



DEFENDING NAFTA
SEE PAGE 6

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE OUT OF DOORS ISSUE

'Other' trees causing controversy

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

NORTH OF MONTANA The ficus trees in Downtown aren't the only shady specimens causing a fuss.

Residents living north of Montana Avenue are questioning City Hall in its plans to remove and replace 300 carob trees city-wide — approximately half of which are in the upscale neighborhood — and what they allege is a lack of public notice and input on a project that was expected to go before the City Council on Tuesday night for funding approval.

Several of these residents attended a press conference at the corner of Montana Avenue and 12th Street on Tuesday afternoon, a media briefing in which city officials intended to explain details of the project and point out specific trees that were slated for removal.

But the collection of residents actually outnumbered the number of reporters in attendance — three — many demanding answers from Community Forester Walt

Warriner as to why they were not notified about the removal of the trees and questioning his judgment in deciding why they should be removed.

City Hall last fall hired HortScience to conduct a study of the 630 carob trees in Santa Monica. The report, released in March, found that of the 630 carob trees in Santa Monica, 300 are in decline and have significant risk failure, Warriner said.

The trees were rated on a 12-point ranking system that was based on their probability of failing, the size of the part of the tree most likely to fail and the objects on which it would fall. All of the trees that were ranked as eight or higher are slated for removal as well as 14 that were rated as seven but were listed in very poor condition.

Many residents that attended the press conference questioned the timing of the media briefing and asked why there wasn't advance notice to the public about the project before it was scheduled to go to council for a funding request. The entire project, which includes removal, replacement and corrective pruning, is valued at \$395,000.

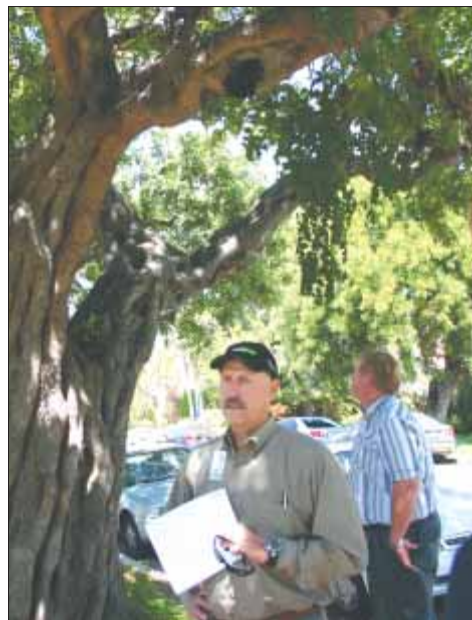
City Hall has been criticized in the past year for its plans to remove ficus trees from Second and Fourth streets in the downtown area, part of a street beautification project, and has been caught up in litigation with the Santa Monica Treesavers.

Some north Santa Monica residents said they have lost faith in City Hall, a result of the ficus tree issue and the this recent issue regarding the carob trees.

"My feeling is from being involved with the city government and its reaction to the ficus trees and the answers we have gotten has made me lose trust," Bob Wolff, a NOMA resident and Treesaver, said on Tuesday after the press conference. "I cannot believe the answers — at one point it's about public safety, at another point it's about the merchants."

