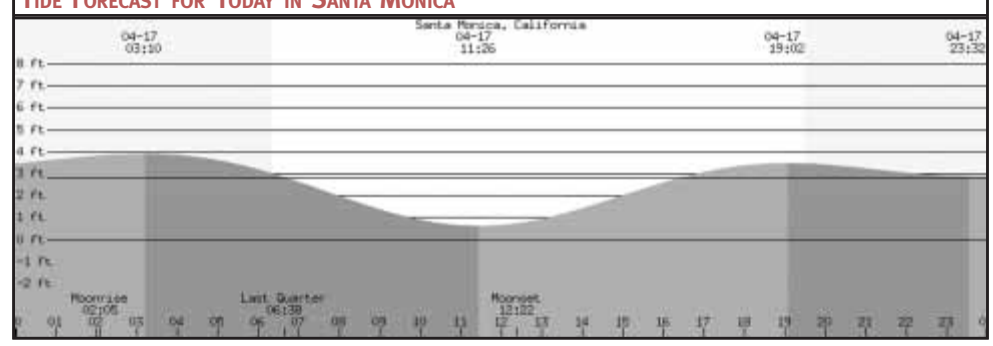
Swell Forecast (3-4 FT)

Wind swell and southern hemi decline further. West facing breaks are looking at waist to chest high size, but with most sets running waist high. South facing breaks are looking at mostly waist high waves.

Long Range Synopsis

Saturday the 18th looks smaller, perhaps knee to waist most everywhere. Winds should be lightly offshore in the morning, 5-10 mph, then onshore in the afternoon to 15 mph.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 10 / ns

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

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

LEGEND
DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay'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.

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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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

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1328 Montana Ave.
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The Thomas Crown Affair (NR) (1968) 1hr 42min
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

Sleep Dealer (PG-13) 1hr 30min
12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:00, 9:15

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)
1:10, 4:00, 7:20, 10:15

Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) 1hr 42min
11:00 a.m., 1:35, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

Observe and Report (R) 1hr 46min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:30

Watchmen (R) 2hrs 43min
12:45, 6:50

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
RealD 3D
11:20 a.m., 1:40, 4:15, 6:40, 9:20

Crank High Voltage (R) 1hr 25min
Special Engagement
11:55 a.m., 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10

Fast & Furious (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:10 a.m., 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

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

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

Enlighten Up! (NR) 1hr 22min
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Sin Nombre (R) 1hr 36min
1:45, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30

Sugar (R) 1hr 54min
1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:00

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

I Love You, Man (R) 1hr 50min
1:20, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30

Knowing (PG-13)
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

State of Play (PG-13) 1hr 58min
1:10, 3:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:10, 10:10

17 Again (PG-13) 1hr 42min
12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 10:00

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
RealD 3D, Special Engagement
1:30, 4:00, 6:40, 9:00

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

Where the action is, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Handle a heavy responsibility in the a.m. Later, you focus on long-term goals, perhaps a meeting and far more interpersonal dialogue. You might want to take a deep breath, as an emotional issue could resolve itself in the near future. Tonight: Where the action is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Look beyond the obvious when dealing with others. Notice what someone leaves out. Examine the limits in your thinking. Open up all areas, and grow. Greet new ideas positively. Tonight: A must show.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Schedule a meeting for the morning. Detach by the afternoon. People could be acting out on their feelings. Understand what might really be going on. You could be more tired than you realize. Tonight: Try a new restaurant or nightspot.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Others claim their power. Even if someone thinks you should do more, you don't necessarily need to respond. Your efforts might be very important, though getting acknowledgment might not happen yet. Tonight: Quality time with a special friend or loved one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Clear your desk and your mind. Start early in order to finish early. A lunch or social occasion could take far more time than you anticipated. Justifying this activity as networking might fool some. Tonight: Listen to the many suggestions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your imagination steals the show this morning. Taming and disciplining your mind continues to be a high priority. This afternoon, you will face a lot of work and a conflicting need to be free. Prioritize and just do. Tonight: Be careful with money.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You have been keeping to yourself, as so much is on your mind. The reception you have been getting is far from good. This afternoon, events will start to occur that make you more open and ready to talk. Tonight: What is wrong with allowing more fun into your life?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Communication causes a problem, in that you simply cannot be everywhere. Finally people start owning up to their issues, views and problems. You have been noticing how others are withdrawn or at least unstable. Tonight: Play it easy. Head home early.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Finances can occupy a lot of time, whether you are dealing with a personal matter or a work-related issue. How you talk to someone or the effort you make makes a difference. Give someone space to open up. Tonight: Be a receptive audience.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Handle key projects immediately. You could be overwhelmed by all the requests and questions coming your way this afternoon. If you are wondering about your role in several areas of your life, relax — the answers will come soon enough. Tonight: Splurge a little.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Don't plan on acting until you get more information. Your perspective could be off, as you will discover in the a.m. Later today, you walk on steady ground, knowing what you want and how to handle it. Tonight: Whatever puts a smile on your face.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Take an active role this morning. Try not to let details slip through the cracks. Be sensitive and aware to someone who trusts you implicitly. Tonight: Take a personal night.

