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APRIL 21-22, 2007

Volume 6 Issue 137



Santa Monica Daily Press

BE KIND TO THE PLANET
SEE PAGE 3

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE WAXING NOSTALGIC ISSUE

HAS DOGTOWN HAD IT'S DAY?

Three decades after the Z-Boys, skateboarders find a changed city

STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 16



Photo Illustration by Fabian Lewkowicz and Tessa Vergara *news@smdp.com*



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



'Wounded'
3116 Second St., 8 p.m.
The Los Angeles Theatre Ensemble presents "Wounded." Based on true accounts of soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, the play is set in the Fisher House rehabilitation home at the Walter Reed Medical Center and follows four young veterans and their families on their quest to readjust to life back home. "Wounded" is playing at the Powerhouse Theatre. For reservations and information, call (310) 396-3680, ext. 3 or visit www.latensemble.org.

All-Church Thrift Sale
1008 Eleventh St., 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
The First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica will hold its All-Church Thrift Sale. Items for sale will include clothing, books, CDs/DVDs, small appliances, linens, kitchen items, jewelry and more. This event is free to the public. All proceeds go to missions. Free parking is available across from the church in the underground parking garage.

Nothin' But Sand beach cleanup
1600 Ocean Front Walk, 10 a.m. — noon
Join REI Santa Monica and Heal the Bay for a beach cleanup this Earth Day. Morning coffee and bagels will be served, and water and snacks will be provided throughout the cleanup. All gloves and supplies are provided. Please dress appropriately and bring sun protection.
Closed-toe shoes recommended. Participants under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian sign a waiver. Check-in at the REI booth on the north side of the pier. Parking is free to volunteers only in lot #1550. The first 100 participants to sign up will receive REI volunteer, "Get Dirty" T-shirts. A confirmation is needed to receive the T-shirt. Sizes are limited. To sign up, e-mail Alaina at acunnin@rei.com or call (310) 458-4370, ext. 207.

Raising Readers — A Literacy Festival
1900 Pico Blvd., noon — 4 p.m.
Presented by Connections For Children, Santa Monica College and North Bay AEYC. This free family event features pre-school aged activity tables, a Scholastic Book Fair, music, story-telling and much more. Special appearances by Rhythm Child, Dan Crow and the Thunderwear Band and Clifford The Big Red Dog.

Santa Monica Airport pre-Earth Day protest
3223 Donald Douglas Loop South, noon — 2 p.m.
Elected officials and environmental group leaders will join Los Angeles and Santa Monica residents at a pre-Earth Day public protest being sponsored by Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution (CRAAP) and co-sponsored by the Friends of Sunset Park and the North Westdale Neighborhood Association. Events will begin with a noon rally in front of the Santa Monica Airport Administration Building. Following the rally, protest participants symbolically wearing gas masks and pollution filtering face masks will march up Airport Avenue to Bundy Drive. Free parking is available at Santa Monica College's Bundy Campus and in front of the Santa Monica Airport administration building.

Sunday, April 22, 2007

Unity Resource Fair at Virginia Avenue Park
2200 Virginia Ave., 1 p.m. — 6 p.m.
The SM Bay Area Human Relations Council has organized community dialogue workshops and local non-profit agencies will provide information on their local services. This free event will include live entertainment with a variety of music genres, games and contests, a children's art station and food from local vendors, including Cha Cha Chicken and Baby Blues BBQ. Walk, bike, bus (BBB line #7) or park free at Santa Monica College, Structure A at the corner of Pico and 17th Street and the Big Blue Bus will shuttle free back-and-forth to the event.

Santa Monica College Concert Band
1900 Pico Blvd., 4 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Kevin McKeown will conduct the Santa Monica College Concert Band in a spring concert tribute to Dimitri Shostakovich. The schedule will feature Prelude (Op. 34 No. 14), Finale from Symphony No. 5, plus the World Premiere of Bassoon Concerto in E flat by Cavit Celayir-Monezi. Tickets are $10 and can be purchased at the SMC Events Office or by calling (310) 434-3000.

Clutterology: How to Eliminate Clutter in Your Life and Get Organized
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
The Main Branch Library is holding a seminar on personal organization. Among the topics to be covered will be how to be removed from junk mail lists. It is requested that participants bring charitable donations.

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.



RAINY DAY GO AWAY Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

A much-needed rain storm passed through the area Friday. The Santa Monica Pier's sign is reflected in this pool of rain water Friday afternoon.

Earth Day has changed some

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Earth Day just isn't what it used to be.

With all of the heightened awareness surrounding the global warming issue in recent years, the focus of Earth Day has been narrowed considerably from the general observance of the environment.

"Given the highly exposed awareness on the whole climate change global warming issue that has come to the forefront in the last 18 months, I do believe that most of the Earth Day events are going to lean toward that," said David Veniot, the former head of Earth Day International and current vice president of Sustainability for the Villages of Loreto Bay. "The focus of activities are relative to what kind of impact we have in terms of greenhouse gas emissions and global warming."

A lot of changes can be made in the home, and thanks to heightened awareness, there are now more options than ever for consumers looking to heal the world.

And what better day to begin than Earth Day this Sunday?

Perhaps the most effective step an individual can take in efforts to save the environment is eventually changing all of their light bulbs from incandescent to compact fluorescent lamps (CFL).

On Sunday, take a walk around the house and survey the types of light bulbs screwed in the lamps. If the bulbs are incandescent, take a stroll to the local hardware store and pick up a CFL bulb or two, Veniot said.

The average homeowner has about 40 light bulbs in their possession, Veniot estimated. If homeowners start changing their

SEE **EARTH DAY** PAGE 14

Classes could be growing

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Facing an estimated $3 million budget deficit in the next fiscal year, school officials are considering whether to increase class sizes for kindergarten through third grade to make up the difference.

The district is mulling an increase to the student-to-teacher ratio from 19:1 this year to 20:1 for the 2007-08 school year. The change would result in a reduction of about six full-time equivalent positions, according to Dr. Stephen Hodgson, the interim chief financial officer for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

The CFO presented a list of potential cost-saving measures during the Board of Education's meeting on Thursday night. The budget cuts will be discussed in further detail during a workshop this Wednesday.

As it stands, the district is expected to bring in approximately $75.2 million in revenues next year, but expend about $78.2 million.

The total savings of increasing class sizes in the kindergarten through third grade levels was not made available during the meeting.

With declining enrollment projected over the next few years, due primarily to the district's ban on new non-resident students, it will be necessary to align staffing with enrollment levels, Hodgson said.

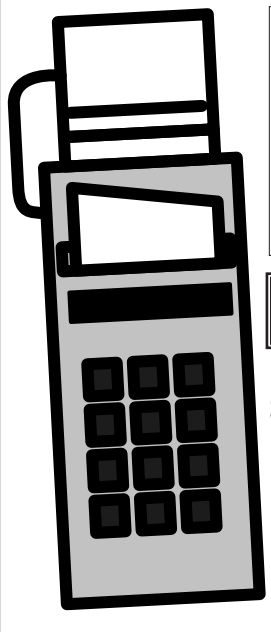
"We have the same staffing as four years ago when we had 900 additional students," Hodgson said.

The district's enrollment next year is projected to drop by 158 students, by another 164 students the following year, and another 181 students by the 2009-10 school year.

Along with changes in staffing levels in kindergarten through third grade, Hodgson is also recommending examining the student-to-teacher ratios in grades

SEE **CLASS** PAGE 14

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Critics can stick it in their pipes

Editor:

Thank you so much for the special 4:20 piece ("It's 4:20, the time is ripe," April 20). It amazes me that people are still ignorant about the health benefits of cannabis. Between October 2001 and June 2003, I was involved in four separate car accidents that left me with chronic pain in my neck, shoulders, upper and lower back, and I had developed intense migraines. At 20 years old, my body had gone through what a 60-year-old could expect to feel like. Thank God that medicinal cannabis is available to us in California!

Although I was going through physical therapy and quickly becoming reliant on addictive painkillers, marijuana was the thing that saved me. With painkillers taking about 45 minutes before feeling relief, using medicinal cannabis only took a few minutes before my migraine would disappear! Medicinal cannabis helps many people living with HIV/AIDS, eating disorders, cancer, chronic pain and other terminal illnesses every day.

It is ridiculous to say that "I think they're getting carried away here," as quoted by Tim Dillman. What about the people who legally drink, then drive and kill people? Or the people who smoke their legal tobacco, develop cancers and affect non-smokers' health? That is infringing on other Americans' lives and getting carried away. Also, some of the authors of our great nation's Constitution even grew marijuana/hemp.

Put that in your pipe and smoke it!

Thanks, Santa Monica Daily Press.

Kelly Marvin
Venice

Junk food for thought

Editor:

Like most of America, my prayers and tears went out for the victims and families of the Virginia Tech massacre, yet, as the story unfolded, I couldn't help but reflect on the insanity of the politically correct pleasure police and lawmakers who spend so much time banning so-called "junk food" like candy bars and soda pop from America's campuses. "It's for the safety of the children," "We must protect the health of our young people," "Obesity and tooth decay are killing teens!" And on and on they rail.

So out go the Twinkies and potato chips. Away with the Coca-Cola and Dr. Pepper. And God help the college student who is caught smoking a Marlboro between bites of a Big Mac, munching Twizzlers from a plastic bag, and washing it all down with Mountain Dew from a Styrofoam cup!

"Honest, Mr. Campus Cholesterol Cop, I don't know how that chili-fries residue got on the corner of my mouth ..."

Meanwhile, evil such as that which murdered those terrific kids at V-Tech was allowed to roam freely. We now find that many of the murderer's professors knew of his bizarre behavior and death fantasies. Several students refused to go to classes where he attended. Even the V-Tech police had reports and complaints of the killer stalking and annoying women on campus – and there were many more warnings this massacre would occur. Yet they were all ignored or swept under the rug.

My point is that maybe our own City Hall should put off worrying about how "green" our city is and worry more about how "red" our streets and campuses may become because of gangs. And maybe the PhDs who run SMC and our city's middle and high schools should stop worrying about what's going in students' mouths and focus on what's going on in their heads.

James Zeruk jr.
Santa Monica

Justifiable murder doesn't exist

Editor:

The gun rights groups are now going to be arguing for more guns. People need to know the facts: In 2005, there were only 143 justifiable homicides by private citizens, according to the FBI Uniform Crime Report. Meanwhile, we lose an average of 80 people a day due to guns through suicide, homicide or accidental shootings. Our leaders need to say "no" to the NRA and they need to listen to their constituents who want sensible gun laws.

Suzanne Verge
Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

How can't smokers see the simple facts?

WE SEE THEM ALMOST EVERY DAY. They're outside in the heat of the summer and the cold of the winter. We usually avoid talking to them. We rarely make eye contact. They are often either by themselves or huddled in clumps in front of office buildings or restaurants. They're hard to avoid in most downtown areas throughout the country. If we sneak a peek at them, they often look ashamed, so we look away and keep walking. Rarely do we even say "hello" to them. Isn't it time we stopped treating them like this? They are somebody's sons and daughters, brothers and sisters. Let's show some compassion and stop treating them as pariahs — just because they smoke.

Smokers have become today's lepers, and it just doesn't seem fair.

Let me get my attitude about smoking out right here. I hate it. I hate breathing somebody else's smoke, and I really hate smelling smoke on my clothes. I'm happy that so many places are smoke-free today. I'm thrilled that I don't have to worry about somebody smoking a cigar at the next table in a restaurant or lighting up at a business meeting. I'm appalled by what "Big Tobacco" has been able to get away with. And I hate that actors and other "role models" smoke in their photographed "private" lives and on the screen.

Many of you share these feelings. Too many of us have lost loved ones because of smoking. We are dumbfounded that people still smoke, despite the undisputed medical facts about it.

But just because we hate smoking doesn't mean we have to hate smokers. We've all learned over the past few decades that alcoholism and other addictions are diseases. Research has shown that compassion and treatment should be involved with people who suffer from these diseases. An addiction to smoking is a disease, too, so where's the compassion for smokers?

Can you imagine treating people who had any other disease the way we treat smokers? We don't force people with high blood pressure to only hang out with other people with hypertension in front of office buildings. We don't look at people with high cholesterol with the same disdain we have for smokers. We don't abstain from smiling at people with ingrown toenails.

And of course, in Santa Monica, banishing smokers to the outsides of buildings hasn't been enough. There are many areas where smokers aren't allowed to smoke outdoors. I'm convinced there must be some tunnels beneath Santa Monica where smokers roam with their cigarettes lit.

It's not the smoker's fault that smoking exists. So why aren't we picketing the tobacco companies' offices instead of turning our backs on smokers? Why aren't we boycotting movie studios that show smoking in a positive light instead of walking past smokers as if they don't exist? Why aren't we campaigning against politicians who keep helping the tobacco industry instead of feeling superior to those who smoke?

It's time for these unfair attitudes to change. I'm going to try to treat smokers differently. When I see them outside of a building, puffing away, I'm going to say, "hello." Or at least, I'll nod my head in a friendly smile. I'm going to try to be less judgmental of people who smoke and I encourage you to do the same — no matter how bad their smoke smells.

THERE ARE MANY AREAS WHERE SMOKERS AREN'T ALLOWED TO SMOKE OUTDOORS. I'M CONVINCED THERE MUST BE SOME TUNNELS BENEATH SANTA MONICA WHERE SMOKERS ROAM WITH THEIR CIGARETTES LIT.

Again, we don't treat people with other addictions this way. Our society has come to view those with all kinds of addictions as people with a problem, not as bad people. There are people addicted to shopping, to pornography, to the Internet, to eating and to gambling, and we don't shun them.

Suppose you were on your way to work, and there was the usual clump of people outside your building. But instead of smokers, what if they were sex addicts? I guarantee you people wouldn't try to ignore them. Everybody would stop and say "hello" — among other things. Many people would be so interested in meeting the sex addicts that they probably wouldn't even make it into the building to work. Shouldn't we have the same compassion for those who can't "just say no" to cigarettes as we have for those who can't "just say no" to anybody?

LLOYD GARVER writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermoderntimes.com.

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

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA.

Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Suite 202, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

"Death to Shilpa Shetty."

— Shouts from Indian protesters, reacting to a playful kiss between actor Richard Gere and Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty at an AIDS awareness rally. Claiming the American actor insulted Indian culture by kissing the actress' hands and face, they burned Gere in effigy in Bombay.

"It's more than just an excuse to get high. It's a day to raise awareness about the need to change the laws and make it legal."

— Andre Houston on April 20 (or 4:20), globally recognized as a date to smoke marijuana.

"He says, 'Do you want to fight? Do you want to fight?'"

— San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan, on a confrontation he had with NBA referee Joey Crawford. The ref alleged that Duncan was laughing at him and ended up ejecting the player from a game.

"We need to move away from this one-use culture where we are getting a bag to use for five minutes between putting our groceries into the car and unloading them at your house."

— Mark Gold, executive director of Heal the Bay, on the potential ban of plastic bags in Los Angeles County

"I HAVE A NORMAL RELATIONSHIP WITH MY DAUGHTER."

—An excerpt of Alec Baldwin's Web site posting, in response to the release of a voicemail message he left on his daughter, Ireland's, cell phone, where the actor verbally berated her, calling her "a rude little pig" and threatening to "straighten" her out.

"It was great."

— 20-year-old actress Lindsay Lohan on her month-long trip to rehab for alcohol addiction.

"We have multiple layers of victimization ... People almost get the feeling that they are there because of the multiple exposures."

— Tom Ellis, director of the Center for Grief, Loss and Transition in St. Paul, Minn., speaking about the public's psychological susceptibility to the extensive coverage of the Virginia Tech shootings.

Quotations captured and compiled with care by **CYNTHIA VAZQUEZ.**


John McGrail, C.Ht.

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The Q Line

Breathalyzers don't gauge immigration status

This past week, Q-line asked:
What should be done with an illegal immigrant found driving under the influence?
Here are your responses:

"AN ILLEGAL DRIVING UNDER THE influence should be tried and sentenced, according to the gravity of the offense, according to the laws on our books. Upon release from prison, immediately deported, as with all illegals."

"THE MAIN WORD IN YOUR QUESTION – 'Illegal' – is defined as being contrary to official rules, unlawful and illicit. Being an illegal alien in the Los Angeles area has been an acceptable practice for years, so can they be faulted for that? Still, driving any form of motorized vehicle while under the influence of any mind-altering drug is a terrible practice and the state of California Motor Vehicle department frowns on doing so. I am certain that the die has been cast on the subject of your question."

"WHETHER OR NOT SOMEONE IS AN illegal alien doesn't matter. If they are drunk driving, they should be put away for a few years and their cars should be confiscated. Take away their cars, and if they kill somebody, they should be taken out and executed."

"IT DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD TO SEND them back because they just come right back again. I think things should be done since they supposedly come here to work, that they should be on a chain gang working. They say they come here to work so that would be the best idea."

"MY FIRST COMMENT IS: HOW DID this guy drive a 2007 car without a drivers' license? He claims he had insurance on this car, but any car lot is not going to give you insurance if you don't show them a driver's license. Somewhere along the line, somebody missed the boat. He must have had somebody else buy insurance for him. This is a no-win situation with this guy. Somewhere in our system there are big holes that need to be closed."

"AN ILLEGAL TRANSIENT IS A DOUBLE criminal when he commits another crime. Sending him back to his country would just be the first leg of a round trip. He should serve his full sentence here first, along with the illegal employer who gave him money for the alcohol."