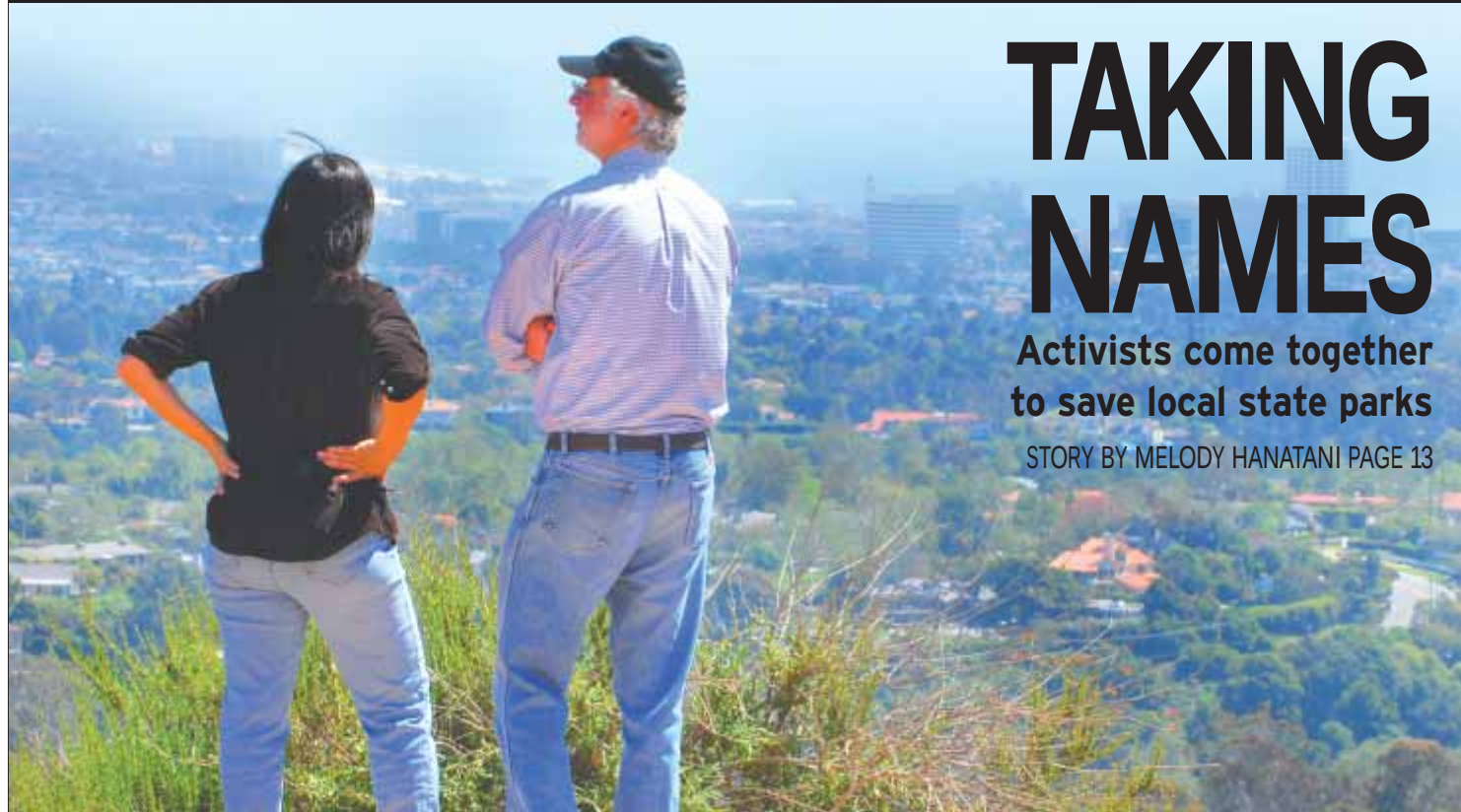
Warriner responded to the allegations by saying that when it comes to public safety, it isn't a matter of public input. That piece would rather come in when it's time to determine the replacement trees, Warriner

SEE TREES PAGE 14



Melody Hanatani melodyh@smdp.com
SPREADING THE WORD: Community Forester Walt Warriner explains a carob tree removal and replacement project during a press conference on 12th Street on Tuesday afternoon.

ENVIRONMENT



TAKING NAMES

Activists come together to save local state parks

STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 13

Judge expands order to block harassment of researchers

By Daily Press Staff

SM COURTHOUSE UCLA has won a preliminary injunction against activists targeting faculty and administrators who conduct or oversee research involving laboratory animals.

Some of the activists have admitted to attempted firebombings at private residences, vandalism and multiple threats of violence, according to a Web site for the Animal Liberation Front, one of three groups named in the injunction.

The injunction, issued Tuesday by Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Terry B. Friedman after a hearing in a Santa Monica courtroom, extends and expands a temporary restraining order granted in

SEE UCLA PAGE 13

NICE VIEW: Michael Balchunes (right) and his wife Lorraine Wang look down on Santa Monica from the top of Inspiration Point at Will Rogers State Park.