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

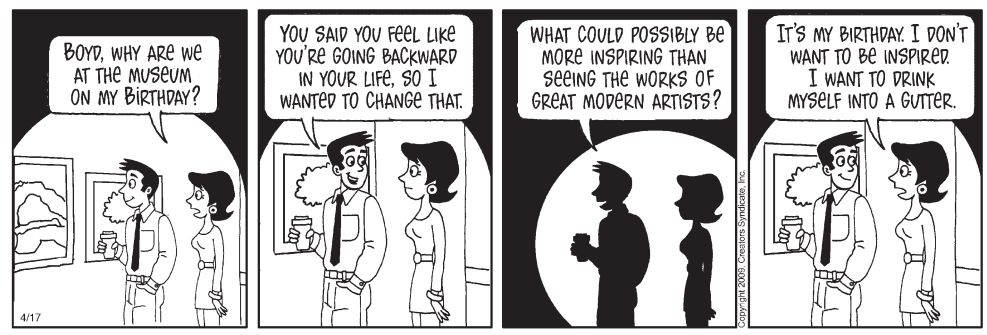
Happy birthday

Much will change this year. Often you naturally assume the helm of the ship. Your leadership abilities don't work well with relationships. You will learn to juggle the two different interests, knowing ultimately they can be united through a concern in certain areas. If you are single, you are likely to see friendship play a big role in meeting that special person, or a budding friendship could evolve into more. If you are attached, remember, ultimately, people and family mean more than work. Learn to give a lot more time to your sweetie. AQUARIUS is your friend.

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



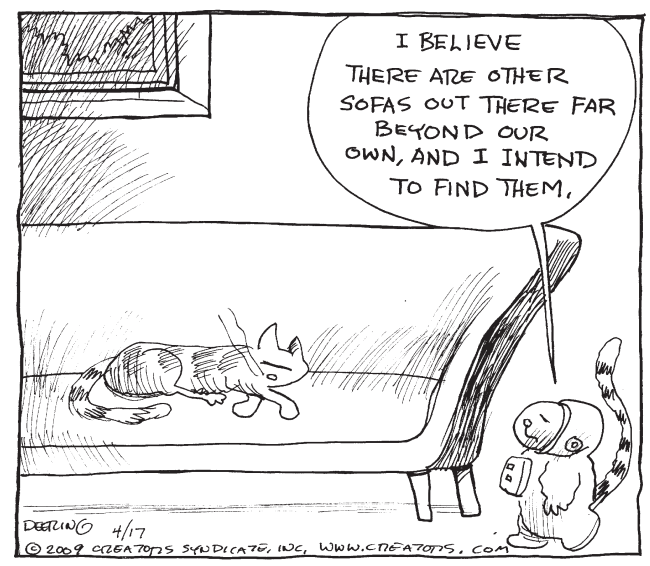
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



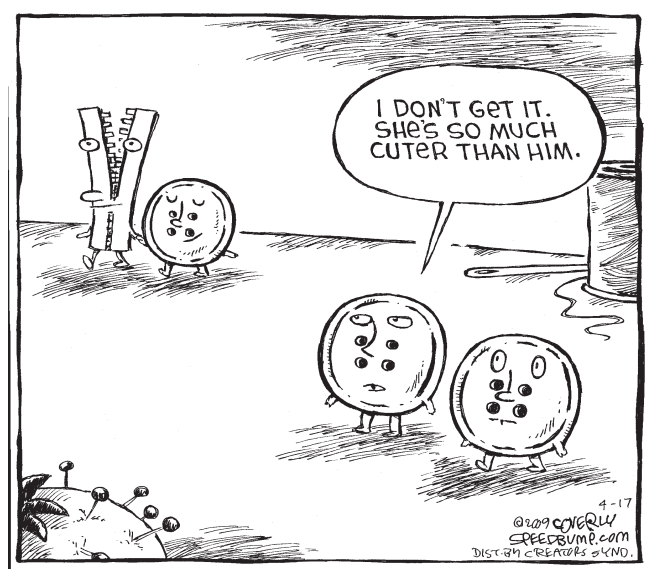
Garfield
By Jim Davis



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 ★★★★

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

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.