"IF WE HAD A WORKABLE IMMIGRATION policy no illegals would be working and living in the United States. This illegal would never have been in California. It is a shame that the death penalty has been left to political anthrophy. This guy should get the gas chamber. Instead, he'll plead involuntary manslaughter and be out in four years. A new presidential policy will grant him amnesty and a religious titan will say, 'Jesus forgives him.' I say eliminate an example of reincarnational stupidity and help set a higher standard for personal responsibility."

"ANY ILLEGAL ALIEN FOUND UNDER THE influence should be prosecuted to the full extent in this country and not be extradited. After he is finished with his sentence he should be deported."

"THE ANSWER IS FAIRLY SIMPLE: Confiscate the vehicle and deport him."

"THE PROBLEM THAT WE'RE HAVING right now is with racism. It doesn't matter if it's an illegal immigrant or not, the problem is that a person was killed. The problem is that two innocent people were killed. Our government should have done something about it."

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Ventura judge orders Seabees to stand trial

By the Associated Press

VENTURA Three Seabees, including the victim's ex-wife, were ordered to stand trial for the shooting death of a Camarillo man in a child custody dispute.

After a two-day preliminary hearing, Superior Court Judge John Dobroth ruled Wednesday there was enough evidence to order trial for Rebecca Braswell, her roommate Shannon Butler and Matthew Toerner in the Dec. 1 killing of John Marmo Jr.

The defendants are all sailors stationed at the Navy Construction Battalion Center in Port Hueneme.

Braswell, 26, and Marmo, 27, were involved in a bitter custody battle over their 4-year-old daughter when he was shot to death in front of his condominium.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Richard Simon said Brasell got Butler to help with the killing.

"There is a loyalty factor here that I don't understand. Why do people do those things for their friends? But it's obvious, from the evidence, that Butler was willing to do it," the prosecutor said.

Witnesses testified that Butler repeatedly solicited fellow sailors to attack Marmo, telling them that she and Braswell had been physically assaulted by Marmo or others sent by him.

Butler offered $1,000 to anyone who would seriously injure or kill her friend's ex-husband. Toerner allegedly shot Marmo.

A fourth Seabee, Seth Hardy, 20, is being tried separately on two counts of attempted murder for allegedly trying to kill Marmo by putting propane canisters underneath his car twice in October. He is awaiting a preliminary hearing.

STATE BRIEFS

DIAMOND BAR

Four arrested after raids on homes used as marijuana farm

Four men were arrested after raids at Diamond Bar and Phelan homes being used as marijuana farms.

Ze Ning Peng, 41, and Ze Lin Peng, 49, were booked for investigation of cultivation of marijuana and theft of electricity, investigators said Thursday. Detectives said the 1,533 pot plants were worth up to $6,000 each.

They were dismantling the growing operation inside a Diamond Bar home when they were arrested Wednesday night, said Lt. James Whitten of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

"We caught them just in the nick of time," the lieutenant said.

In the Mojave Desert community of Phelan, San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies arrested two Ontario men Wednesday after discovering two indoor marijuana-growing operations.

Dominic Luna, 42, and Aaron Martinez, 31, were booked for investigation of cultivating marijuana and electricity theft. Martinez was found hiding in the attic of a Buckthorne Road home and Luna was found at a Atsina Road residence about five miles away where another marijuana farm was found, investigators said.

The arrests and the raids were the latest in a series of marijuana cultivation operations found in Southern California homes in Chino Hills, Diamond Bar, Rowland Heights, Pomona and the Mojave Desert.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

48 kids were murdered or committed suicide in county

A study shows there were 48 child homicides and suicides in Los Angeles County in 2005.

Thirty-three children were killed by parents, caregivers or family members, up from 30 in 2004, while 15 children committed suicide in 2005, up from 13 the previous year, according to the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect study released Wednesday.

The numbers were significantly lower than in the early 1990s, when child homicides peaked at 61 and suicides at 44. Since 1992, the county has seen an average of 42 homicides and about 24 suicides per year.

Awareness campaigns, such as warnings to parents not to shake their babies and California's safe surrender law were credited with the overall declines in child deaths.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Southern California finally gets rainfall

Significant rain finally fell Friday across Southern California after an extremely dry winter that left precipitation levels far below normal. Snow fell in the mountains.

Flash flood watches were issued by the National Weather Service for areas of Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties denuded by wildfires in 2006 and 2005.

Mountain areas were advised to expect snow at the 4,000- to 5,000-foot levels, locally down to 2,200 feet.

The wet weather system was welcome relief to a region covered in dangerously dry brush.

Before the storm's arrival, downtown Los Angeles had recorded a little over 21/2 inches of rain since July 1, nearly 12 inches below normal.

AP

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		Single Family Homes	Condo & Townhomes
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Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 2,581,714	$ 875,196
South of Wilshire	=	$ 1,024,000	$ 644,786
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Jury sworn in for Spector's trial

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES A jury of nine men and three women was sworn in Thursday to decide whether music producer Phil Spector murdered actress Lana Clarkson four years ago.

The panel of 12 — many appearing startled when they realized they were the jury — stood, raised their hands and were sworn in to serve on the case.

A panel of six alternates remained to be selected. Superior Court Judge Larry Paul Fidler ordered that process to continue on Monday, followed by opening statements on Wednesday.

Spector, famous for his 1960s "Wall of Sound" recording technique, is accused of the fatal shooting of Clarkson, who was found dead in the foyer of his suburban Alhambra home on Feb. 3, 2003, after he picked her up from a nightclub where she was working as a hostess.

The jury includes several county employees, including two engineers, as well as a man who is a network TV producer and has covered high-profile criminal cases.

All of the panelists said they would weigh the evidence carefully and would be fair to both sides. None of them expressed any preconceived opinions on whether Spector was guilty or innocent.

The panel was chosen from among about 100 prospects who filled out questionnaires in advance and then came to court at the start of the week for questioning by attorneys.

Several of the prospects who were dismissed during the process had expressed strong opinions that Spector killed Clarkson or was responsible for her death because it occurred at his home.

One of the last prospects excused for cause was a woman who said she believed he was guilty and could not change that opinion.

"I understand the rules, I just don't think I can," she said when asked if she could put her opinions aside and judge the case fairly.

The judge told the jury that the trial would last about two or three months.

The jury was formed in a process in which prospects were dismissed for cause or through what are called peremptory challenges, those in which neither side has to state a reason.

Among prospects removed by the defense was a city prosecutor, a move that drew laughter from those remaining.

Defense attorney Roger Rosen turned to them, smiled and said, "Was that a surprise?"

The woman had been in the jury box for three days and vowed during questioning that she could be fair to both sides. She had said she does not try felony cases and would watch closely county prosecutors' strategy.

As peremptory challenges began to shape the potential jury, Spector's prosecutors several times accepted the panel as it was constituted, but when the defense continued to remove certain prospects and replace them with others, the prosecution resumed using challenges.

Spector was elected to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1989. His most notable achievements were in the 1960s and '70s. His career tailed off in the 1980s.

Clarkson was best known as the star of Roger Corman's 1980s cult film "Barbarian Queen."

Doolittle steps down from House Committee

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Rep. John Doolittle, whose house was searched by the FBI in an influence-peddling investigation, said Thursday he will step down temporarily from the House Appropriations Committee.

The announcement by the nine-term California Republican came one day after the disclosure that agents had raided his home in Oakton, Va. In the search last Friday, the FBI had a warrant for information connected with a fundraising business run by Doolittle's wife, Julie, that had done work for convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

"I understand how the most recent circumstances may lead some to question my tenure on the Appropriations Committee," Doolittle wrote House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio.

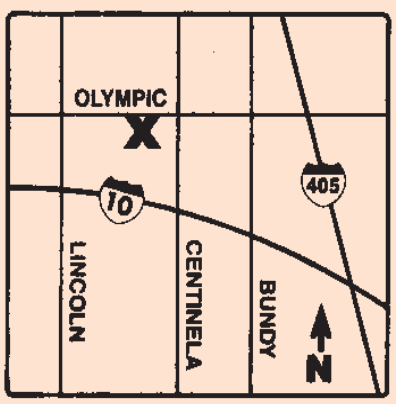
"Therefore, I feel it may be in the best interest of the House that I take a temporary leave with seniority from this committee until this matter can be resolved."

Doolittle's ties to Abramoff have come under scrutiny in the corruption investigation that has sent one former Republican congressman, Bob Ney of Ohio, to prison on a guilty plea to charges of conspiracy and making false statements, and produced convictions against two senior Bush administration officials and several congressional aides.

Congressional Republicans have worked to repair their party's image in the wake of November's election losses that followed Democratic criticism of a GOP "culture of corruption." Boehner made clear to Doolittle Thursday morning that he must resign the committee, according to a Republican aide who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the discussions.

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Copy cats lead to more school safety

By the Associated Press

YUBA CITY School districts in two cities north of the state capital tightened security Thursday while authorities searched for a man they said had threatened a Virginia Tech-style massacre.

Jeffery Thomas Carney, 28, was being sought after he told the pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Yuba City on Wednesday night that he planned a mass killing, Sutter County Sheriff Jim Denney said.

"He had some sort of explosive device and he was going to make the incident at Virginia Tech look mild by comparison," Denney said during a Thursday news conference, characterizing the conversation between Carney and the pastor. "Our main emphasis, and I can't stress this enough, is to find this suspect."

The threat comes just days after 23-year-old Virginia Tech student Cho Seung-Hui gunned down 32 students on campus before killing himself.

Worried parents picked up their children from school after hearing of the manhunt. Yuba College and school districts in Yuba and Sutter counties announced that all classes and activities Friday would be canceled.

Senate gambles on Indian gaming

BY AARON C. DAVIS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO The California Senate on Thursday approved the largest expansion of Indian gambling in the state since tribes were given the authority to operate casinos.

Before they begin installing 22,500 new slot machines, however, the tribes must persuade reluctant members of the Assembly, which is controlled by Democrats with deep ties to labor unions that oppose the deals.

The clash of California's political titans — labor vs. gambling tribes — will be compounded by pressure from Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. He negotiated the agreements last year and has bet on the Legislature approving the compacts to balance his spending plan for the budget year beginning in July.

Schwarzenegger is counting on the tribes to be able to install thousands of slot machines by July to begin bringing in the $500-million annual share of casino winnings to the state provided for under the deals. The revenue is increasingly crucial for the governor this year to deliver on his promise of eliminating the state's chronic budget deficit given that state tax revenue is lagging $1.3 billion below forecasts.

"There's a lot of marbles on the table now," said Jack Gribbon, California political director for Unite Here, the casino and hotel workers union that has promised to pour its resources into defeating the compacts.

"We're talking about an extraordinarily wealthy industry that's been very willing to throw its weight around ... If we do not oppose this now, I don't know why we would exist. At stake are the rights of 50,000 workers to address living wages, health care and job security for the next 23 years."

The compacts approved Thursday allow five wealthy Southern California tribes that already operate 10,000 slot machines to install as many as 22,500 more, as well as card tables and other casino games.

The Senate also approved 99 slot machines for a tribe in far Northern California that has tried for years to get authorization for a gambling hall.

Combined, the six compacts would allow the tribes to install enough machines to fill more than 10 Las Vegas-sized casinos and would represent a 50 percent increase in the number of slot machines operated by Indian tribes in the state. The tribal gambling industry in California already generates an estimated $7 billion in annual revenue.

The deals face their next hurdle in Assemblyman Alberto Torrico, D-Fremont, chairman of the Assembly Governmental Organization committee.

Torrico has warned that he believes the compacts do not go far enough to ensure tribes will pay their fair share of taxes on new slot machines. Specifically, he has said the compacts should include more robust auditing requirements, such as those included in previous arrangements with tribes that require independent accountants to certify the tribes' casino winnings.

Torrico also has warned that he will exercise his authority to hold a committee vote on the compacts, something his Senate counterparts did not do. He has said he may not even schedule the compacts for a hearing until after the Legislature debates the budget in June, as is typical with the majority of Senate bills heard in the Assembly.

"We will have hearings in the ordinary course of business. We are not going to fast-track these," Torrico told The Associated Press. "The governor's got bigger problems than the calendar when it comes to these compacts."

Jeff Grubbe, vice chairman of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, said he is fully aware the tribe still must persuade lawmakers in the Assembly.

The Agua Caliente would be allowed to increase the number of slot machines it operates at its casinos in Palm Springs and Rancho Mirage from 2,000 to 5,000. It was the only tribe to get a vote on its proposed expansion last year in the Assembly. The house soundly defeated the bill, largely along party lines.

"We have a lot of work to educate people about the compact and about what it means for the tribe and for California," Grubbe said. "It's just a win-win proposition."

Antigambling groups and the horse racing industry have joined labor in opposing the compacts and might be able to peal off critical votes for the compacts.

"I have my hopes pinned on the Assembly," said Cheryl Schmit, director of Stand Up for California.

There was little debate Thursday in the Senate, where President Pro Tem Don Perata said he believes it's not lawmakers' role to question the compacts that sovereign tribes have signed with the governor.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF
PROPOSED FY 2007-08 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN
ALLOCATING FEDERAL CDBG AND HOME FUNDS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Proposed FY 2007-08 One-Year Action Plan. The One-Year Action Plan is submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It delineates the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds in order to meet the City's overall housing and community development needs as specified in the Consolidated Plan (FY 2005-10) adopted by City Council and submitted to HUD in June 2005. The City is seeking community comments on the Proposed One-Year Action Plan.

Copies of the Proposed FY 2007-08 One-Year Action Plan are now available to the public for a 30-day community review period ending May 8, 2007. Copies are available at City Hall, the Santa Monica Public Library (main and branch libraries), and on the web at smgov.net, or you may contact the Human Services Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, telephone (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458-8696. Please send your written comments to the above address by May 8, 2007, or you may present your comments verbally at the City Council public hearing on that date.

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Electronic filings won't be late

Software glitch led to many being considered tardy

BY JORDAN ROBERTSON
AP Technology Writer

SAN JOSE Taxpayers who couldn't electronically file 11th-hour returns using Intuit Inc.'s TurboTax, ProSeries and Lacerte software won't be penalized for delays caused by the company's overtaxed servers, the Internal Revenue Service said Wednesday.

"We will do everything we can to assist taxpayers affected by the situation," said IRS spokesman Bruce Friedland. "If people couldn't e-file last night, we encourage them to file as soon as they can."

A record number of returns from individual taxpayers and accountants on Tuesday choked the Mountain View-based company's computers, leading to delays in customers receiving confirmation that their returns had been submitted successfully, Intuit spokeswoman Julie Miller said.

As the midnight filing deadline approached, the problem got worse.

Usually, it takes only a few minutes after hitting the submit button for TurboTax users to get a confirmation. By Tuesday evening, it was taking hours. Returns are not transmitted to the government until Intuit processes them and sends a notice to the taxpayer.

The company's server farm near San Diego processed more than a million returns Tuesday alone, twice the amount during the peak filing day last year, Miller said.

And once the system reached its capacity, many filers were simply turned away. The company said it will refund the $16.95 electronic filing fee for TurboTax users who experienced delays.

Beyond Intuit's consumer products, the delays also hampered professional tax preparers who use the company's Lacerte brand software.

Wesley Fachner, a certified public accountant in Campbell, Calif., said the slowdowns started Monday and got worse Tuesday, with backups cropping up for nearly all of the 20 returns he filed those days.

> **"WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO ASSIST TAXPAYERS AFFECTED BY THE SITUATION, IF PEOPLE COULDN'T E-FILE LAST NIGHT, WE ENCOURAGE THEM TO FILE AS SOON AS THEY CAN."**
>
> **Bruce Friedland,** IRS spokesman

Intuit does not yet know how many people were affected, and it has not received reports of users mistakenly paying multiple e-filing fees as they tried to resubmit their returns.

Penalties for late filing start at 5 percent of the unpaid taxes per month, and max out at a total of 25 percent. The IRS said it would extend the deadline to midnight April 19 for people who encountered problems.

Customers lit up Intuit's online customer support forums with complaints, with some angrily swearing off Intuit's software altogether for future returns and others threatening to sue the company if they were penalized by the IRS.

The system would alert him that the files were having trouble transferring, or were sitting in a queue behind other returns and weren't being processed.

"I just kept sending it until it got through — it was stopping my work process and I wanted those things out of my hair," he said. "Eventually there must have been a little gap and it would get through."

Fachner said he had no plans to stop using Intuit software.

"If it had been happening in March, I would have been a little upset — that would have shown their systems weren't in good order," he said. "But on the 16th and 17th of April, with the volumes they were getting hit with, I can't say it's their fault."

Kansas City, Mo.-based H&R Block Inc., whose TaxCut software also allows people to file electronically, said Wednesday it did not experience any slowdowns despite a similar spike in traffic. The company did not provide details on the number of filings it received.

Technology experts were flabbergasted that Intuit was caught off guard by a surge in activity on its busiest day of the year.

"The irony is that most servers are just at 18 to 20 percent of their capacity. This was probably not a capacity issue but a configuration issue," said Bruce Milne, vice president of products and marketing for HyPerformix Inc., an Austin, Texas-based company that makes IT capacity planning software. "They probably could have avoided this whole thing altogether without a lot of extra expense" by performing more capacity analysis beforehand, he said.

Miller, the Intuit spokeswoman, said the company is studying ways to ensure the delays don't occur again next year.

"We had quite a bit of backlog that cleared itself out overnight as we came off the peak," Miller said. "Volume was a key contributor to this, but we're going to dig under and try to understand it from a technology perspective."