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Punching the clock

601 Pico Blvd., 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Summer is rapidly approaching at that means one thing for many Santa Monica teens — it's time to get to work. The summer is often the only time when teens have a chance to earn their own money while learning the responsibilities that come with being an adult with taxes to pay. To make sure kids get that opportunity, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce has partnered with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and City Hall to put on the annual Santa Monica High School Job Fair. The event allows over 350 local high school students to learn about job opportunities in the city. For more information call the chamber at (310) 393-9825 ext. 11.

Hungry?

1332 Sixth Street, Noon -1:30 p.m.

The Santa Monica Kiwanis Club's weekly luncheon with guest speakers. For more information, call (310) 613-1249.

Never eat alone again

1250 Capri Dr., Pacific Palisades, Noon-1:30 p.m.

The Rotary Club of Santa Monica has long enjoyed a reputation as being the hub for Westside men and women dedicated to improving their local and worldwide communities. It is a melting pot for cultural ideas from the diverse ethnic makeup of members. Those interested in attending their regular lunch should contact June M. Doy at (310) 917-3313.

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Laugh your chakras off

717 Broadway, 11 a.m.

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

The Meathands have it

4455 Overland Ave. Culver City, 8 p.m.

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

What's new this week

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad.

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.





OUT ON A LIMB

(Left to right) Lisa Kuhn and Justin Graham (both of Seattle, Wash.) and Shawn Barry of Santa Monica march with the Santa Monica Treesavers down Second Street during an Earth Day demonstration in support of threatened ficus trees in the downtown area. The 'Save The Trees' march ended at Santa Monica City Hall via Fourth Street where the organization tried to present a 'Save The Trees Message Scroll' to the City Council.

Geoffrey Dunn news@smdp.com

Many doctors don't return patient e-mails

BY ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES Suzanne Kreuziger is a registered nurse who uses e-mail almost exclusively to communicate with friends. But when it comes to reaching her doctor, there's a frustrating firewall.

The barrier is her doctor's own reluctance to talk to patients through e-mail.

"It makes sense to me to have the words laid out, to be able to re-read, to go back to it at a convenient time," the 34-year-old Milwaukee woman recently wrote on a social

networking site. "If I were able to ask my physician questions this way, it would make my own health care much easier."

Kreuziger's experience is shared by most Americans: They want the convenience of e-mail for non-urgent medical issues, but fewer than a third of U.S. doctors use e-mail to communicate with patients, according to recent physician surveys.

"People are able to file their taxes online, buy and sell household goods, and manage their financial accounts," said Susannah Fox of the Pew Internet & American Life Project. "The health care industry seems to be lag-

ging behind other industries."

Doctors have their reasons for not hitting the reply button more often. Some worry it will increase their workload, and most physicians don't get reimbursed for it by insurance companies. Others fear hackers could compromise patient privacy — even though doctors who do e-mail generally do it through password-protected Web sites.

There are also concerns that patients will send urgent messages that don't get answered promptly. And any snafu raises the specter of legal liability.

Making progress with the homeless

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN Of the 10 most vulnerable people living on the streets of Santa Monica, one has been permanently housed, three are in shelters, four remain on the streets and two have left the city.

The most vulnerable person, a 49-year-old white man with chronic health problems who grew up in foster care in Texas and came to Santa Monica 30 years ago, "came into some money and left town," said Stacy Rowe, human services administrator at City Hall.

"We don't know where he's at and that happens from time to time," Rowe said. "He may resurface later on and he would still be high on the priority list."

City Hall in January conducted a survey of more than 100 homeless people in Santa Monica to identify those who are in dire need of assistance, including those who suffer from mental illness or other ailments that if left untreated could lead to death in the next few years. The idea is to move the top 10 most vulnerable homeless into housing as soon as possible, and then move on to the next 10.

The city and county of Los Angeles are doing something similar, focusing on 50 homeless people deemed most likely to die on the streets of Downtown's Skid Row. Officials there announced last week that 23 of the 50 most vulnerable have been moved off the sidewalks and into apartments, and expressed optimism that 27 others would soon be receiving aid from social service providers.