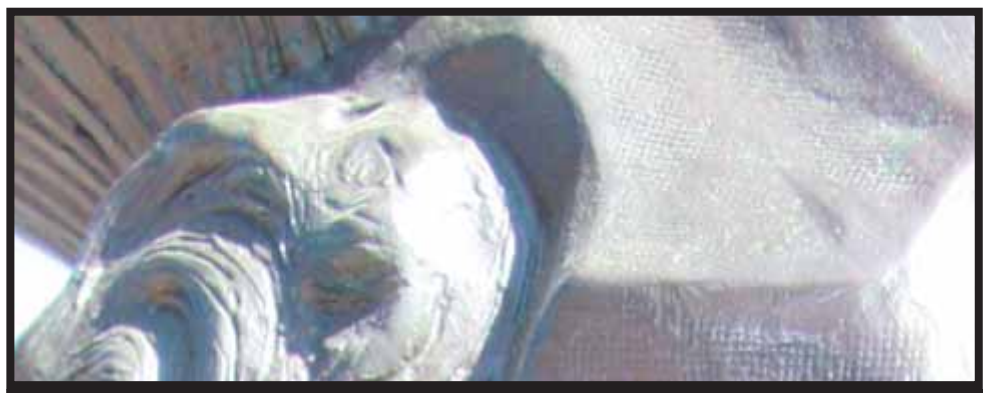
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Dramatic no-show
6 Combing spot
11 Bowl
12 Superfluous
13 Wendy's friend
14 Hawk's weapon
15 Assay
17 Cartographer's output
18 London lockup
20 Related
22 Yale alum
23 Office machine
26 Fashionably dated
28 Head out
29 Died out
31 Storage spot
32 Prefix with European
33 Woody's dad
34 Verne's traveler
36 Charity affair
38 Clear as —
40 Exploding stars
43 Jazz pianist Chick
44 Motif
45 Peevish
46 Cake course

DOWN

1 Mountain pass
2 Metal source
3 1984 World Series champs
4 Ryan of film
5 Pucker-inducing
6 Wager
7 Look over
8 1995 World Series champs
9 Field yield
10 Painter Holbein
16 Lobed organ
18 "American Gigolo" star
19 Baseball's Rodriguez
21 Highland attire
23 Tadpole's home
24 Diabolical
25 Gambling city
27 Lock
30 Gear part
33 Hilo hello
34 Piece of data
35 Soprano instrument
37 Pay to play
39 Place down
41 Writer Tan
42 Porpoise's place

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

Yesterday's answer

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

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					■	14				
■	■	15			16	■	17			
18	19			■	20	21			■	■
22			■	23					24	25
26			27		■	28				
29					30		■	31		
■	■	32				■	33			
34	35			■	36	37			■	■
38				39	■	40			41	42
43					■	44				
45					■	46				

4-17

DAILY LOTTERY

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

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 7 18 34 35 43
Meganumber: 25
Jackpot: $10M

Fantasy 5: 7 18 21 22 29

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 8 1
EVENING: 3 2 3

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1.41.63

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

■ Angel Galvan-Hernandez, 26, facing a long prison term after being convicted in a Seattle court, begged the judge in February to execute him, that he'd rather die "a thousand times" than be jailed. The reason, he said, was his fear of being raped in prison because of his petite frame and his history of being attacked as a youth. He admitted that he was a coward, "but I just don't want to be raped." His crime: He had pleaded guilty to raping two women. (He got 20 years.)

■ What We Say, What We Do: (1) About 200 members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) launched a protest campaign in March, accusing their employer of improper layoffs, unlawful bans on union activities, and reclassifying of workers in order to disempower the union. The employer of the workers is the national SEIU office, where they are staff members. (2) A federal arbitrator ruled in March that an employer had, for years, "willfully" violated the Fair Labor Standards Act in exploiting workers by failing to pay overtime. The guilty employer: the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1969 a jury in Los Angeles convicted Sirhan Sirhan of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. The First Secretary of Czechoslovakia's Communist Party, 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 Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., died in Atlanta at age 64.