At the peak, Intuit was processing 50 to 60 returns per second.

Last month, the company said it had sold nearly 11 million copies of its TurboTax federal software as of March 17, although not everybody who uses the tax preparation software files electronically.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Nevada may create database of DNA

BY JOE MULLIN
Associated Press Writer

CARSON CITY, Nev. Nevada should join 43 other states that include all felons in a national DNA database, lawmakers were told Thursday.

Directors of crime labs in Reno and Las Vegas joined other law enforcement representatives to urge the Senate Judiciary Committee to support AB92, which was unanimously passed by the Assembly last week.

Violent criminals often have previous convictions for nonviolent crimes, said Don Means, captain of the Forensic Division of the Washoe County sheriff's department. When they can collect DNA samples from a crime scene, police can sometimes solve cold cases by getting a DNA "hit" from the national DNA offender database, known as CODIS.

Nevada police have solved 141 offenders using the database, including 19 homicides, said Means. In nearly half of those cases, the offenders were in the database because another state put them in after a nonviolent offense.

"Across the country, nonviolent offenders are being identified by cold hits in CODIS on a regular basis," said Linda Krueger, director of the Las Vegas Metro forensics lab. "Criminal activity knows no boundaries."

Currently, Nevada law only allows the collection of DNA samples from those convicted of serious and violent felonies. Nevada is one of only six states that doesn't collect DNA samples from all felons.

While most states only take DNA data from those convicted of crimes, several states collect DNA samples from suspects when they are arrested. California is scheduled to start taking DNA samples from anyone arrested on a felony charge in 2009.

The database does not include any victim information, or any personal information about the offenders other than their DNA markers. Maintaining the all-felony database would cost the state $1.2 million next year, rising to $1.8 million in fiscal year 2010-11.

Joseph Turco, a lobbyist for the ACLU of Nevada, opposed the bill, saying that the massive collection of DNA creates possibilities for abuse. Turco proposed amendments to control how the data is shared, purge the DNA samples of people later found to be innocent, and allow those convicted of crimes to petition for access to the data.

Some lawmakers also expressed reservations about the bill. Sen. Terry Care, D-Las Vegas, pointed out that offenders convicted of low-level felonies such as writing bad checks and certain graffiti offenses would be included in the database.

Property law is making feuds between Oregon neighbors

BY AARON CLARK
Associated Press Writer

NEWBURG, Ore. A worker at Michelle Michelsen's horse ranch runs a brush along the flank of a chestnut mare. The horse whinnies and snorts in the bright sunlight, as a breeze rustles the white blossoms of a pear tree.

It's all very bucolic, what you would expect in rural Oregon.

But in the background, the sound of a backhoe punctures the air. Just a few hundred feet up the hill from Michelsen's home, neighbor John Kroo is building a road.

Michelsen has known Kroo for most of her life.

"He was like a second father to me," said Michelsen. "His son and I have been best friends since I was 9-years-old."

But that relationship was torpedoed when Kroo filed plans to build a 10-lot subdivision on 31 acres.

The new housing development would threaten her business by drawing water from the same spring, Michelsen said. She also worries about kids from the subdivision getting into the fenced area where she keeps horses.

Michelsen has filed an appeal with county commissioners to stop the development.

Kroo wouldn't comment on Michelsen's concerns, refusing an interview request.

"They're entitled to their opinion, that's all I have to say," said Kroo.

The clash between Michelsen and Kroo is rooted in a controversial property rights law passed by Oregon voters in 2004.

The law, known as Measure 37, requires governments to pay longtime homeowners for property value lost because of land-use restrictions. If authorities can't cough up the money — and with claims having reached an estimated $12 billion, almost none can — land-use regulations must be waived.

The law was intended to loosen restrictions on what Oregonians could do with their property. It's done that, but environmental groups say it could also lead to giant subdivisions sprawling across some of the nation's most fertile farmland.

And the collateral damage is often more personal — causing alarm among neighbors who fear the planned developments will lower the value of their own properties or spoil the charms of the areas where they live. Most of the Measure 37 claims have been to develop property in Oregon's cherished farm and forest lands.

"People who I've known for a long time, people who ride their horses on my property," said Mary Holtan, a 65-year-old widow and Measure 37 claimant, are "meeting about what they think I am going to do."

Holtan said she filed to have the same land-use rights she and her husband had when they acquired land in the 1970s when the 28-acre property could lawfully be divided into 2-acre parcels. But she says she intends to build just two houses on the property, one for her son and one to sell.

"I filed to restore my rights," said Holtan.

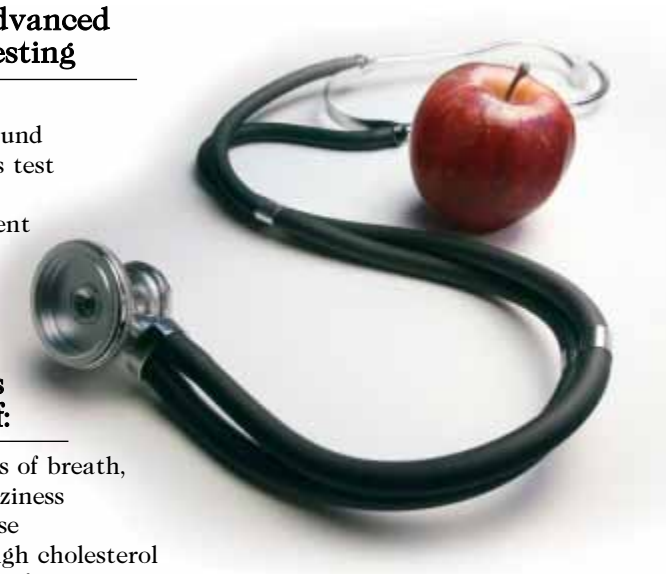
Over 7,000 claims have been filed, but many are still in legal limbo as the Legislature feverishly works to craft solutions that will satisfy the rights of claimants and protect their neighbors.

In the meantime, court cases continue to pile up. The measure has resulted in over 150 lawsuits involving the state.

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Enthusiasts are stepping to stairs

BY DANIEL YEE
Associated Press Writer

CONYERS, Ga. Randy Martin's workouts are literally an uphill battle.

Three times a week, he and his exercise partners climb stairs at a fitness studio in this Atlanta suburb. He has lost 31 pounds in seven months on the exercise routine, and a plaque commemorates his going up and down "The Original Stairmaster" 100 times without stopping.

"It builds a lot of strength in your legs, and stamina," said Martin, a 37-year-old businessman. "And my girlfriend notices."

On Saturday, Martin will put his workouts to the test when he and more than 200 others scamper up 1,378 stairs of one of the tallest buildings in the Southeast in a style of fundraiser becoming increasingly popular. Organizers hope the climb up the 55-story BentleyForbes-Bank of America Plaza building will become an annual event.

"It does a little bit of everything — it's great cardio, it builds muscle endurance and strengthens your muscle," said Penny Arthur, owner of the Shut Up and Squat studio where Martin works out. "But the stairs, they don't get easier as you do them, either."

Similar skyscraper stair climbs have popped up in Chicago, Boston, Denver, Detroit, Toronto, Miami and San Francisco. But New York claims the granddaddy of them all — the Empire State Building Run-Up, which has been held each February since 1978 by the New York Road Runners.

> **"IT DOES A LITTLE BIT OF EVERYTHING – IT'S GREAT CARDIO, IT BUILDS MUSCLE ENDURANCE AND STRENGTHENS YOUR MUSCLE."**
>
> **Penny Arthur**
> owner of the Shut Up and Squat studio

"It is a most wacky race. You're running straight up 80-odd floors, in a stairwell. It's like extreme running," said Richard Finn, spokesman for the New York organization.

Donna Brazzell, coordinator for the Atlanta stair climb, said the American Lung Association hosts stair climbing fundraisers in part because it is a cardio-lung workout that in 15 minutes can provide the same benefits that come after running twice as long on level ground.

"It's kind of a unique sporting event. Cyclists, health and fitness people are interested in it," Brazzell said. "It's not only for very, very fit people but people that want to (exercise) in a challenging way."

Some enthusiasts travel from event to event. Eric Leninger, 23, of Geneva, Ill., won a trip to the April 14 Lining Up the Wachovia stair climb (1,210 stairs) in Miami after he won the 680-step Tackle the Tower run in February in the Chicago suburb of Oak Brook. Leninger also plans to run in the Climb Atlanta event.

"I ran cross country in high school and track, but I really enjoy this more," he said. "It takes a certain kind of mental attitude to do it. Anyone can walk up stairs but to really run up it, mentally you have to really want to do it. People don't really understand how tough it is."

Because stair climbing demands a lot of aerobic capacity, it's not for everyone, said Nicholas Rummo, director of cardiopulmonary services for Northern Westchester Hospital in Mount Kisco, N.Y.

"You wouldn't want people to start an exercise program with stair climbing with vigor without medical advice," Rummo said.

Even fit people shouldn't be climbing stairs for a workout everyday, said Joseph Chevalier Jr. of Morehouse.

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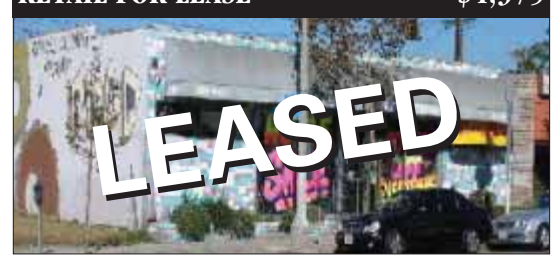

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Virginia Tech victims are remembered

BY MATT APUZZO
Associated Press Writer

BLACKSBURG, Va. Silence fell across the Virginia Tech campus at noon Friday and bells tolled in churches nationwide in memory of the 32 victims of the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history.

On the Virginia Tech campus, hundreds of somber students and area residents, most wearing the school's maroon and orange, stood with heads bowed at a memorial on the Drillfield in front of Norris Hall, where most of the victims in Monday's massacre died. Along with the bouquets and candles was a yellow sign covered in maroon and orange handprints, bearing the words "Never forgotten."

The mourners gathered in front of simple stone memorials, each adorned with a basket of tulips and an American flag. There were 33 stones — one for each victim and Cho Seung-Hui, the 23-year-old gunman who took their lives.

"His family is suffering just as much as the other families," said Elizabeth Lineberry of Hillsville, who came to Blacksburg for the memorial and will be a freshman at Tech in the fall.

As experts pored over the videotaped rant and the twisted writings of the gunman, Gov. Timothy Kaine declared Friday a statewide day of mourning for the victims, and parents urged everyone to focus on the young people cut down in the attack, not the killer.

"We want the world to know and celebrate our children's lives, and we believe that's the central element that brings hope in the midst of great tragedy," said Peter Read, who lost his 19-year-old daughter, Mary Karen Read. "These kids were the best that their generation has to offer."

Churches around the country, from California to the National Cathedral in Washington, planned vigils and prayer services.

"It's a whole family," said Jan Meehan-Tardiff of Blacksburg, a nurse who has four family members with degrees from Virginia Tech. Around Blacksburg, "you either work at Tech, serve Tech in business or go to Tech."

President Bush wore an orange and maroon tie in a show of support. The White House said he also asked top officials at the Justice, Health and Human Services and Education Departments to travel the country, talk to educators, mental health experts and others, and compile a report on how to prevent similar tragedies.

In Richmond, several thousand people jammed the leafy expanse of Monroe Park at Virginia Commonwealth University as a distant church bell tolled 32 times across VCU's silent urban campus. Beneath the park's massive oaks, people stood with their heads bowed, tears welling in the eyes.

"As a parent, you just can't imagine what their families are going through," said Diane Willard of suburban Richmond. Her own two children attend a community college.

Gonzales gets flack from both major parties

BY LAURIE KELLMAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Attorney General Alberto Gonzales came to Capitol Hill with only one mission: to placate Republican and Democratic senators dissatisfied with his account of how eight federal prosecutors were fired.

Apparently, he failed. For the first time, Republicans on the Judiciary Committee broke ranks and said it might be best if Gonzales stepped down.

"It is generous to say the attorney general's communications about this matter have been inconsistent," Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., told Gonzales in a packed hearing room Thursday. "The consequence should be the resignation of the attorney general."

Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said in an interview after the hearing, "There are some problems that he just hasn't handled well, and it might just be best if he came to a conclusion that the department is better served if he's not there."

Some of the committee's biggest questions went unanswered: How exactly did the Justice Department settle on the eight prosecutors who were fired? Does Gonzales have command of his agency?

"You have been a forceful witness, and you have had a lot of staying power," Sen. Arlen Specter, the ranking Republican on the committee, said near the end of Gonzales' seven hours of testimony.

"But we haven't gotten, really, answers," added Specter, R-Pa. "I urged you to put on the record the details as to all the U.S. attorneys you asked to resign so that we could evaluate. And you have not done that."

Specter threw Gonzales a thin lifeline, declining to call for his resignation but making it clear that he thinks there's little argument for Gonzales keeping his post.

"His ability to manage the department has been severely undercut by the way he has handled these resignations and by the way he has handled his news conferences, his press statements and his testimony before the committee," Specter said.

Seventy-one times Gonzales claimed a faulty memory when members of the Senate committee asked such questions as who decided on the ousted eight, and whether Gonzales was or was not involved in the evaluation process.

It was not the performance President Bush seemed to be seeking when he said last March that "Al's got work to do up there." Still, White House officials said the president continued to support his longtime friend. Bush spokesman Tony Fratto said that Gonzales "can be effective going forward."

The attorney general insisted he had committed no wrongdoing.

"The moment I believe I can no longer be effective, I will resign," he said.

Gonzales faced a long day of challenges to his credibility from Democrats and Republicans.



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Changing light bulbs can save

FROM EARTH DAY PAGE 3

light bulbs from incandescent to CFL, it can result in substantial energy savings in the long run.

The average incandescent light bulb costs 50 cents apiece, but uses approximately $12 in energy for roughly 1,000 hours of use. The compact fluorescent light bulb, on the other hand, costs about $5 apiece, but will last 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb and only use about $3 a year in energy costs, according to Andrew Basmajian, an environmental outreach specialist with the city's Environmental Programs Division.

"That saves you $9 every year ... and it lasts 10 years," Basmajian said. "You get your money back in the first year and you continue to save every year after that."

In celebration of Earth Day, environmentally concerned individuals can also try to lessen the impact of their own carbon emissions — one of the leading contributors to global warming — by paying an outside agency to offset their emissions.

Everyone generates a certain amount of carbon emissions through activities such as using electricity, traveling in an airplane and driving a car. Businesses like Menlo Park-based TerraPass will reduce a customer's "carbon footprint" by using their money to fund renewable energy projects.

Through www.TerraPass.com, interested consumers can check to see how much carbon dioxide their particular car would emit in a given year. For example, a 2007 Honda Accord with automatic transmission that averages about 12,000 miles a year would emit more than 8,000 pounds of carbon dioxide. It would cost this car owner about $50 a year to offset their carbon dioxide emission, according to the Web site.

"All that money is going to buy clean energy," Basmajian said. "Energy that doesn't collect greenhouse gases."

TAKE A TUMBLE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

In the market for a new refrigerator or washing machine this Earth Day? Though it might seem costly to purchase an energy efficient appliance, the savings in energy costs over the life of the appliance will save the consumer a substantial amount of money.

"When you need to buy appliances, people are very cost conscious," Basmajian said. "You don't think about the amount of water, natural gas and electricity the appliance gobbles up."

Some appliances, such as dryers, use two different sources of energy.

Electricity companies like Southern California Edison will offer rebates of $50 for Energy Star-certified appliances, including refrigerators.

In Basmajian's opinion, it's not cost-effective to purchase an energy inefficient product.

Gardeners and plant lovers can also take part in their own Earth Day festivities by planting native plants.

Plants that are native to California climate, water and soil conditions require very little care, as opposed to plants that are foreign to the area. Native plants can generally subsist just from rainfall.

California native plants don't tend to drop as many leaves and require much less maintenance and cleanup.

"Once the plants are established, they don't need to be irrigated often and don't need pesticides and herbicides," Basmajian said. "The plants that need fertilizer are the ones ... that are not designed to be here."

For more information on how to achieve sustainability, visit the city's Web site at www.smepd.org.

melodyh@smdp.com

Class sizes could increase across the district

FROM CLASS PAGE 3

four through 12. The goal is to reduce teaching positions by 31 FTE in kindergarten through 12th grade next year.

Doing so could save the district about $5 million over the next three years.

Currently, the student-to-teacher ratios in grades six through 12 are below the level outlined in the Santa Monica-Malibu Classroom Teachers Association contract with the district, giving school officials some breathing room.

California has one of the highest student-to-teacher ratios in the country, according to Harry Keiley, the president of the district's teacher's union.

Considering that enrollment is one of the biggest sources of revenue, the school board should begin having discussions about its definition of "capacity," and have a better sense of their ideal enrollment level by the next budget season, board member Emily Bloomfield said.

Unlike other school districts, Santa Monica-Malibu has the luxury to "turn on and off the spigot," she said.

Another way the district could consider lowering student-to-teacher ratio is by examining those elective classes whose enrollment levels are perennially in the single to low double digits, said board member Jose Escarce. The board could then consider cutting some of the non-core classes whose enrollment levels are constantly low.

"I think there must be districts that have policies around what the minimum class size or section size ought to be to offer a course," Escarce said.

The Board of Education is scheduled to continue its budget session on April 25 at 6 p.m., at the district headquarters, 1651 16th Street.