Common Ground, a New York City-based agency, is managing the Los Angeles effort and assisted Santa Monica officials in conducting the survey and creating a vulnerability index to better focus resources locally.

Rowe said that while the focus has been on the first 10, staff and social service

SEE HOMELESS PAGE 14



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Don't be so selfish

Editor:

Libertarians are fond of railing against government regulation. Objectivists take the rant one step further, claiming that man is morally obligated to be selfish. I usually tolerate this behavior when I hear it in its most common context, fiscal policy.

However, it is downright offensive when applied to environmentalism, as Michael Berliner does in his column of April 21, 2008 ("The Rand Stand: The Danger of Environmentalism," reprinted from Capitalism Magazine, April 17, 2008).

When an objectivist hoards money without regard for the society around him, poverty festers outside of his gated community, but at least there is no direct physical injury.

However, when an objectivist hoards and burns resources without regard for the society around him, he creates externalities that do cause direct physical injury. Mr. Berliner was even kind enough to name some of them – "acid rain, global warming, smog" – before contemptuously dismissing them.

Libertarians and objectivists advocate individual freedom so long as it does not manifest as an unprovoked initiation of force against another.

Thus, assault, rape, and murder are still forbidden in their code. However, by that same logic, an industrialist should be responsible for toxic run-off seeping into a city's water supply, a toy maker should be responsible for the lead found in its dolls, and an SUV driver should be responsible for the exhaust belching out of his tailpipe.

All of these are unprovoked initiations of force against fellow citizens.

Mr. Berliner believes technology will save us from these externalities. Maybe so, but time and time again the cure does not arrive until well after the illness is diagnosed and deemed irreversible (e.g., global warming), and often doesn't arrive at all unless someone sees profit potential.

Mr. Berliner also mischaracterizes the goal of environmentalism as the protection of nature from man, when it is actually the opposite.

Our assaults against nature prompt nature to assault us in kind: Every tree we raze leaves more atmosphere-cooking carbon dioxide in the air, and most "nonhuman" extinctions ripple through the ecosystem right to our dinner plates.

Contrary to bumper sticker wisdom, the earth will survive long after we have destroyed ourselves. The question is, how long do we want to last on its surface?

Ultimately, objectivism may provide a useful perspective in the context of civil liberties and fiscal policy.

However, when it comes to my lungs, Mr. Berliner does not have "a moral right to live his own life for his own sake" with "no duty ... to the needs of others." This twisted ethic, along with his admitted goal of reckless "intrusion," is the very threat against which environmental regulation protects us in the first place.

Robert T. Baker

Santa Monica



Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Straight shooting on being strapped

"I carry a gun because a cop is too heavy"
John Steinbeck

OK, SO WHAT'S ALL THE RAMPANT HAND wringing over gun ownership in this country by liberal fascists who want to suborn the Second Amendment and convert the populace of our Republic from being "citizens" to "subjects?" Please remember that Red China, Russia and Nazi Germany have/had "gun control" whose legislative affronts resulted in all sorts of enlightened and novel approaches to social engineering; recently bloodied Tibetan monks, "resort accommodations" at Soviet gulags for dissidents and "showers" at Auschwitz leap to mind.

This country was founded from the barrel of a gun at Lexington Green over British taxes on tea hence the plethora of Starbucks emporiums in our country today. The raison d'être of the Second Amendment is to reinforce the first. If one desires to "speak truth to power" one had better possess the incendiary wherewithal to give those in power a modicum of pause to take note of ones issues of redress.

Here are some inconvenient truths:

[A] Number of physicians in the U.S.: 700,000

[B] Accidental deaths caused by physicians/year: 120,000

[C] Accidental deaths/physician: 0.171 percent

[D] Number of gun owners in the U.S.: 80 million

[E] Accidental gun deaths/year for ALL age groups: 1,500

[F] Accidental deaths/gun owner: 0.000188 percent!

(U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services 2005)

Statistically speaking, doctors are 9,000 times more dangerous than gun owners. While 26 percent of us have a gun, 84 percent of us have a doctor. Do the math ... pretty grim numbers. Wait until we have nationalized health care.