WORD UP!

etiolate \EE-tee-uh-layt\, *transitive verb*:
1. (Botany) To bleach and alter the natural development of (a green plant) by excluding sunlight.
2. To make pale or sickly.
3. To make weak by stunting the growth or development of.
intransitive verb:
1. (Botany) To become bleached or whitened, as when grown without sunlight.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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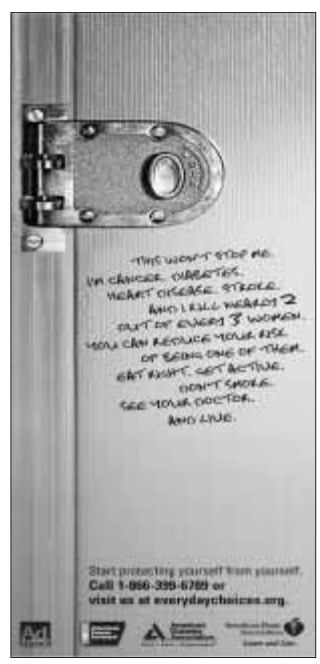
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Notices

NOTICE
Pursuant To California Self-Storage Facility Act (B & P Code 21700 ET SEQ) the Undersigned Will Sell At Public Auction. On The Below Listed Day, Time, And Location. Notice Of Public Sale Of Personal Property: The Personal Property Including, But Not Limited To Listed Items Stored By The Following Persons Or Businesses On The 29th Day Of April 2009 At 10:00 AM At: AA Olympic SS 3250 Olympic Blvd. Santa Monica, Ca. 90404 (310) 829-2525
THE FOLLOWING LIST IS A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD:
Storage Unit #
2363 - Lois Berry - luggage, plastic containers, boxes, typewriter
2360 - Kenton Barrett - couch, bar stool, office chair, basket, magazines, patio furniture
2712 - Salon Leasing Inc. - boxes, plastic containers, clothes, computer, luggage, file boxes, frying pans
705 - Alexander Imhoff - desk, heater, boxes, stereo equipment, couch, loveseat, bed frame, pictures, table, luggage, chair
2338 - Susan Biemesderfer - boxes, paperwork, clothes, plastic containers
2204 - John Koehler - bags, boxes, guitar cases, bike, clothes, drawer carts, TV
2501 - George S. Burrows - file cabinet, boxes, bag, pictures, printer, table, bookshelf, file boxes, coffee table, entertainment center
AUCTIONEER: K.E. AUCTION SERVICE 12127 Mall Blvd. A-178 Victorville, Ca. 92392 CA. BOND # FS836-21-31

Santa Monica Daily Press
CN817068 4-29-09 Apr 17,24, 2009

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20090355562 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as EAT CHIC FOOD AND NUTRITION, 1337 BERKELEY ST, APT 2, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : EAT CHIC FOOD AND NUTRITION LLC, 1337 BERKELEY ST, APT 2, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404 This Business is being conducted by, a limited liability. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: EAT CHIC FOOD AND NUTRITION LLC, MANAGER, LARRY ROSALES
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/12/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 4/10/2009, 4/17/2009, 4/24/2009, 5/1/2009

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$399 + tax. 39 months on approved Tier A1 credit. $4,524 total due at signing, includes tax, license, doc fee & 1st payment. $0 security deposit. 10K miles per year. 25¢ per mile excess. MSRP $37,385. Offer expires 4/5/09.
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New 2010 Mercedes-Benz GLK350 AWD AUTO



$499+ tax. 39 months on approved Tier A1 credit. $5,044 total due at signing, includes tax, license, doc fee & 1st payment. $0 security deposit. 10K miles per year. 25¢ per mile excess. MSRP $40,665. Offer expires 4/5/09.
LEASE: $499 +TAX/MO 39 MOS 5 at this payment

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$499 + tax. 48 months on approved Tier A1 credit. $5,054 total due at signing, includes tax, license, doc fee & 1st payment. $0 security deposit. 10K miles per year. 25¢ per mile excess. MSRP $56,775. Offer expires 4/5/09.
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2006 MERCEDES-BENZ ML350 3.9% APR*
Entertainment and Sunroof Packages, Multi-CD, Heated Seats #6A078257
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Multi-CD, BOSE, Navigation, Leather, Dual Power/Heated Seats, Premium Wheels VIN#6F172223
$39,994

2007 MERCEDES-BENZ GL450
Premium/Towing Pkg, Multi-CD, Harmon Kardon, Navigation, Park Sensors, Leather, Dual Power Seats, Moonroof, Prem. Wheels VIN#7A213115
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