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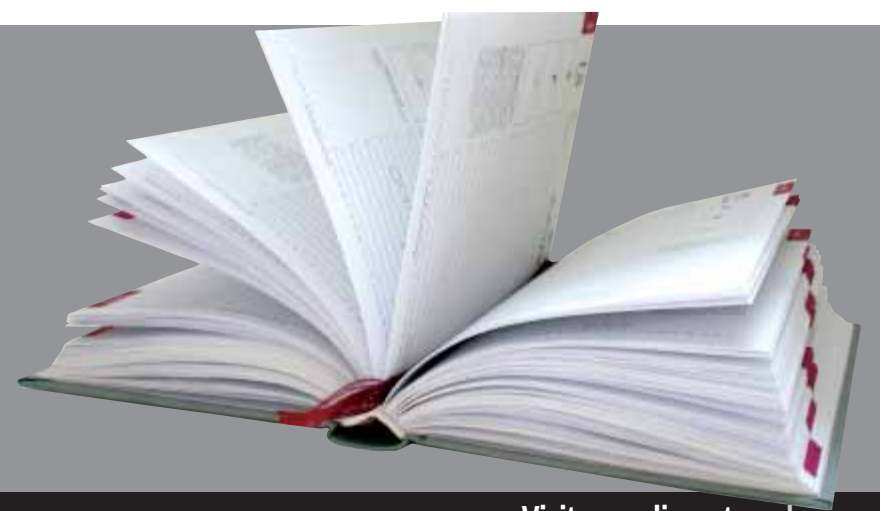
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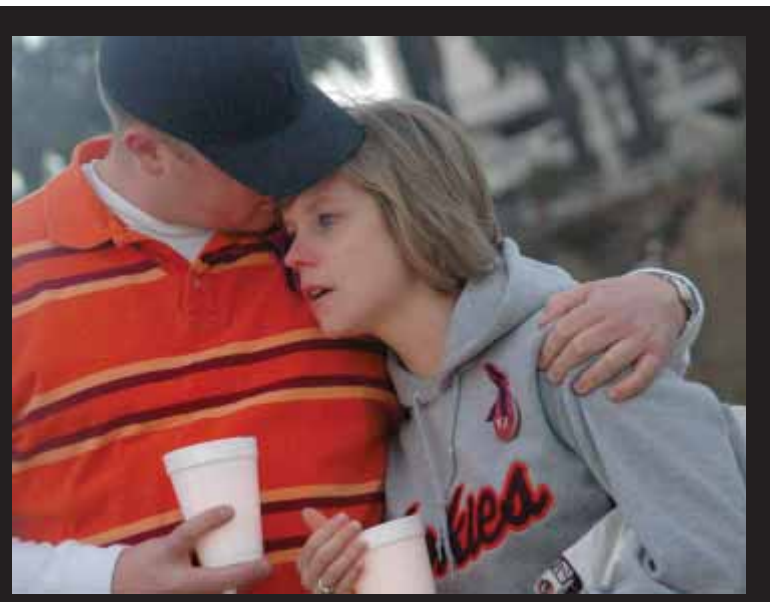
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A SOLEMN MOMENT

Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

Virginia Tech alumni hold a candlelight vigil at Santa Monica Beach, just north of the pier, on Friday evening in memory of the 32 students who lost their lives on April 16 — the worst shooting rampage in U.S. history.

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Santa Monica Daily Press
A newspaper with issues

Santa Monica is skate friendly

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE "The birthplace of modern skateboarding."

It's a phrase about Santa Monica that dates back to the '70s, but is being tossed around liberally these days with efforts underway to save the Z-Boys' old skate shop on Main Street.

Still, with the city's lone public skate park charging fees and situated next to a popular police hangout, is the city really friendly to its skateboarders?

Santa Monica and skateboarding became synonymous after a bunch of teenagers rocked the skateboarding world in the 1970s, introducing the aggressive style of boarding that has come to define the sport. The exact location credited with sparking the rebirth of skateboarding is the old Zephyr and Jeff Ho Productions shop at 2011 Main Street, a building currently being considered for Landmark status.

On Thursday night, Noah Lewkow and a couple of his buddies arrived at The Cove Skatepark off Olympic Avenue around 9 p.m. to grind it out in the bowl, only to find the park closed to skateboarders. It was a bikes only session.

Located in Memorial Park, the skate park was completely empty at the late hour, but the staff would not admit Lewkow and company, he said on Friday, while unloading skateboards for his job as a buyer at ZJ Boarding House in Ocean Park.

Considered a world class facility for skating, "The Cove" has become a favorite among Santa Monica skaters since it opened in 2005. But the biggest complaint the die-hard skaters have with the public park, a gripe that might keep them from returning, is the price of admission.

"The pricing is lame," said Ian Edwards, a seven-year skateboarder who works at ZJ Boarding House. "Most city parks are free."

On top of an annual registration fee of $10, Santa Monica resident youths pay $20 quarterly, while non-resident youths pay an annual registration fee of $15 and a quarterly pass of $35.

Resident adults pay $15 for registration and $35 quarterly, while non-resident adults are charged an annual registration fee of $20 and a quarterly pass of $45.

The city offers subsidies for residents who cannot pay the full fee.

"The biggest gripe, as a shop owner, I hear is that it's expensive," said Jim McDowell, part-owner of Rip City on Santa Monica Boulevard. "The average kid can hardly afford it and I think they should review the cost. It should be a nominal fee or free altogether."

Many Southern California skate parks charge no admission, according to Mike Hirsch, who created a Web site with a list of all local parks where he has skated over the past 30 years. The site (www.socal-skateparks.com) lists The Cove as one of the top-10 skate parks in Southern California.

Having skated in more than 100 parks, Hirsch believes that The Cove would attract a larger following if the admission was lowered or eliminated. Many skaters opt to take a ride to Glendale or Encino, which both offer free skate parks.

"The park would have a much better vibe and be much more vibrant if they would (make it free)," he said.

He cited the Etnies Skate Park in Lake Forest as an example of how the city of Santa Monica could maintain supervision and upkeep of The Cove without charging admission. The city of Lake Forest has created a partnership with shoemaker Etnies in keeping its skate park running successfully.

One of the main reasons why the city decided to implement a fee schedule was in order to have the resources to monitor the park at all times, said Rich Rollins, principal community services supervisor for the city of Santa Monica.



Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

THRASH: **A skater rides along the edge of a dry pool at Santa Monica's own The Cove Skatepark off Olympic Avenue.**

> **"THE KIDS THAT GO TO THE SKATE PARK LOVE IT WITH A CAPITAL L."**
>
> **Jim McDowell.**
> Owner, Rip City

"There are some skate parks that charge a fee and there are some skate parks that don't charge a fee," Rollins said. "We are not unique in that respect."

Aside from the price, most skaters who do use The Cove Skatepark seem to enjoy the different pools customized for varying skill levels. The park accommodates skaters of all ages, from the newcomers to the teenagers to the veterans well into their 50s.

"The kids that go to the skate park love it with a capital L," McDowell said.

The ZJ Boarding House team usually opts for the longer drive to the skate park in Hawthorne, rather than the short trip to The Cove. Aside from the price, the Hawthorne skate park is not monitored as frequently, giving skaters the freedom not to wear their helmets or pads. The terrain is also more diverse than The Cove, Lewkow said. Bicyclists are also allowed in the same pool as the skaters.

BOARDERS WELCOME

Relative to other California cities, such as San Diego and San Francisco, Santa Monica is one of the most skateboarding friendly cities, Lewkow said. Just a few blocks down from ZJ's Main Street site is the legendary sand gaps on Santa Monica Beach — legendary because it is considered to be the only place in LA County where skateboarders can grind without fear of persecution from local law enforcement.



Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@smdp.com*

DRAWING A CROWD: **Skaters gather at the West Los Angeles Courthouse to watch other "thrashers" show off their moves. Many Santa Monica teenagers skate at that location because there are many places for them to "grind" along different ridges and rails.**

In Pomona where Lewkow attends Cal Poly Pomona, skateboarding is banned citywide. In San Diego and San Francisco, skateboarders are constantly stopped and cited by law enforcement, he added.

There are very few locations in Santa Monica that have installed skate stoppers to prevent skateboarders from riding on benches and banisters. One of the few locations is the new Santa Monica Public Library in Downtown Santa Monica.

In San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf, nearly every ledge has a skate stopper.

"San Francisco is almost anti-skateboarder," Lewkow said.

Santa Monica has very lenient rules when it comes to skateboarding, to the point where there are almost no rules. Skateboarding is prohibited on the Third Street Promenade, on the bike path and on the street. Grinding isn't even necessarily outlawed, according to Lt. Alex Padilla of the Santa Monica Police Department.

"It's discouraged because of the damage they cause," Padilla said. "Some residents and businesses will call us because they don't want (skaters) damaging property."

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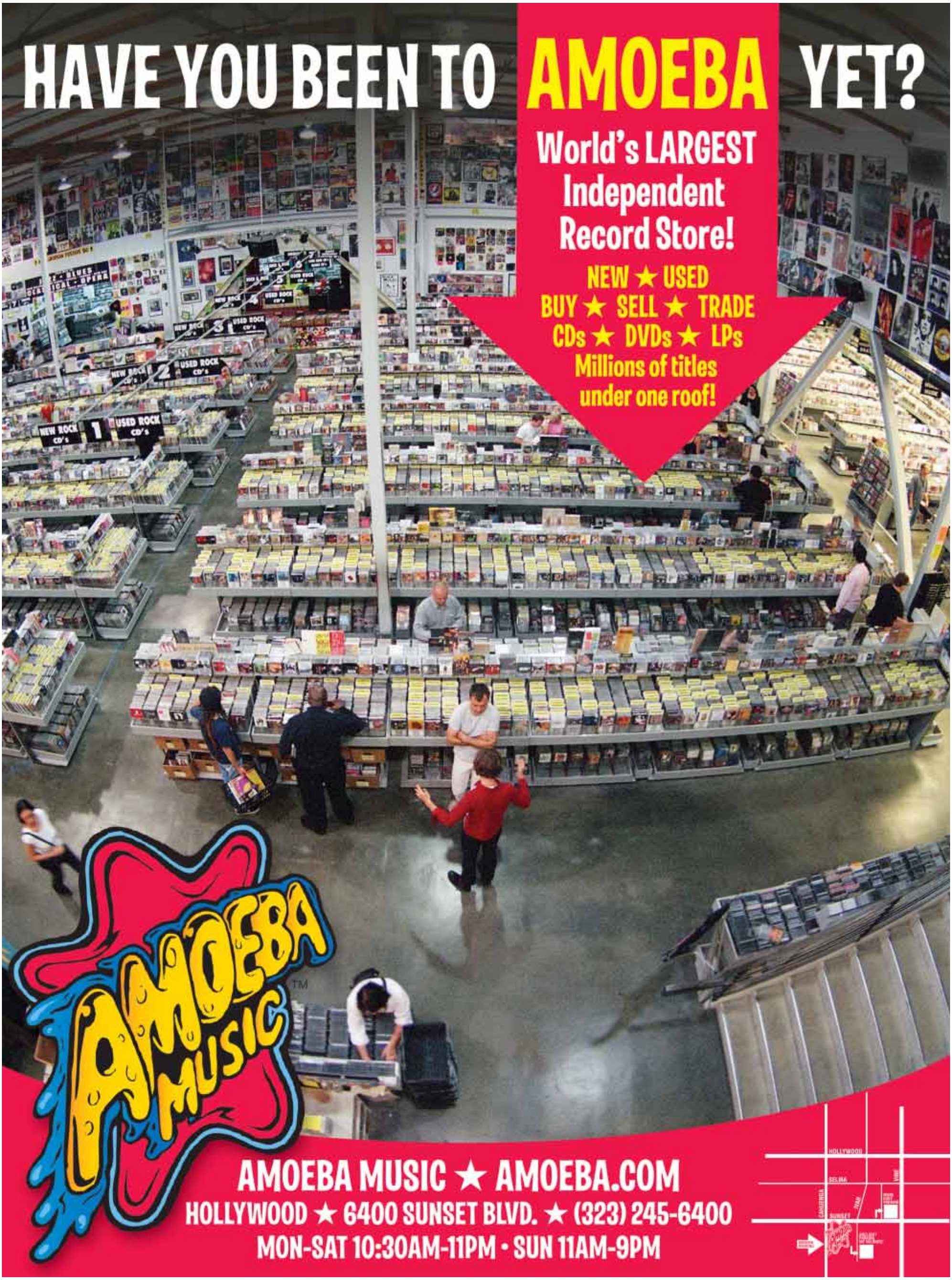


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JUST CHILLIN': **Derek Han, 11, has been skateboarding after school with his friends since the fourth grade. He just kicks it here at The Cove Skatepark before practicing his moves.**



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Experts say worst is over in Midwest

Drought that has gripped the area for years subsides

BY STEVE KARNOWSKI
Associated Press Writer

MINNEAPOLIS Dan Lilienthal says his farm can't take another dry summer. If the experts are right and current trends hold, he won't have to.

The drought that prompted the federal government last year to declare an agricultural disaster area in 39 northern Minnesota counties is over in the state's prime agricultural areas, according to new data released Thursday by the National Drought Mitigation Center.

"I don't want to ever see it as dry again as last year," Lilienthal said. "Man, that was a fiery furnace, that heat wave!"

Things are looking up at Lilienthal's dairy and beef farm near Quamba, about 65 miles north of Minneapolis, where he grows his own corn, alfalfa and hay. The snow and rain he badly needed started coming last month.

The new data shows that the only areas still in drought are largely forested parts of far north-central and northeastern Minnesota. Drought in southern Minnesota — where most of the state's key row crops are grown — "has gone away," said Greg Spoden, assistant state climatologist.

Conditions have improved across much of the upper Midwest. Last July, all of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska and nearly all of Iowa and Wisconsin were either in drought or close to it. Thursday's drought center data showed the eastern halves of the Dakotas and Nebraska were out of drought, as was all of Iowa and all but a small part of far northern Wisconsin.

In northeastern Minnesota, foresters are expecting an above-average fire season, said Jean Bergerson, spokeswoman for the Minnesota Interagency Fire Center. Long-range forecasts suggest there should be some relief over the next three months, but it's unclear when that rain will come, she said.

Lake and stream levels are expected to remain low in the dry areas of northern Minnesota, including prime vacation lands.

Spoden said the one potential trouble spot for Minnesota agriculture is in the Red River Valley in the northwest, where much of last year's crops survived the drought by draining subsoil moisture 3 to 4 feet down.

While Minnesota farmers overall enjoyed record farm income for the second straight year in 2006, the biggest beneficiaries were corn and soybean farmers in southern Minnesota who eventually got rain and reaped the benefit of high prices fueled by the ethanol boom. It was a harder year for livestock and dairy producers.

Dale Nordquist, associate director of the Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota, said crop producers are expected to do well again, and many have already sold some of their future crop at good prices. High feed prices and other rising costs of production will continue to pressure livestock producers, he said.

Lilienthal said his corn crop last year was only half its normal size, so he ran out of silage to feed his milk cows late last month. He had to buy hay out of South Dakota and from his neighbor, an unwelcome expense given that milk prices are low. But he counts himself fortunate that he had some hay left over from 2005 that he could feed his cattle.

Sea lions die in Canadian fishing nets

By the Associated Press

TOFINO, British Columbia The nets of a salmon farm ensnared and drowned 51 California sea lions earlier this month, more than in all of 2006, a spokesman for the Vancouver Island fish-farm operator says.

Employees of Creative Salmon Co. Ltd. discovered the mass of dead animals April 12 while changing nets on the farm, located in Tofino Inlet on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

"In 16 years of operation, we have never experienced anything like this," general manager Spencer Evans said. "It was very unfortunate."

The incident and other reported sea lion drownings have environmentalists calling for the farms to use closed-containment systems rather than open-ocean net cages to raise fish.

So far this year, Creative Salmon has reported 110 drowned sea lions, up from 46 in 2006.

Evans said divers initially discovered a few drowned sea lions between the grower net and shark guard while performing a routine inspection.

The grower net houses the salmon. The shark guard, attached to the bottom of the grower net, is a false bottom designed to keep out dog fish, a small shark.

Grower nets and shark guards are surrounded by a larger net, called a predator net, which surrounds an entire fish farm.

Evans said workers aboard a boat initially tried to remove the dead sea lions by lifting the grower net and shark guard from the water with a crane.

"The net was too heavy for the crane to handle," he said.

Divers then entered the water and reported a mass of dead sea lions.

Evans said he thinks the sea lions chewed through the predator net and shark guard to get at the salmon in the grower net but drowned when they couldn't get back out.

He tied the deaths to an increase in the number of sea lions, which have been drawn to the area by the presence of mackerel and other fish.

In February, Rod Palm, a Tofino naturalist, counted 1,083 Californian and stellar sea lions in an area of Tofino Inlet just over 1 kilometer long.

In the same month, Creative Salmon counted 601 sea lions at Berryman Point, up from six on Dec. 6.

Evans said he believes the sea lions are now targeting the farms because other fish populations are declining.

"Once they find a good spot they typically remember that," said Marilyn Joyce, a marine mammal coordinator for the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Pacific region. "If the food's done, they'll move on."

Andrew Thomson, Fisheries' acting director for aquaculture management, called the mass drowning "quite alarming."

"We're certainly taking this quite seriously," he said.

Thomson said at least two other Vancouver Island salmon farms — one on the west coast and one in the Broughton Archipelago — have reported sea lion entanglements and drownings.