Other inconvenient truths: Most accidental deaths for 2006 involve, or are due to, motor vehicles (39 percent), poisoning (18 percent), falls (16 percent), suffocation (5 percent), drowning (2.9 percent), fires (2.8 percent), and bicycles/tricycles (0.7 percent).

Each year, more than 400,000 Americans die from cigarette smoking.

Let me get this straight ... guns are a problem here?

We've experienced an unrepentant geezer who plowed his 3,000 lb. missile of mayhem through a crowded Farmers' Market in 2003; casualties resulted in 10 dead and 63 wounded. We've had two high-profile murders in SM recently as well as the trial and convictions for the "Black Widows." Has anyone found a "smoking gun" in any of these cases?

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

Eleanor Roosevelt

Folks, you can't walk around in yogic bliss expectant that SM's finest is going to magi-

cally appear when you dial 911. When seconds count, the cops are just minutes away. It's a very thin Blue Line between you and the Hannibal Lecters of the world so it devolves to your rights under the Second Amendment to extinguish some sociopath from roasting your chestnuts over his felony inspired mesquite grill. The cops in this town work damn hard to provide you with your precious quality of life yet there is only so much they can do unless you do some housecleaning and take out the "trash" from time to time yourselves. Think of it as "recycling."

MOST MARTIAL DISCIPLINES REQUIRE YEARS OF STUDY BEFORE ITS EFFICACY IS REALIZED. I SPEAK FROM EXPERIENCE.

And simple self-defense doesn't mean that one need go to Bazooka Pete's Armory and order a "Rambo-Size" for ones Colt .45 Happy Meal. Some folks are incapable of eating with chopsticks let alone operating an AA-12 in a stressful conundrum.

Like driving a car, keep your head on a swivel with the same degree of wariness you'd possess that would prevent that unwashed hippie in his Yugo from scratching your new Ford Global Warmer in traffic.

Actually make the effort to know your neighbors. Think "common cause."

And if you are still heebie-jeebies about owning a "Chicago Piano" then avail yourself of a good martial arts program. There are a couple of great teachers here in town at Sacred Energy Arts on 220 Pier Ave. next door to the Novel Café.

Owner Matt Cohen and Michael Long are superb teachers with boundless years of experience.

What you learn that night from them, you can use that night. Most martial disciplines require years of study before its efficacy is realized. I speak from experience.

In my personal journey of over 40 years of martial arts training, Matt and Mike have the "good stuff."

They also gear the lesson for your fitness level and age. Most of all, its fun and useful. Your self-confidence will exponentially increase. Learn to kick some ass and take names before some jailhouse knucklehead adds you to his dance card. Put the "self" back into "self-defense". It's your "right," after all.

Let's take back the night and teach your children well.

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Making a deal with the devil

IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE 26-YEAR-OLD Katie Holmes started dating 42-year-old Tom Cruise. There was a whirlwind romance, unbridled joy broadcast live from Oprah's sofa, and a proposal at the Eiffel Tower complete with five carats of flawlessness befitting the betrothed of the world's biggest box office draw. Then the money came pouring in.

She got an annual allowance of half a million dollars. She'll get a pre-nup that pays her \$3 million every year they stay married (up to eleven years, then she gets half of everything). She got a mansion in Montecito. And she got a Gulfstream jet worth \$20 million.

To Katie, it probably seemed too good to be true. It was. The next three years saw her lose control of her private life, her public image, and her career as an actress. She probably didn't realize she wasn't just marrying Hollywood's biggest, brightest, and weirdest star, she was marrying Hollywood, in all it's big, bright, weird glory. And like her husband, Hollywood needed something his last wife couldn't or wouldn't provide: A baby. Exactly one year after they first met, Suri was born.

Two years later, Katie is reportedly looking at the front door. She's been offered a role on Broadway she wants to accept, and she wants to take Suri with her.

She probably has images in her mind of blissful mother-daughter strolls through Central Park, exploring the boutiques, nights out in the Meatpacking District, basically her own little "Sex in the City" without the sex and with Suri in tow.

Most importantly, without Tom and his Scientology crew telling her how to dress, how to act, what to say, and when to smile (always).

Tom is said to be on board with the whole operation except the "without Tom" part. She can move to New York and take the job. She can even take the baby.

But if she and the baby move to New York, he's coming. He may be delusional, he may be crazy, he may even be closeted, but he's certainly not stupid. He knows she's a beautiful woman in the prime of her life with a mansion, a jet, at least six million of his dollars in the bank, and another \$20 million guaranteed from any publisher in

the world as an advance on her book. If she and the baby leave him to go live in New York, there is no guarantee he'll ever see either of them again outside a courtroom. My prediction is that she'll take the job, but she'll have to leave the baby.

Deep down, she has to know he can't allow the marriage to last the full 11 years and cost him half his fortune. Not when he can just exercise his buy-out option for \$30 million after 10 years.

She also has to know he can't allow her to take Suri when the marriage ends. Not with the industry desperate for a new generation of "Hollywood royalty" and Tom needing leverage to keep her silent about his personal eccentricities. What's more, she has to have known this, or at least suspected it, when she signed on to be Mrs. Thomas Cruise Mapother IV. And she did it anyway.

It all leads me to ask this question: Knowing what she has in store for her (paparazzi stalking her every minute of every day for the rest of her life, growing up blindingly fast in Hollywood; tempted by sex and drugs before she's even out of junior high school, knowing she'll never be able to trust a normal human being as long as she lives, and knowing you won't be around to help raise her), how many women would sell their child to Hollywood for a \$10 million mansion, a \$20 million jet, \$35 million in cash, and a \$20 million book deal?

It reminds me of something Michael Corleone said when Kay tried to leave him in "Godfather II." "What do you want from me?" he asked. "Do you expect me to let your go? Do you expect me to let you take my children from me? Don't you know me? Don't you know that's an impossibility? That that could never happen? That I'd use all my power to keep something like that from happening?"

In that scene, Kay realized the hard way that she had made a deal with the devil. Katie Holmes may be starting to realize that she did, too.

KENNY MACK is a writer and comedian living in Santa Monica who actually feels a little sympathy for Katie Holmes (but just a little). He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED FY 2008-09 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 2008-09 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 2008-09 One-Year Action Plan are now available to the public for a 30-day community review period ending May 13, 2008. 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 13, 2008, or you may present your comments verbally at the City Council public hearing on that date.

The Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible. If you have any special disability-related needs/accommodations, please contact the Human Services Division.

The Q-Line

Crime and punishment

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of lethal injections. This latest ruling has thrust the controversial practice back into the spotlight and is raising a lot of questions here in California where lethal injections are legal.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Where do you stand on capital punishment and why?

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



Kate Bransfield
Estates Director

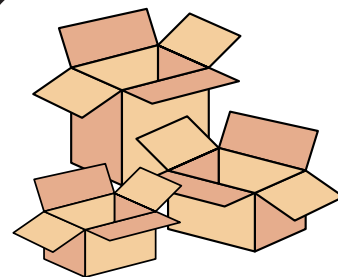
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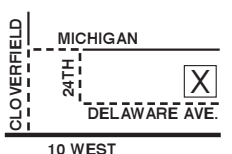


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Bush tries to calm NAFTA controversy

BY BEN FELLER

Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS President Bush, replying to criticism from Democratic presidential candidates, said Tuesday that "now is not the time to renegotiate ... or walk away from" the North American Free Trade Agreement. He also denied the U.S. was in a recession, calling it a slowdown instead.

Bush also used a joint news conference with Mexican President Felipe Calderon and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to renew his call for Congress to pass a free-trade pact with Colombia.

He said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's refusal to schedule a vote could effectively kill it this year.

"It makes no sense to me to say that Colombian goods can come into our country duty-free, yet our goods can't go into Colombia duty-free," Bush said sternly. "And yet that's the case. An agreement with Colombia would level the playing field."

Asked about the state of the U.S. economy, Bush said: "We're not in a recession. We are in a slowdown."

"I'm obviously concerned for our consumers," the president said. He was asked whether the rising cost for gasoline will erode the potential positive impact of the \$168 billion economic stimulus package passed by Congress, but did not specifically answer.

"No question that rising gasoline prices are like a tax on our working people," Bush said.



NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO RENEGOTIATE NAFTA OR WALK AWAY FROM NAFTA."

President George W. Bush

Some of Bush's strongest words came in defending NAFTA, which took effect in 1994.

The three-way trade pact has been criticized by both Democratic Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama, who have promised to try to renegotiate the agreement if elected president.

Bush's comments came on the day of the critical Pennsylvania primary, in which trade — and the loss of manufacturing jobs in the United States — has been a top issue.

"Now is not the time to renegotiate NAFTA or walk away from NAFTA," Bush said. "Now is the time to make it work better for all our people, and now is the time to reduce trade barriers worldwide."

Bush was asked if he thought he was losing the free-trade debate in the court of public opinion because of the strong opposition to NAFTA from the two Democratic rivals.

"My biggest concern on trade is with Colombia. NAFTA exists," Bush said, saying the pact was mutually beneficial to the United States as well both of its North American neighbors.

Both Calderon and Harper echoed Bush's comments on standing by the agree-

ment and not reopening it.

"We agreed that this is not the time to even think about amending it or canceling it. This is the time to strengthen and reinvigorate it," the Mexican president said.

"Jobs have grown in all three" countries as a result of NAFTA, Calderon said. "The benefits are visible."

Calderon said he was respectful of the domestic politics of the United States and that "it is not my role" to talk to any of the presidential candidates about NAFTA. But he made clear that he wants Clinton and Obama to keep their hands off NAFTA.

"To talk about taking a step backwards in terms of free trade, in the case of Mexico, would effectively provoke considerable damage on the economy," Calderon said. Further, he said, that "It would be a sudden loss of economic opportunities that would even lead to even greater migratory pressure against the United States."

Harper said NAFTA was "important for jobs and posterity on both sides of the border."

He said it would be a mistake to renegotiate the agreement, but that Canada would be willing to take part in revisiting the agreement if the other partners insisted.

The Canadian president also said the

pact and other economic agreements help to keep energy flowing smoothly. "Canada is the biggest and most stable supplier of energy in the world," he said.

On the pending Colombian trade pact, Bush singled out Pelosi, saying if she doesn't schedule a vote on Colombia, she will have killed it.

"She's going to have to explain why the voices of false populism have been strengthened," Bush said, referring to leftist Latin American leaders like Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez.

Layoffs in U.S. manufacturing and the current economic slowdown have made NAFTA and other free-trade deals the subject of intense criticism in the Democratic-led Congress.

Both Obama and Clinton want to renegotiate it to add labor and environmental protections.

"I'm concerned about protectionism in America. It is not in our interest to become a protectionist nation," Bush said.

Earlier, Bush shared green onion omelets, grits and sides of Canadian bacon with the neighboring leaders on the last day of a summit showing solidarity on cross-border trade.

They ate the family style breakfast at Dooky Chase's Restaurant which was flooded by four feet of water during Hurricane Katrina. The establishment, a gathering place for black musicians and politicians in the 1960s, is owned by Leah Chase, known as the "Queen of Creole Cuisine."

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Market Matters

Brian Hepp

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Playing the field to find an advisor

MOST PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO GIVE YOU their two cents on what to do with your money.

Advice is easy to find, but good advice may be harder to come by.

As an investor, it's easy to focus on the performance of your investments. But to achieve your investment goals, it's important to find a financial advisor who understands your lifestyle, goals, financial needs, risk level and personality.

Here are a few points to keep in mind when selecting a financial advisor:

DOES YOUR FINANCIAL ADVISOR LISTEN?

It's important that your financial advisor really listen to you and asks a lot of questions. She should ask you to describe your investment goals and then help you develop different investment strategies according to those goals.

For example, whether you are starting a retirement fund or saving for a college education, there are different investment options that may work better in each situation.

DOES YOUR ADVISOR ANSWER QUESTIONS?

It's vital to ensure that all your questions are answered by your financial advisor. Make sure her explanations are made in non-technical terms. Feel free to ask her to translate any terminology that you aren't quite sure about.

DOES YOUR FINANCIAL ADVISOR KEEP YOU UPDATED ON YOUR VARIOUS ACCOUNTS?