> **"IN 16 YEARS OF OPERATION, WE HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED ANYTHING LIKE THIS."**
>
> Spencer Evans
> general manager

But in each case only one or two animals were involved.

Provincial and federal agencies were investigating the drownings, Thompson said.

Evans said he thinks a change in the nets' design will prevent more deaths.

"I'm confident with modification to design we can make it work at Dawley Pass," he said. "We can solve this problem."

Environmentalists, however, disagree.

Catherine Stewart, campaign director for the Living Oceans Society, said her organization is looking into reported drownings outside Tofino and expects to release information early next week.

"We have to surmise the scope of the problem coast-wide could be very significant," said Stewart before learning how many had drowned at the Creative Salmon facility.

The only way to avoid such deaths, she said, is to move towards closed-containment systems.

Dom Repta, a Friends of Clayoquot Sound aquaculture campaigner, said other Clayoquot Sound and British Columbia. salmon farming companies must follow Creative Salmon's lead and release mortality rates.

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City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Number 2222 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA AMENDING SECTION 3.16.120 OF THE SANTA MONICA MUNICIPAL CODE TO EXEMPT FROM PARKING METER FEES VEHICLES WITH SPECIFIED VETERANS LICENSE PLATES

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2222 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2222 (CCS) ("the Ordinance") amends Municipal Code Section 3.16.120 to exempt operators of vehicles displaying the following from having to deposit money in parking meters: Clean Air Vehicle Decal, Zero-Emissions Vehicle Parking Decal, Congressional Medal of Honor license plate, Legion of Valor license plate, Purple Heart license plate, American Prisoner of War license plate and Pearl Harbor Survivor license plate.

Ordinance Number 2222 (CCS) was adopted on April 10, 2007, and shall become effective 30 days after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.



Do you have business briefs?
Submit news releases to: editor@smdp.com or fax (310) 576-9913

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

BID# 2925: PROVIDE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR ADVERTISEMENT POSTING SERVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS.

- **Submission Deadline is May 14, 2007 at 3:00 PM PST.**

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the Purchasing Agent, City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-8242, or by e-mailing your request to diane.howell@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by said Purchasing Agent.

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MUSM: miss you so much
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BF: boyfriend
OLL: online love
LULAS: love you like a sister
POS: parent over shoulder
WTGP: want to go private?
LMIRL: let's meet in real life

HDOP: help delete online predators

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

Ad Council
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NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

Tourists' market: Alaska offering deals to visitors

BY MARY PEMBERTON
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska Two-for-one deals and other discounts are being offered at two of Alaska's most popular national parks in a pitch to get visitors to consider the land of the midnight sun in springtime.

During the busiest summer months last year, the state received 1.63 million out-of-state visitors who collectively spent $1.5 billion, with 1.3 million of those guests in Alaska on vacation, according to the Alaska Office of Tourism Development.

While "No Vacancy" signs sprout like fireweed around Alaska in June, July and August, that's not the case in May. Two companies that cater to visitors would like to change that.

In an effort to jump-start the tourism season, visitors are being offered discounts for accommodations near Denali National Park and Preserve in Interior Alaska and inside Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in Southeast Alaska. Denali is the fifth most popular tourist destination in Alaska, followed by Glacier Bay.

The idea is to entice visitors to the parks a bit earlier, said Dawn Williams, sales manager for Denali Park Resorts.

Visitors mistakenly think that Alaska is too chilly in May, preferring instead to visit during the peak months of June and July, Williams said. But, the weather actually can be very nice with temperatures reaching into the 70s, she said.

"I think looking at the weather report the other day, we were 2 degrees warmer than Orlando, Florida," she said, laughing when reminded Florida was in a severe cold snap at the time.

Williams said even weather in the 50s and 60s can be nice.

How about 44 degrees? That's the average daily temperature from May 1 to June 1 at the Eielson Visitor Center at mile 66 on the park road inside Denali National Park, according to Scott Berg, a meteorological technician with the National Weather Service in Fairbanks.

But Berg agreed with Williams. On warm spring days, it can go into the 70s, especially nearer to the park entrance, he said.

Denali National Park 175 miles from Anchorage — home to Mount McKinley, North America's highest mountain at 20,320 feet — expects to get more than 425,000 visitors this year, with most of them showing up between June and August.

May in the 6-million-acre park is slower, with the scene still a bit wintery. The park's visitor center will open May 15. The entire length of the park road is not expected to be open and passable until June 8.

Early season visitors have a better chance of seeing wolves and caribou along the part of the park road that is open in May, said park spokeswoman Kris Fister. The animals tend to move away from the road and further into the park with the increase in tour buses later in the season, she said.

Even though some of the facilities aren't open in May, "It is a nice opportunity to get here when the park is less crowded," Fister said.

Denali Park Resorts operates four lodges outside of the park, which has no overnight accommodations within its boundaries. Three of the lodges are within a mile of the park entrance. The other is 8 miles away. The company's four lodges have a combined total of over 900 rooms, Williams said.

Between May 13 and June 6, the company is offering a "Twice as Nice" deal where visitors can get two nights for the price of one at the McKinley Chalet Resort, Grande Denali Lodge, McKinley Village Lodge or Denali Bluffs Hotel. The price is $199.

> **"IT PRETTY MUCH STARTS WITH A SPLASH."**
>
> Rosemary Salazar
> park ranger

In addition, Denali Park Resorts is offering two new package deals — Denali Dreamin' and Discover Denali. The Denali Dreamin' package, priced at $148.99, includes a one-night stay at the McKinley Chalet Resort, admission to dinner theater performed in a roadhouse and breakfast for two. The price is 30 percent off regular rates, Williams said.

The higher-end Distinctive Denali package for $805 includes GoldStar service on the Alaska Railroad from Anchorage or Fairbanks, two nights at the McKinley Chalet Resort or Grande Denali Lodge, a wilderness tour, dinner for two, two tickets to dinner theater and breakfast for two. The price is a 15 percent savings, Williams said.

In recognition of the park's 90th anniversary, Denali Park Resorts also is offering $90 room rates sprinkled throughout the tourist season. Rooms normally go for between $229 and $279.

Glacier Bay Lodges and Tours is offering an early season discount at the Glacier Bay Lodge, the only lodge licensed to operate inside the 3.3-million-acre Glacier Bay National Park in Southeast Alaska. Guests can book one night at the lodge for $150 and get the second night free.

The park, where summer temperatures average between 50 and 60 degrees, is expecting more than 400,000 visitors this year, with between 90 and 95 percent showing up on cruise ships. The first cruise ship arrives May 9.

It doesn't start with a trickle, said park ranger Rosemary Salazar.

"It pretty much starts with a splash," she said.

Ferry service between Juneau and Glacier Bay also is being offered new this year, Williams said. Visitors last year had to fly to the park. The price for a one-way ticket aboard the resort's catamaran is $70 per adult and $40 for a child.

Glacier Bay Lodges and Tours also is offering for the first time a three-hour whale watch and dinner tour where visitors have a good chance of seeing humpback and killer whales, as well as sea otters, Steller sea lions and puffins.

No office building for park

By the Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY This Is The Place Heritage Park has withdrawn a plan to raise money by leasing land for an office building near the home of famous Utah pioneer Brigham Young.

A foundation that runs the park voted unanimously Thursday to scrap a plan to lease 12 acres to the University of Utah for a three-story building and parking lot. It would have raised $400,000.

Opponents included the Salt Lake City Council, Mayor Rocky Anderson and Utah Jazz owner Larry Miller, a prominent park donor.

Foundation Chairman Ellis Ivory acknowledged that public outcry had a role in the decision to drop the lease plan.

The park, with historic buildings and reenactments, celebrates the arrival of Mormon pioneers into the Salt Lake Valley. The name comes from the words uttered by Young when he arrived by wagon in 1847.

The park received a one-time grant of $2 million from state lawmakers last year when it came close to shutting down. It also receives about $800,000 in annual state funding and got $50,000 this year from Salt Lake County.

Miller, a car dealer, said he wants to help stabilize the park's finances.

Several people who attended a meeting of the Utah Board of Parks and Recreation said problems at the park were due to mismanagement and insensitivity to a historic treasure.

"Who is the foundation accountable to?" said Cameron Carpenter, who criticized Ivory's plans to pave roads and run small trains through the park.

"There is no other facility in the state with the cultural beauty — sage-covered rolling hills and dirt roads and boardwalks," he said. "This is the only place. That is original intent of the park."

Defense Secretary says patience is thin

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD Making his third visit in four months to Iraq, Defense Secretary Robert Gates took a decidedly stronger tone as he warned the troubled nation's leaders that American patience is wearing thin.

On his unannounced trip, the Pentagon chief said Iraq's leaders have to move faster to bring together the warring factions.

Gates had planned to take a look Friday at a key piece of the Bush administration's new anti-insurgency strategy, a joint US-Iraq security post where American and Iraqi forces live and work together to try to stop the violence that is ripping Baghdad. That tour, however, was abruptly canceled when a meeting with top U.S. commanders went long.

"The clock is ticking," Gates told reporters Thursday. "I know it's difficult, and clearly the attack on the council of representatives has made people nervous, but I think that it's very important that they bend every effort to getting this legislation done as quickly as possible."

A suicide bomber infiltrated the parliament building in the heavily fortified Green Zone a week ago, dealing a blow to the U.S.-led effort to pacify the capital's streets.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki called the violence in Baghdad an "open battle."

Since January, when President Bush announced his new strategy for the Iraq war — featuring a troop buildup and a renewed push for economic development and political progress — Gates and other senior administration officials have frequently and publicly reminded the Iraqis that they must act quickly to settle their differences.

They have attempted to strike a balance between pressuring the Iraqis to reconcile and reassuring them that the U.S. military will not abandon them while they struggle to avert a full-scale civil war.

Gates said again Thursday that the Washington debate has been helpful in letting the Iraqis know that American patience with the war is ebbing. Democrats have seized on those remarks to bolster their arguments that there must be a deadline for the Pentagon to begin withdrawing troops from Iraq.

Speaking at a town hall-style gathering in Ohio on Thursday, Bush reiterated his opposition to any timetable for a troop withdrawal.

Gates said the Iraqis must, as quickly as possible, push through legislation on political reconciliation and the sharing of oil revenues among the Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds.

Marine Corps remembers brothers in arms who fell in battle

BY AUDREY MCAVOY
Associated Press Writer

KANEOHE BAY, Hawaii Harry Chaires says he awoke with a start before dawn on Oct. 25.

It was 4:47 a.m. on his Florida farm. Seven time zones away in Iraq, his 20-year-old son had just died from combat wounds in Al Anbar province.

"I came out of a sound sleep," Chaires said. "You hear these stories all the time, but we as parents feel, have a sense, that something's wrong."

The Marine Corps on Thursday honored his son, Lance Cpl. Daniel B. Chaires, and 22 others in the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Regiment, based in Hawaii. Chaires died during the unit's most recent seven-month-long deployment to Iraq.

About 1,000 Marines and Navy corpsmen stood at attention on an airfield fronting the pale blue waters of Kaneohe Bay as the names of their fallen comrades were read aloud one by one.

Battalion members planted 23 rifles upside down behind pairs of combat boots to symbolize those lost. They draped dog tags around each weapon.

The dead men were riflemen, radio operators, and intelligence specialists. One was a Navy medic. They were sons, husbands, and fathers.

"What can we say about so many lives snuffed out so early," their commander, Lt. Col. James Donnellan, said to the crowd of about 120 family members and hundreds more friends. "I myself have asked myself why more times than is healthy."

Donnellan said he could see the impact of the troops' work on the town of Haditha and the surrounding area they were responsible for securing.

The Marines spotted and defused roadside bombs, went on patrols and worked with local leaders as insurgent attacks declined to an average of one a day from 13, Donnellan said.

"I cannot pretend to know the answer to the question why for each of these fallen heroes," Donnellan said. "But I do know they made good use of their treasure, their lives."

Chaires, a retired county sheriff's captain, said he would never fully get over the death of his son. But he knows Daniel Chaires was doing what he wanted.

The family buried the young Chaires in the backyard of their farm 10 miles from Tallahassee where he grew up tending goats, chickens and turkeys. It's the same farm where the Marine recruit practiced chin-ups to prepare to enter boot camp in September 2005.

"We will never have closure. When you lose a child, you don't have closure. You move forward in the day-to-day process. The tears get a little less. But when I die, I will still be just as sad," Chaires said.

The elder Chaires said the greatest tribute Americans could give those killed is to support those still in harms way.

"We cannot abandon them," he said.



NFL

‘Pacman’ gobbles up full-page ad

By the Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. Suspended Tennessee Titans cornerback Adam “Pacman” Jones bought a full-page newspaper advertisement to print an open letter in which he promised to regain the trust of his team and fans.

In the ad in the sports section of Friday’s editions of The Tennessean — Nashville’s daily newspaper — Jones told his family, coaches, teammates and Titans fans he must reorganize his priorities.

“In the past few weeks, I have learned a lifetime of lessons,” the letter states.

Jones writes of hoping to not only meet, but exceed the expectations people have of him.

“The first step in meeting these goals is for me to stop making the poor choices that have put me in this position,” the letter reads.

Jones said he plans to appeal his season-long suspension by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, the same person who will hear that appeal. Cincinnati receiver Chris Henry, a teammate of Jones at West Virginia, also was suspended. But Henry received an eight-game ban.

In his letter, Jones said his attorneys advised him to appeal the suspension to “clarify some of the facts and address the unprecedented punishment that was imposed.” Jones first announced his intention of appealing last week.

His attorneys had declined to comment since Jones’ announcement he would appeal except to promise that a statement was coming. The appeal must be filed by April 30.

Jones said he plans to re-enroll at West Virginia University and finish his degree.

The sixth pick overall in the 2005 draft and the first defensive player taken that year, Jones has talked with police 10 times since being drafted, and been arrested five times. He has not been convicted of any charge since being drafted.

Goodell left open the chance for Jones’ return after the Titans’ 10th game if he meets a list of stringent requirements. That included staying out of “adverse” involvement with police and putting together a plan of community service the NFL must approve.

But Las Vegas police want to charge Jones for inciting a fight at a strip club on Feb. 19 that led to a triple shooting. Jones also did not inform the Titans of two arrests in Georgia last year, and a felony obstruction charge for allegedly biting a Fayetteville, Ga., police officer was delayed until May.

Titans owner Bud Adams has said team officials weren’t sure they want Jones back unless he changes his behavior.

COMMENTARY

‘Blades of Glory’ nails behavior of male figure skaters

BY NANCY ARMOUR
AP Columnist

Johnny Weir, somebody’s raided your closet. Been spying on you and your fellow skaters at competitions, too.

Whoever came up with the script for “Blades of Glory” knew their figure skating. You won’t see two men competing together at the 2010 Games in Vancouver, and even the edgiest of skaters knows better than to try to impress the judges with Billy Squier.

But the rivalries? The stage parents? The over-the-top fans? The haul of stuffed animals so big it could carry FAO Schwarz for a few months?

That’s figure skating, all right.

“I thought it was hilarious,” said U.S. men’s champion Evan Lysacek, who went to the “Blades of Glory” premiere with Sasha Cohen, who has a part in the movie.

“We actually spoke with Will Ferrell afterward because we saw some things that were literally ripped from the skating world,” Lysacek added. “We asked if they had studied or watched video of us. And he said they definitely had.”

Let me make one thing clear: After 10 years of covering skating, I’ll put it up against anything — football, soccer, swimming — when it comes to debating its worth as a sport. You strap on a pair of skates and take a lap around a sheet of ice as fast as you can. You’ll be gasping for breath and your legs will be aching.

Now do that for four minutes, throwing in some spins and footwork while you’re at it. Launch yourself into the air a few times, too, knowing a blade of steel barely thicker than a pencil is the only thing keeping you from crashing onto a surface that’s as forgiving as concrete.

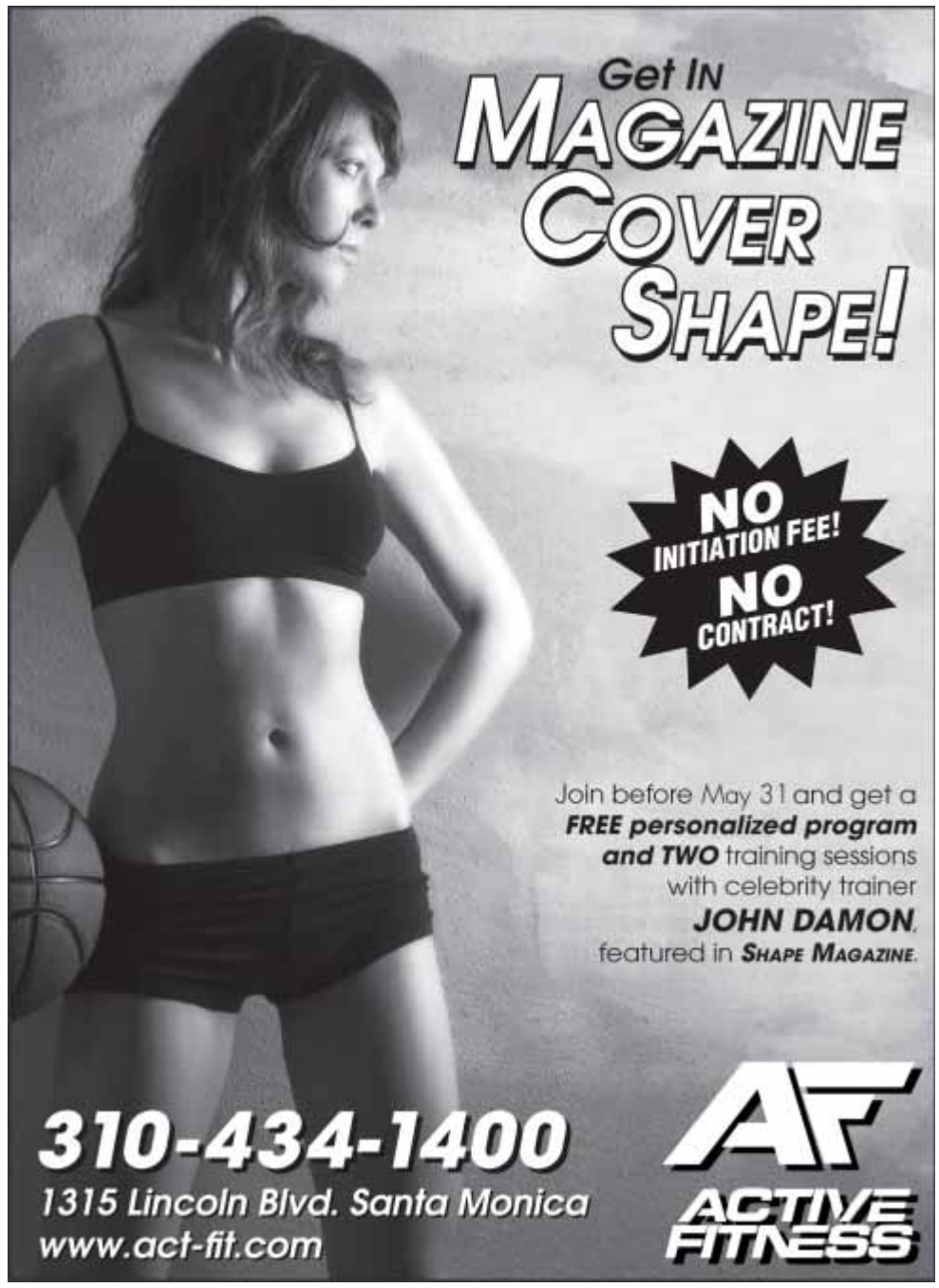
Modern pentathlon is a test of strength, skill and athleticism, too, and you don’t see NBC putting that on in prime time during the Olympics.

What sets figure skating apart, what makes it the Olympic glamour sport even when the games aren’t on is the camp. At times, it’s a better soap opera than “The Young and the Restless.”

Skaters don’t tussle on the podium the way Jimmy MacElroy and Chazz Michael Michaels do in “Blades.” And, Tonya Harding’s bumbling crew of misfits aside, there’s no one trying to take out the competition a la Fairchild and Stranz Van Waldenberg.

But there are mini-dramas playing out nearly all the time. Somebody’s always whining about the judges.





NCAA BASKETBALL

Oden leaving OSU for NBA, pal may as well

BY MARK WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio Greg Oden is through with school.

The 7-foot freshman said Friday he will leave Ohio State after leading the Buckeyes to the national championship game and enter the NBA draft, where he figures to be one of the top two picks along with Texas freshman forward Kevin Durant.

Freshman teammates Mike Conley Jr. and Daequan Cook also said they will make themselves available for the draft. Unlike Oden, they have opted not to hire an agent for now — meaning they will retain the option of returning to school in the fall.

"This is a very tough decision for me," Oden said in a statement released by Ohio State. "I love OSU and love being a Buckeye, but I also have a great opportunity to take my game to the next level and compete with the best players in the world. I've discussed this with family, friends and coach Matta, and I feel the time is right."

Thad Matta scheduled a news conference for Friday afternoon to discuss Oden's departure and the possible loss of the other two players. None of the players was available for comment. Conley is expected to be an honorary head coach for Saturday's Scarlet vs. Gray spring football game. Oden is out of town to attend his aunt's wedding.

All three players were key figures this past season for the Buckeyes, who went 35-4 to set a mark for victories and won the Big Ten's regular-season and tournament titles before advancing to their first national championship game since 1962, where they lost to two-time champion Florida 84-75 this month.

After getting a late start at Ohio State because of a wrist injury, Oden, 19, lived up to his billing as a two-time national high school player of the year, leading the Buckeyes in scoring (15.7) and rebounding (9.6) per game and topping the Big Ten in shooting percentage (.616).

His best game may have been his last one, when he scored 25 points and had 12 rebounds while dominating the inside against Al Horford and Joakim Noah of Florida.

Oden had surgery on his right (shooting) wrist to reattach ligaments last June 16. He worked out with the team while wearing a cast that eventually became an elastic brace. After missing the first seven games, he came in and — despite shooting free throws and most of his other shots left-handed — had an immediate impact.

He and Conley — friends and teammates since the sixth grade in Terre Haute, Ind. — led Lawrence North High School in Indianapolis to three consecutive state championships and a 103-7 record.

The 6-1 Conley, who many believed was just a throw-in for recruiting Oden, ended up setting Ohio State records with 238 assists while handling the ball almost all the time against high-pressure defenses. His assist-to-turnover ratio was among the best in the nation at 2.77, with only 86 turnovers in 39 games — a little more than two per contest.

When Oden fouled out late in the Buckeyes' second-round NCAA game against Xavier — and Ron Lewis hit a clutch 3-pointer in the final seconds — it was Conley who scored 11 points in the overtime to lead Ohio State to a 78-71 victory.

The only knock on Conley is his outside shooting. He hit just 30 percent of his 3-pointers, although he was a 52-percent shooter from the field — mostly on layups after scissoring through defenses trying to double-team Oden.

"This has been an extremely exciting and challenging process for me," Conley said in the same statement. "It is my lifelong dream to play in the NBA.

Cook got off to a fast start for the Buckeyes, but wilted down the stretch. He was averaging more than 15 points a game midway through January before finishing at 9.8. After leading Ohio State in scoring seven times in its first 15 games, he failed to do it again over the Buckeyes' last 24 starts.

Cook started just one game all season for the Buckeyes, but the 6-6 swingman was their second-leading rebounder.

The deadline for players making themselves available for the draft is April 29. They can work out for NBA teams and gauge interest — as long as they do not have an agent — and have until June 18 to withdraw their names from the draft pool. Conley and Cook still could retain their Ohio State eligibility at that point.

NCAA BASEBALL

Virgina Tech baseball team plans return to the diamond

By the Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. On a day marked by tears and mourning, prayer vigils and tolling bells, life was beginning to return to normal on at least part of the Virginia Tech campus: the school's baseball field.

Workers groomed the diamond in preparation for a game Friday evening against the University of Miami, the first sporting event held since Monday's rampage by a student gunman who killed 32 people.

"I think that students need to get back to normal," said junior Chance Hellmann, who wandered near the diamond with a friend hours before the game. His friend Nicole White, 20, was killed in the shooting.

"Anything that keeps your mind off this is a good thing," he said.

Miami players and coaches were to wear black wristbands in memory of the victims during the three-game series against the Hokies.

Miami head coach Jim Morris planned to present a $10,000 check on behalf of the university for the Hokie Spirit and Memorial Fund.

Gov. Timothy Kaine declared Friday a statewide day of mourning for the victims. Churches around the country held vigils and prayer services. Parents of the victims urged everyone to focus on those killed in the attack, rather than Cho Seung-Hui, the 23-year-old gunman.



SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 54°**

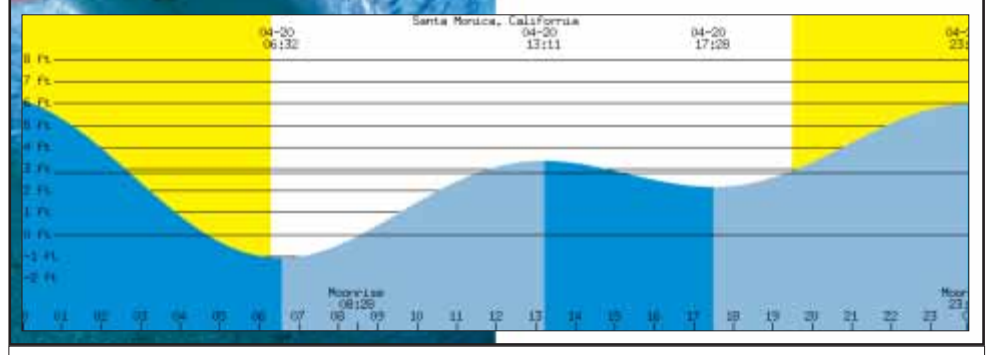
SWELL FORECAST (4-7 FT)

Today will see the last of the NW ground swell that's filling in today with size around head high or so for west facing breaks. Conditions though are a bit questionable as a storm bears down on the region. Models have lightened up the wind forecast a bit, but onshores will likely pick up early. Rain is expected to hit sometime during the day as well.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

RAIN ON THE WAY...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **April 17, 2007**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.org - brc@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 2
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from Ford

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	C	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	B	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	D	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	F	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	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	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)	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	B	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)	D	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	C	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card℠ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

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Take in a movie, Scorpio

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★ Dynamic ★★★★ Positive
★★★ Average ★★ So-So ★ Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Make calls in the morning, when your energy is high. Add in your unique perspective and ideas. You might want to hang close to home and not push yourself too hard. Think positively, and you'll make a difference! Tonight: You don't have to go far from home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Speak your mind, and you'll discover there is a concert of answers surrounding you. Hang out; plan a meal and a movie with friends. Use this day to catch up on others' news. Your interest touches a partner or friend. Tonight: Visit, chat and laugh.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
HHH Use the morning for what you consider a primary interest or need. In the afternoon, despite yourself, a self-indulgent side emerges very quickly. What is wrong with letting your hair down a little bit? Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Though it might take a while to get into high gear, once you do, you might be hard to stop. You'll naturally have a good time. Open up to new possibilities and take a risk or two. You feel better than you have in a while. Tonight: All smiles.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Aim for more of what you want. You gain a new perspective because of a talk or conversation. You might want some downtime to think, evaluate and center. Take a stand and handle a situation directly. Your creativity flourishes. Tonight: A must appearance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Listen to your friends who have some great weekend ideas. Aim for more of what you want. Directness might be appreciated more than you realize. Think positively, and others will chime in too. Tonight: Throw a party or do some other fun pastime.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ A day trip might be perfect, yet at the last minute, a responsibility calls. Work with a situation, even if you are disappointed. Listen and review an initial decision. How you visualize someone could change because of today. Tonight: In the limelight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Deal with people individually this a.m., specifically a very important person in your life. Relax your mind and take off for a drive. You understand more than many but cannot express your opinions right now. Tonight: Take in a movie.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You might want to approach a situation with new eyes, especially if it involves a friend or important relationship in your life. New beginnings are possible. Listen to feedback and understand where someone is coming from. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might need to develop a stronger sense of direction. You could feel frisky and full of energy. Others seem to know what they want and why. Listen to suggestions. You always have the option of going alone. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Allow more playfulness into your life. You have a true sense of what is needed to make a project work. Ask for help from the right people. Invite others to pitch in. The more the merrier. Tonight: Do only want you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Let playfulness in and open up new doors. You have imagination. Zero in on what you want. A friend or loved one might start acting like a kid again. Let fun and imagination into your life. Your kidlike nature emerges. Tonight: Easy does it.

Born Today

Actor Anthony Quinn (1915)
Actress Andie MacDowell (1958)
Preservationists John Muir (1838)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at http://www.jacquelinebigar.com
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Happy Birthday!

You face facts this year. Is it time to head in a new direction or to adopt a very different style? Visualizing the end results could become an important process. Creating your dreams could hang on that ability. Your creativity climbs to a new level. As a sidelight, you will notice that an ability to communicate is enhanced. Resist making any major purchases until fall. If you are single, you could meet quite a few excellent potential suitors. Enjoy the process of getting to know each person before you make the decision that this person is "the one." If you are attached, chat and share more.

Alec's sorry

After leak of voicemail rant, Baldwin explains himself

As ALEC BALDWIN'S angry words to his daughter were being broadcast around the world, the 49-year-old actor explained himself Friday on his Web site.

"Although I have been told by numerous people not to worry too much, as all parents lose their patience with their kids, I am most saddened that this was released to the media because of what it does to a child," he wrote. "I'm sorry, as everyone who knows me is aware, for losing my temper with my child. I have been driven to the edge by parental alienation for many years now. You have to go through this to understand. (Although I hope you never do.) I am sorry for what happened. But I am equally sorry that a court order was violated, which had deliberately been put under seal in this case."

A voicemail Baldwin left for his 11-year-old daughter, in which he can be heard calling her "a rude, thoughtless little pig," was published Thursday by celebrity news site TMZ.com.

Baldwin and his ex-wife, Kim Basinger, have been engaged in bitter custody disputes over their daughter, Ireland, since the couple divorced in 2002.

"In such public cases, your opponents attempt to take a picture of you on your worst day and insist that this is who you are as a person," Baldwin wrote. "Outside the doors of divorce court, I have friends, I have respect from people I work with and I have a normal relationship with my daughter. All of that is threatened whenever one enters a court room."

Meanwhile, Baldwin's attorney, Vicki Greene, said she filed a court order Friday "to determine how the tape got leaked and to determine whether actions should be taken again Kim Basinger, or her attorneys, or Harvey Levin (who runs TMZ.com) and anybody else associated with the leaking of the tape and the violation of the court orders to keep the proceedings closed."

Greene told TV's "The Insider" that "anyone involved in this case should want to protect Ireland, so whatever happened was either intentional, reckless or negligent."

The matter is set for a hearing June 5, Greene said.

Basinger's attorney, Neal Hersh, weighed in the family saga Friday on TMZ.com.

"I am concerned that Mr. Baldwin's recent statement, wherein he attempts to shift responsibility to Kim and her lawyers for his issues with Ireland, shows just how out of touch he is with the reality and gravity of the situation," Hersh said.

Basinger's spokeswoman had no comment Friday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIA GOES CRAZY

Film-crazy India held its breath Friday as two of its biggest stars, the emerald-eyed former Miss World AISHWARYA RAI and ABHISHEK BACHCHAN, a romantic hero and son of an Indian cinema legend, celebrated their wedding.

The affair, hyped by Indian media as "the wedding of the century," was filled with the melodrama so beloved in Bollywood, India's flamboyant Hindi film industry: secrecy, dance routines and even a suicidal fan who claimed to be the groom's jilted lover.

Hundreds of fans cheered as Bachchan, wearing a gold-and-cream turban — his face covered with a traditional veil of white flowers — emerged onto the streets outside his home astride a white stallion, giving his admirers a thumbs-up sign while his friends danced around him.

Bachchan bobbed his head and punched the air with his hands in time to a Bollywood tune played by an accompanying band of red-turbaned musicians. He then made his way to a huge, flower-filled, air-conditioned tent encircled by gold curtains.

AP

Brandy replaced by Sharon

BRANDY is being replaced by Sharon Osbourne as a judge on NBC's "America's Got Talent."

Osbourne, the 54-year-old wife/manager of rocker Ozzy Osbourne, will make her debut May 29, when the reality competition returns for its second season, NBC announced Thursday.

"On this show, it just had to be Sharon Osbourne," said executive producer Simon Cowell in a statement.

Osbourne will join returning judges David Hasselhoff and British media figure Piers Morgan. Jerry Springer is the new host of the $1 million-prize contest.

She starred with her family in MTV's reality series "The Osbournes."

Brandy, 28, was involved in a Los Angeles freeway crash last December that killed a 38-year-old woman. Two wrongful death lawsuits have been filed against the actress-singer on behalf of the woman's family.

"Brandy has enjoyed her association with the program. However, she felt she couldn't give the new season the attention and commitment it deserved," said a statement by Brandy's spokesman, Courtney Barnes, which was released by NBC.

NBC is owned by the General Electric Co.

AP

'Poncherello' gets a star



ERIK ESTRADA has received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Estrada, best known for playing California Highway Patrol Officer Frank "Ponch" Poncherello in "CHiPs" was accompanied by family members, comedian Paul Rodriguez and highway patrol officials during a Thursday afternoon ceremony.

The 58-year-old actor said his appearance on "CHiPs' satisfied two of his dreams.

"One, of course, a certain amount of success in the entertainment business, for which I really am extremely grateful and I'm very proud," Estrada said. "But equally important, it represents my childhood dream of becoming a police officer."

Estrada recently became a reserve officer for the Muncie, Ind., police department as part of his participation in the CBS reality television series "Armed & Famous." The show was canceled in January.

AP

Shelton gets country friends together

CRAIG MORGAN, NEAL MCCOY and STEVE HOLY will join BLAKE SHELTON for a concert in his hometown as part of a festival this weekend to raise money for charity.

The concert Tuesday at East Central University will be the conclusion of a four-day Raindance II festival that also includes an archery tournament and a team roping event.

A guitar autographed by the four country music singers will also be auctioned off.

Proceeds will benefit Project Rebuild, an organization that builds homes for Oklahomans in need.

The first annual Raindance festival, organized last May after wildfires spread across Oklahoma in 2005 and 2006, raised $133,000 for Project Rebuild.

Founder Sharilyn Young said that was enough for Project Rebuild to build six homes.

"When I saw how some of my Oklahoma neighbors were so deeply affected by natural disasters, I felt I had to do something," Shelton, 30, said. "Raindance is a good fit for me. I enjoy all the events and, hopefully, so do a lot of other people."

AP

THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS IS CURRENTLY **LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTORS AND INTERNS** TO HELP US AUGMENT OUR **ENTERTAINMENT COVERAGE**. EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD IS GREAT, BUT WE'LL TALK TO ANYONE WITH **A FRESH VOICE AND A WILLINGNESS TO WRITE** ORIGINAL AND, AHEM, ENTERTAINING COPY. GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

CONTACT ASSOCIATE EDITOR **DANIEL ARCHULETA AT DANIELA@SMDP.COM.**



MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Call theatre for showtimes.

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Grindhouse (R)
2:45, 6:40, 10:30
In the Land of Women (PG-13)
2:20, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00
The Lookout (R)
2:05, 7:10
Pathfinder (R)
2:35, 5:00, 7:45, 10:15
Reign Over Me (R)
4:25, 9:30

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

300 (R)
11:05am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
Are We Done Yet? (PG)
11:40am, 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
Blades of Glory (Pg-13)
11:00am, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
Disturbia (PG-13)
1:50, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50
The Hoax (R)
11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20
Vacancy (R)
11:15am, 12:30, 1:30, 2:50, 3:50, 5:10, 6:05, 7:20, 8:15, 9:40, 10:30

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Black Book (Zwartboek) (R)
1:00, 4:30, 8:00
Hot Fuzz (R)
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

After the Wedding (Efter brylluppet) (R)
1:10, 4:20, 8:00
The Lives of Others (Das Leben der Anderen) (PG-13)
1:10, 4:20, 8:00
The Namesake (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
Year of the Dog (PG-13)
12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie Film for Theaters (R)
12:00, 2:40, 5:10, 7:20, 10:00
Meet the Robinsons in Disney Digital (G)
11:00a.m., 1:30, 4:20, 6:50, 9:30
Perfect Stranger (R)
11:20a.m., 1:50, 4:10, 4:40, 7:00, 7:50, 9:40, 10:30
The Reaping (R)
12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10
Shooter (R)
11:10a.m., 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:40
TMNT (PG)
11:30a.m., 1:40

More information email news@smdp.com

Janric Classic Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from Bronze (easiest) to Silver to Gold (hardest).

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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GETTING STARTED

There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the answer.

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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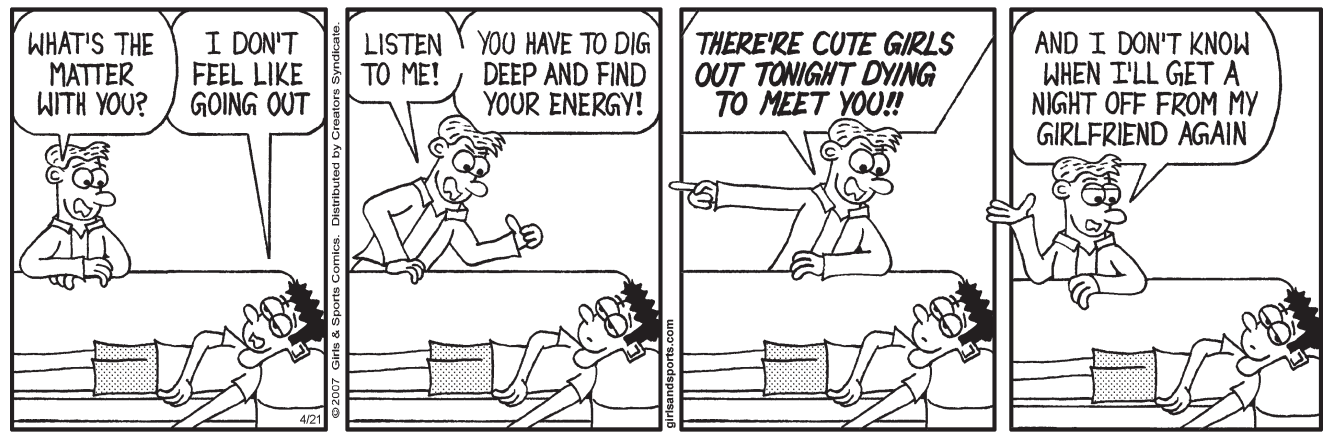
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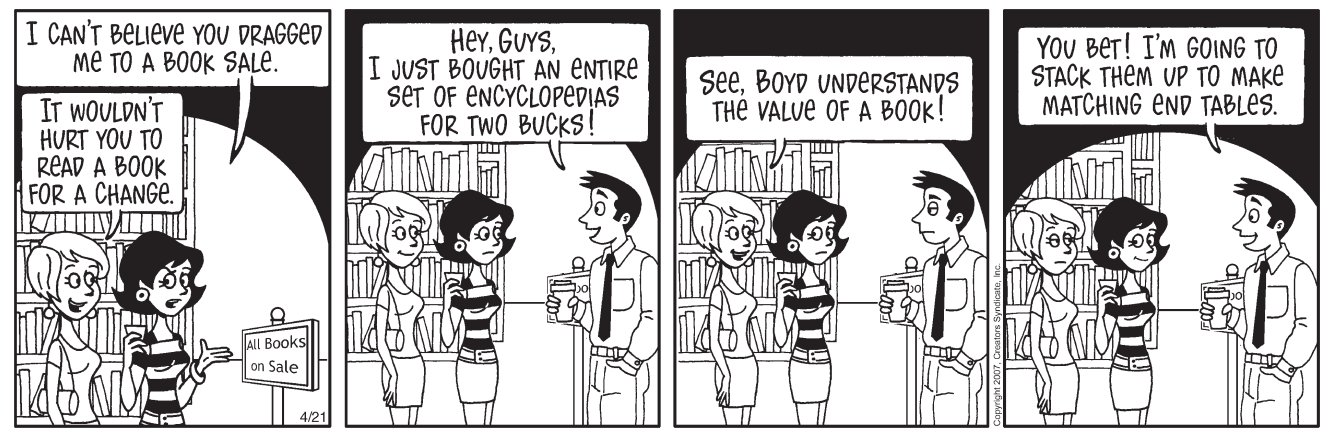
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



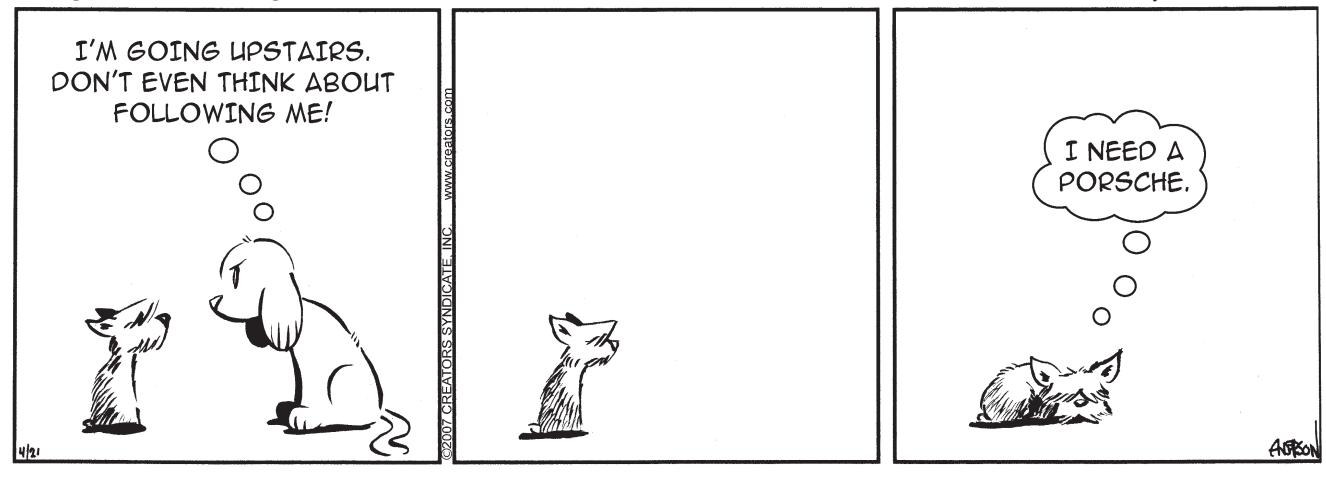
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection

By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Fabian Lewkowicz *fabianl@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 "Divine Comedy" writer
6 Pound pooches
11 Court star Chris
12 Best
13 Hum-dinger
14 Designer Karan
15 Pay to play
17 Clamor
18 Paris street
19 Home of the Rubbles
22 Writer Kesey
23 Summer TV
24 "Great!"
25 Ejected
27 Oxford bigwig
30 Roof supports
31 Memo-rable time
32 Road-house
33 Views
35 Jazz dance
38 Some tests
39 News-caster Couric
40 Laconic
41 Malign
42 Home run, in slang

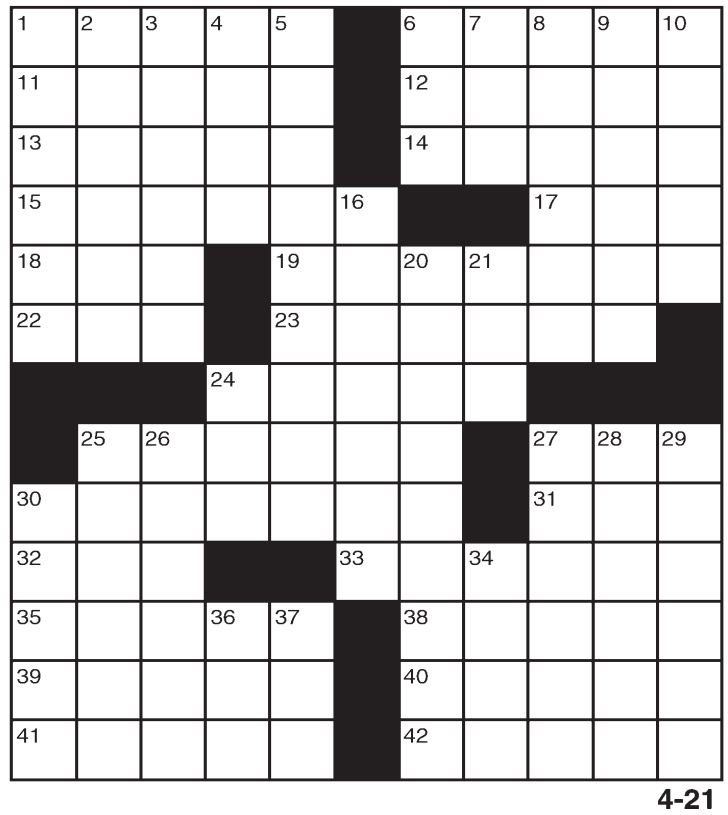
DOWN

1 Go ashore
2 Broad way
3 Spruce
4 Faithful
5 Question from Caesar
6 Like 1960s fashions
7 First número
8 Muscle connector
9 Surcoats
10 Punish, in a way
16 Eyes, slangily
20 Name in an 1856 case
21 Capek drama
24 Lush
25 Diminu-tive
26 Famous
27 Leave
28 Threat ender
29 Leader who built the Aswan Dam
30 Dangers
34 Geometry calcula-tion
36 Maureen's daughter
37 According to

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

Yesterday's answer

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



4-21

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 1 9 10 23 53 Meganumber: 40 Jackpot: $37M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 2 5 14 3 36 Meganumber: 9 Jackpot: $29M

Fantasy 5: 11 20 26 27 30

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 7 7 6 EVENING: 9 2 9

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1.49.11

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In April, two Labrador retrievers (Lucky and Flo) sniffed out another shipment of pirated DVDs (worth about $435,000) in a building in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. It was at least the second such bust since mid-March, when the U.S. Motion Picture Association of America loaned the dogs to Malaysian authorities because they can detect the polycarbonate and unique chemicals in the discs. So successful are Lucky and Flo that an unspecified crime gang has reportedly put out a contract on them.

■ Ada Barak's spa in the northern Israeli town of Talmey El'Azar features a "snake massage" for the equivalent of $70, for which six king snakes or milk snakes slither over the client's body (a therapy said not to be stress-increasing, but stress-reducing, according to a January Reuters dispatch).

■ Another January Reuters dispatch, from Antwerp, Belgium, reported that doctors at the city's Aquatopia animal showcase had scheduled surgery to relieve Mozart, the iguana, of his painful priapism in one of his two functional penises.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1836 Texas Revolution: Battle of San Jacinto – Republic of Texas forces under Sam Houston defeat troops under Mexican General Antonio López de Santa Anna.

1863 Bahá'u'lláh declares his mission as "He whom God shall make manifest". Considered the founder of the Bahá'í Faith.

1898 Spanish-American War: The U.S. Congress, on April 25, recognizes that a state of war exists between the United States and Spain as of this date.

1918 World War I: German fighter ace Manfred von Richthofen, known as "The Red Baron", is shot down and killed over Vaux sur Somme in France.

1930 A fire at a Columbus, Ohio, USA, penitentiary kills 320 people.

1945 World War II: Soviet Union forces south of Berlin at Zossen attack the German High Command headquarters.

1965 The 1964-1965 New York World's Fair opens for its second and final season.

1994 The 1964-1965 New York World's Fair opens for its second and final season

WORD UP!

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

Santa Monica Daily Press

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RECEPTIONIST NEEDED for WLA development company. Good phone manner. Fax resume and salary requirement to (310)476-4444

Employment

RECEPTIONIST/CLERICAL F/T for SM lab 9am-6pm Mon-Fi and two Sats. a month. Multi-taking, detail oriented, self-starter and team player for busy phone, customer service, data entry. Reliability a must. Medical and dental benefits. Call (310)829-2608 or fax (310)829-3230

SALES
SALES of cruises and tours P/T 30 hours. Base + commission. Near LAX Paid training, no cold calling. Some weekends required. Our top sales people make $40,000. (310) 649-7171

SHIPPING & RECEIVING PERSON
SHIPPING & RECEIVING PERSON NEEDED, WILL TRAIN IN ALL SHIPPING & RECEIVING AREAS MONDAY TO FRIDAY SCHEDULE WITH HOURS OF 10-5 WILL MAKE DELIVERIES & PICKUPS AS WELL MUST HAVE BASIC COMPUTER SKILLS CONTACT RICK AT (310)452 6266

SOCIAL COMPANIONS needed. Accompany celebs, V.I.P.'S to dinner, theatre, events, etc. assignments strictly platonic. P/T evenings and weekends. $150/hr (323) 852-1377

WORK AT the beach and get paid! front counter/customer service, bike rentals, bike mechanics. Full-time/Part-time 20-40 hours/week. English or bi-lingual. Apply in person: 2400 Ocean Front Walk, SM or call Aurora (310) 864-3717 between 9-5

YARDPERSON F/T, including Sat. Will train. Lifting req'd. Apply in person: Bourget Bros. 1636 11th St. Santa Monica, Ca 90404

For Sale

JVC HD Pro 110U. Battery pack included, 2 80GB hard drives. (310)828-7648 (310)804-4710. Estimated value is $8,000 but willing to negotiate on price. Never used. Still in box. rktarquinio@verizon.net

SPA/HOT TUB 2007 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth $5950, sell for $1950 (310) 479-3054

Yard Sales

YARD SALE
3 family yard sale. 724 Pacific St. Weather permitting. Sat-Sun 9am-5pm

Computers

Computer Repairs
Networking, Set Up, Installation, Training, Wireless (WiFi), DSL/Cable, Virus Protection and Removal
For Business or In-Home
Digital Duchess
(310) 395-6884

Employment Wanted

I WILL CLEAN YOUR HOUSE $8/hr+, in home supporting service. Experienced, insured, bonded. (626)796-3946,

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Miscellaneous

IHOP RESTAURANT
Come hungry. Leave happy.

1920 Santa Monica Blvd.
(Corner of 20th
& Santa Monica Blvd.)
(310) 829-9597
Hours: 6:30am
- 10:00pm Daily

Employment

RADIO PUBLICITY sales. 25% commission. (310)998-8305 ext 84

Employment

ADMINISTRATIVE ARCHITECTURAL
design firm. Will answer 12 lines (light), screen calls. Assist Managers and Architects with clerical work & travel arrangements. Need to know Word/Excel, Outlook, and internet for research. Later will also be running errands (bank, office supplies, pick up lunch.) Will reimburse for mileage. Must have reliable vehicle. $10-15/hr. Call (310)453-4289 Barringtonstaffing.com

RECEPTIONIST PRODUCTION co located in Santa Monica needs receptionist to answer six incoming lines, screen calls. Sign for FedEx and UPS packages and accept returns. Computer friendly for input/email tasks. Must be super friendly, outgoing and helpful to other employees. $10/hr. Please call (310) 453-4289
Barringtonstaffing.com

Employment

SALES
SANTA MONICA
Earn $60K - $400K.
One of the nation's oldest/largest precious metals co. seeks sales pros. No cold calling or license required, paid training & full benefits. www.Goldline.com. 310-395-0762

CAREER OPPORTUNITY in a high end progressive salon with a strong focus on continuous advanced education. Looking for stylists who are talented, motivated and an expert in their craft. Up to 70% commission. 866-463-5882

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Prepay your ad today!

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: $5.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

Santa Monica Daily Press GET RID OF YOUR ROLLERBLADES. Sell your sports equipment to someone who will actually use it. **Classifieds**

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(310) 458-7737

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Employment Wanted

WESTSIDE CAREGIVER!
Available M-F, 8:00AM-1:00PM
Have DL/Car Insurance/
Social Security/Salar
$12.00/hour
10 yrs. experience.
Santa Monica Resident
Call Mrs. Monica Leland at
310-828-433100011205

Bookkeeping Services

QUICKBOOKS BOOKKEEPING service, personal or businesses. Call 310 977-7935

For Rent

$2990/MO. Prime location in Santa Monica. Spectacular ocean, Santa Monica, and pier view from 15th floor in deluxe high rise building. 1bdrm/1bath. Large balcony, All amenities, concierge, 24 hour doorman, furnished or unfurnished. Long or short term. Pets negotiable. For appt. Call (310)395-1495. 201 Ocean Ave.

AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING IN *SANTA MONICA*

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2BD+2BA shared by *2 seniors*—
$565/month each

323-650-7988 M-F 9-5

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Room and Board
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Your home away from home.

Daily meals, laundry, housekeeping, utilities, and cable. 1 Bdrm, 1 Bath + Full Kitchen. Seniors and all ages welcome. Ask about 1 month of free rent.

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Monday – Friday • 9 – 5

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3bdrm/2.5bath $2700/mo

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Most of our buildings are pet friendly

PLEASE Visit our website
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MAR VISTA $1595.00. 2 Bdrms, 1 bath, Duplex-Apt. NO Pets. Stove, refrigerator, Washer/Dryer, Parking, 3571 Centinela Ave., Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional Info in Unit.

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver 210 $1095 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, utilities included, intercom entry, gated no pets. (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS/BEVERLYWD ADJ. $1175.00 2 Bdrms, 1 1/2 Bath, Stove, Refrigerator, Parking, No Pets. 2009 Preuss Rd. #11, #7. Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit. Mgr: 101

SANTA MONICA 1bdrm/1bath. upper, all remodeled. Air, W/D, granite counter tops, jacuzzi tub, hardwood floors, $1750/mo, (310)490-9326. Available 5/15

For Rent

SANTA MONICA 833 5th st. unit 101 2bdrm/1.75 bath, $2750/mo, $300 off move-in special. Stove, dishwasher, balcony, granite counter tops, carpet and tiling flooring, wood flooring laundry, intercom entry, pool no pets (310)393-2547 jkwproperties.com

STUDIO APT for senior 62+ only. 500 sq ft. Great location. World-famous building off Main St. Security bdg, parking, pool. $1035/mo. Call Jason 562.965.2213.

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VENICE 3+2 2308 Pacific unit B upper stove fridge d/w, washer/dryer hookups, microwave, granite counter tops, tile and carpet, and hardwood flooring, 2 car parking. $2850/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

WLA 1+1 2656 South Barrington Ave. unit 6, $1025. Stove, fridge, dishwasher, carpet, blinds, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

Commercial Lease

600 SQUARE ft, non-livable, shared, shop/warehouse/loft storage space. $900/month. Venice Blvd @ Fairfax. Call 310.398.3850.

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Sperry Van Ness
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Contact Phone:
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Call for free appraisal of your property
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Commercial Real Estate Advisors

SANTA MONICA 2941 Main Street. Small single room offices $650/month. Parking available. PAR Commercial (310)395-2663.xt.112

SANTA MONICA offices for lease 1342 and 1306 sf (2648 contiguous) Muselli Commercial (310)458-4100 ext.225

SANTA MONICA: Dry storage available 2000-5000 sf. Reasonable prices. If interested, call Jeff 310-449-1300

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Homes and Land
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Toll free at 1-888-972-4591
palmdale.realty@sbcglobal.net
broker

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Real Estate

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1-888-FOR-LOAN
310 392-9223

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RATES AS LOW AS 6%

30 YEAR FIXED *APR 5.866%*	**5.76%**
10 YEAR/1 ARM *APR 6.6%*	**6%**
7 YEAR/1 ARM *APR 6.655%*	**5.75%**
5 YEAR/1 ARM *APR 7.0%*	**5.75%****
3 YEAR/1 ARM *APR 7.0258%*	**5.5%****
1 YEAR/1 ARM *APR 7.1%*	**5.25%**
6 MO./6 MO. ARM *APR 7.24%*	**5%**
1 MO./1 MO. ARM *APR 8%*	**1%***

***Rates subject to change**
*** As of Febuary 21, 2007**
**** Denotes an interest only loan**



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BLISSFUL RELAXATION! Heal your body, mind, spirit. Therapeutic bodywork/energy healing. Strictly non-sexual. Introductory specials $68.00. Lynda, L.M.T. (310) 749-0621

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EXQUISITE, INTUITIVE, strong and tender relaxing body work by mature Europen. Very Professional, Sonja (310) 397-0433.

LOMI LOMI,
Hawain Therapeutic Massage
as taught by Auntie Margaret Machado of the Big Island.
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24HRS.
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$10-17 for 15 min.
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TWO BACHELORS both seeking Irish females. One retired, widower 55 year old male enjoys Shakespeare, ballet. Younger gentleman is 30 years old with similar interests. Please call (310)581-4962

Vehicles for sale

'70 Thunderbird
Excellent condition, classic T-Bird. Suicide doors, beautiful paint job, air, low mileage, only $4,900 OBO.
Call 323-395-2929

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Vehicles for sale



Chevy Suburban
'93 Suburban-1500 4x4. Dual air, 3rd Seat, HD tow, sunroof, alloys, grill guard, 60k miles.
Excellent condition. $7750.00
310-390-4610



'04 Infiniti I35 Sedan
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Auto, A/C, Bose premium sound, ABS (P1563)
$19,993
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'06 Chrysler 300C Sedan 4D
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V8 5.7L HEMI, Leather, Traction, Moon roof, Premium Wheels
(P1549) $25,994
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'99 RX300 …. $12,995
Leather, Moon Roof,
Super, super sharp!
(X0037964)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

$5.50 A DAY LINER ADS! CALL TODAY



'02 BMW 3 Series 325i Sedan
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
D. Blue, 6-Cyl. 2.5L, Auto, RWD, Telescope wheel, Traction, ABS
(P1554) $16,892
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

BOLD IT! MAKE YOUR AD STAND OUT



'00 Nissan Maxima GLE
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Gold, V6 3.0L, Leather, Sun Roof, Alloy Wheels (I6923A)
$13,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

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

Vehicles for sale



'02 Oldsmobile Alero GL
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.4L, Auto, Pwr pkg, Multi CD, Air Bags, Leather (I6942A)
$8,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'03 Infiniti QX4 SUV
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Privacy Glass, Bose Prem. Sound, Towing pkg
(P1567) $21,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'04 Infiniti G35 Coupe
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Pewter, V6 3.5L, Auto, Cruise, Nav. System, LOADED!!
(P1560)
$25,993
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'04 NISSAN Maxima SL
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Dark Blue, V6 3.5L, Auto, Bose Prem. Sound, Leather
(I6793A)
$22,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

ADVERTISE! CALL US (310) 458-7737



'03 BMW X5 3.0i SUV
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, 6-Cyl, 3.0L, Auto,
Air Bags, Alloy, Privacy Glass
(P1574)
$26,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

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



'02 Nissan Frontier XE King
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Blue, 4-Cyl., 2.4L, 5-speed manual, Hard Tonneau Cover, Bed Liner
(I7023A) $9,991
Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

Automotive

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Prepay your ad today!

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CALL TODAY FOR SPECIAL MONTHLY RATES!
There is no more convincing medium than a DAILY local newspaper.

$45 for two weeks.
$20 every two weeks after.

Vehicles for sale



'03 PT Cruiser GT $11,995

LD'd, 2.4 Turbo, Only 7K Miles!
Leather, Moon
(TS40684)

Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'98 LS400 .... $16,788

Low miles, Factory Chromes,
Showroom Condition
(V0105785)

Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'06 Focus ZX-4 SE .. $9,995
Auto, Air, CD, Full Power,
CD & More!
(6W182121)

Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'03 Dakota $11,995
QUAD CAB/w Shell!
Auto, Air, Alloys
(3S265019)

Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047.

$5.50 A DAY LINER ADS! CALL TODAY



'05 4 Runner $22,900
Beeeeautiful! Immaculate!
Must See!
(58008216)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'03 Echo $9,995
Automatic, AC & More!
(30270641)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

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

Vehicles for sale



'03 Murano $18,995
LOADED! GORGEOUS!
MUST SEE! (3W106109)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'02 Explorer Spt .. $7,788
Automatic, CD, A/C, Alloys & Full Power (2U037397)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'03 Jetta $11,700
Beautiful, Automatic, Air Cond & More!
(3M115974)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'03 Galant $7,788
(3E212783)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'03 ES300 .... $21,995
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Low, Low Miles! Immaculate! Must See! (30119829)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

ADVERTISE! CALL US (310) 458-7737



04 C230K 2-Door Coupe
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Certified, Alabaster White Exterior, 6-sp manual, Cruise, Air Bags
(P31491)
$19,861

W.I. Simonson
(800) 784-6196



2002 Chrysler 300M 4dr
All extras! Loaded, sun roof, leather, One Owner!
(License #: RSC708)
$9,500
Claude Short Auto Sales Dealer
(310) 395-3712

Vehicles for sale



1997 Jaguar XK8 Convertible
Black on Black, showroom condition. 98,000 miles, $17.5.
310-930-5266 pp.



1971 Buick
67000 miles, one owner, Caramel color. $5,500 firm. Great condition.
Nadine 626-796-3946

Trucks/Vans



1992 Dodge Cargo Van B350
1 ton, white, A/C
Vin #: 167697
$2,895
Claude Short Auto Sales Dealer
(310) 395-3712

SELL YOUR CAR FAST!

Advertise your used car for sale in the only **LOCAL DAILY** newspaper in town.

FOR ONLY **$45**

Run it until it sells!*



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

Ad shown actual size

Package includes:

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

Call us today at (310) 458-7737

Take advantage of this great offer.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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

Mail. Fax. Call. Email. Running your classified ad is easy!

$5.50 per day. Up to 15 words, 20 cents each additional word.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: ____ **State:** ____ **Zip:** _____ **Phone:** (____) _____

Classification (Pets, Yard Sale, Etc...): _____

Ad Copy (attach copy if necessary)

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15

Requested Start Date: / / **Requested End Date:** / /

Extras (Additional 20 cents/word):
❒ ALL CAPS ❒ **bold** ❒ *italics*
❒ Box (.50/day) ❒ Reverse($1/day)

Payment:
❒ Visa ❒ Mastercard ❒ AMEX ❒ Check

Exp:___|20___ **Check #:**_____

Make checks payable: Santa Monica Daily Press

NO CASH PLEASE

Signature: _____

Mail.
Fill out this form and mail to:
1427 Third Street Promenade
Suite 202
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Fax.
Fill out this form and fax to:
(310) 576-9913
ATTN: Classifieds

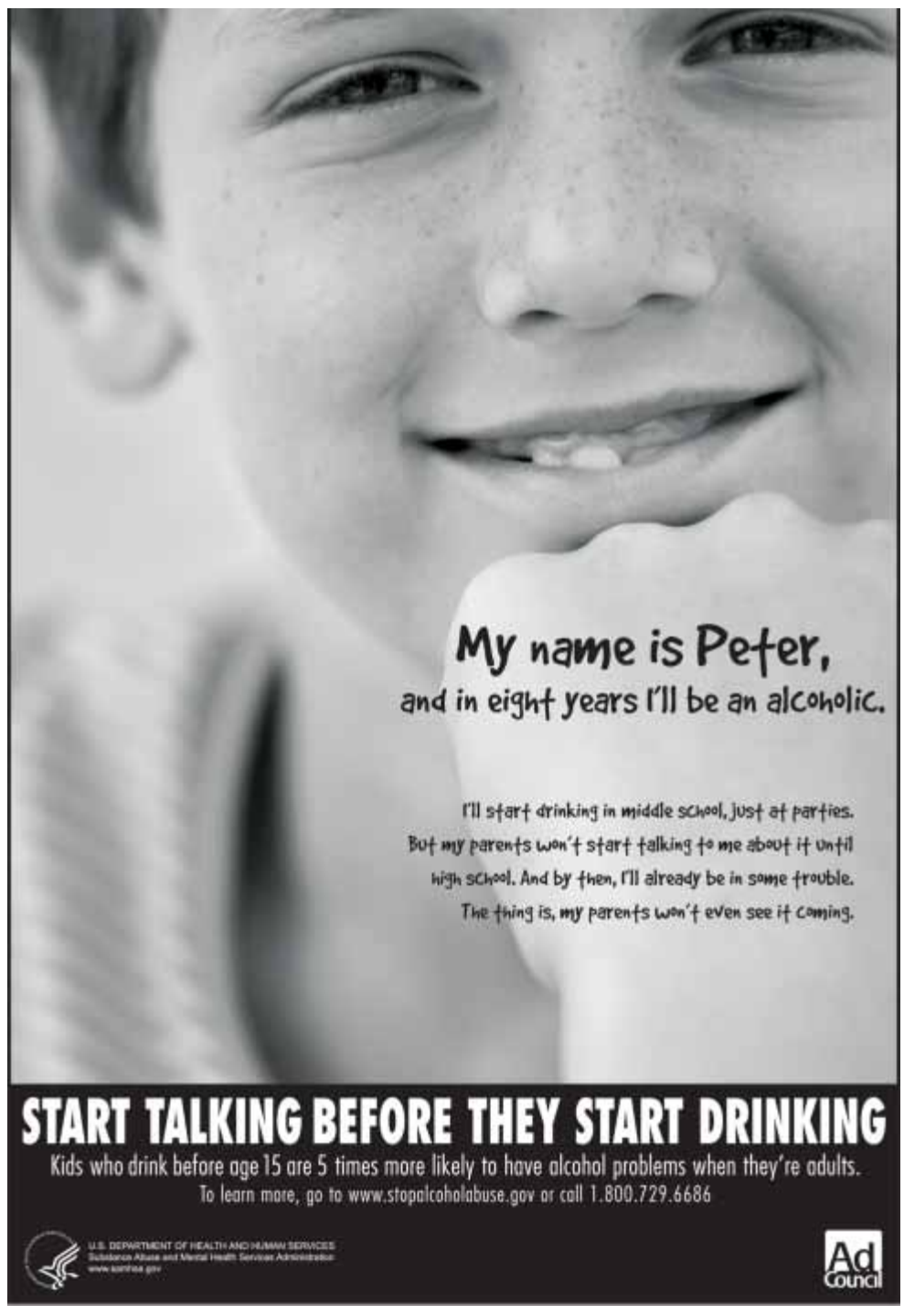
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Call Annie Kotok!
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Call us with questions
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Santa Monica Daily Press
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Santa Monica Daily Press

ServiceDirectory

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*Please call our Classified Sales Manager to reserve your ad space. Specific ad placement not gauranteed on classified ads. Ad must meet deadline requirements.

All classified liner ads are placed on our website for **FREE!** Check out ***www.smdp.com*** for more info.

Services

Cleaning

Miss Clara's



Miss Clara specializes in house cleaning services. Detail cleaning, kitchens, bathrooms, steam cleaning carpets, machine clean hardwood and marble floors.

ONE CALL DOES IT ALL

Miss Clara has been in the local housecleaning business since 1961

She uses her own environmentally safe cleaning products.

For more information go to www.MissClaras.com or call (310) 659-5025

FREE ESTIMATES

Accounting



I.ROMAN TAX & ACCOUNTING SERVS
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TAX TIME! WE CAN HELP!

QuickBooks Adviser, Payroll and Sales Tax Returns, Complete Accounting and Tax Services

Call now to schedule a free consultation.
310-230-8826
email:iroman@taxexpert.bz

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Call us today at (310) 458-7737

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TIME FOR A NEW LOOK



•50% off haircuts
w/ any color service
or
•Deep Conditioning Treatment
w/ any haircut
or
•Student Discount 10% off
(with mention of this ad)

Call Marika at Aya Salon
(310)451-3583
631 Wilshire Blvd SM CA 90401

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European Handy Drafter
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- Interior/Exterior Painting
- Floor Assembly
- Tile Work
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- Patching and Design

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REFERRALS AVAILABLE
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(310) 447-3333

Handy Man
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- Frame/Finish
- Foundation/Concrete
- DryWall, Paint, Elec.
- & all Repairs
- Architechtural Design
- Plans & Permits
-Green & Sustainable
-Free Consultation

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27 Years exp.
Call (310) 430-2806

ADVERTISE! CALL US (310) 458-7737

MAXIMUM Construction
Complete Household Repair
Electrical, Fencing
Doors, Windows, Flooring
Drywall, Texture, Painting
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Concrete, Stucco

Free Consultation
Reasonable Prices
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BOLD IT! MAKE YOUR AD STAND OUT

Handyman Service
HANDYMAN EXPRESS
Specializing in bathroom remodeling and repairs. Plumbing, drywall, paint, tile, framing and windows.
Satisfaction Guaranteed
Senior Discount
Call Nick 310/651-0052

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Call us today at (310) 458-7737

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Painting and Decorating Co.
SINCE 1967
RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL
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SPECIALISTS IN ALL DAMAGE REPAIR
Free estimates, great referrals
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ROOF REPAIR AND WATER DAMAGE
CALEB 25-35/HR (310) 409-3244

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Real Estate



Kate Bransfield
Estates Director
Chairman's Circle - Platinum
#1 Prudential Santa Monica Realtor
310.395.1133
What is Your Home Worth?
Contact Me to Find Out.
for local, current real estate info...
SantaMonicaListings.com

Services

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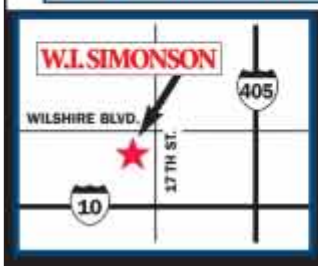
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