You should receive regular statements showing you the activity in your accounts and information about new investments appropriate to your financial situation.

In addition, your financial advisor should sit down with you regularly and review your financial situation.

IS YOUR FINANCIAL ADVISOR LOOKING OUT FOR NEW INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

You need a financial advisor who will be flexible and have fresh ideas on how to adapt your portfolio to your changing needs. You want to be able to rely on her to call you with a new idea that could have the potential of improving your rate of return from your investments while matching your tolerance for risk and the time period in which you have to invest.

DO YOU GET ALONG WITH YOUR ADVISOR?

Do you and your financial advisor feel comfortable around each other? Do your personalities blend well or do they clash? These are important questions to answer. It's great to have an advisor who you can chat with and who feels like a trusted friend while still being able to be objective when it comes to serving your financial needs.

You also want to make sure that your financial advisor understands your personality and the types of risks you are willing — and not willing — to take with your investments. A relationship based on open communication is vital to the success of your investment portfolio.

CAN YOU TRUST YOUR ADVISOR?

Trust is hard to define. But one of the best ways to help ensure that your financial advisor has your best interests at heart is to make sure she listens to you, asks and answers questions and communicates effectively and often.

Remember, when it comes to your money it's important to work with someone you trust, and you can always switch advisors if you don't feel you have a good match.

BRIAN HEPP is a financial consultant for A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. He can be reached at (310) 453-0077 or at brian.hepp@agedwards.com.

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NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR 16TH STREET SURGERY AND ONCOLOGY CENTER PROJECT, 1217-1231 SIXTEENTH STREET, SANTA MONICA

DATE: April 23, 2008

TO: State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

LEAD AGENCY: City of Santa Monica
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90407
Contact: Laura Beck, Associate Planner
Phone: (310) 458-8341



The City of Santa Monica intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 16th Street Surgery and Oncology Center Project. In accordance with Section 15082 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the City of Santa Monica has prepared this Notice of Preparation to provide Responsible Agencies and other interested parties with information describing the proposal and its potential environmental effects. Environmental factors which would be potentially affected by the project are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Aesthetics (Shadows) | ☐ Noise |
| ☐ Transportation/Traffic | ☐ Construction Effects |
| ☐ Air Quality | ☐ Neighborhood Effects |
| ☐ Utilities/Service Systems | ☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance |

PROJECT APPLICANT: Arnon Development Group

PROJECT LOCATION: 1217 – 1231 Sixteenth Street, Santa Monica

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project is located on a 30,000 square foot site at 1217 - 1231 Sixteenth Street, between Arizona Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard. The site consists of four lots; existing uses include a vacant assisted living facility, vacant multi-family residences, and a surface parking lot currently in use as a construction staging area. The proposed project consists of demolition of all existing structures on the site and construction of a new three-story (45 feet in height) 45,000 square foot outpatient surgery and oncology center, built over a three level subterranean garage with 251 parking spaces, including 68 tandem stalls. Parking in excess of the 180 spaces required by the Zoning Code will be made available to other medical uses in the immediate vicinity at rates commensurate with market rates in the area.

REVIEW PERIOD: As specified by the State CEQA Guidelines, the Notice of Preparation will be circulated for a 30-day review period. The City of Santa Monica welcomes agency and public input during this period regarding the scope and content of environmental information related to your agency's responsibility that must be included in the Draft EIR. **Comments may be submitted, in writing, by 5:00 p.m. on May 23, 2008** and addressed to:

City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Room 212
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Fax: (310) 458-3380
E-mail: laura.beck@smgov.net

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia de la preparación de un reporte sobre los posibles efectos ambientales referente a la construcción propuesta de un centro medico de cirugía y oncológica, lo cual puede ser de interés a usted. Para más información, llame a Carmen Gutierrez, al número (310) 458-8341.

REAL ESTATE

Existing home sales decline

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Sales of existing homes fell in March as a severe slump in housing showed no signs of abating. The median price of a home fell compared with the price a year ago.

The National Association of Realtors said sales of existing single-family homes and condominiums dropped by 2 percent in March to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.93 million units.

The median price of a home sold last month was \$200,700, a decline of 7.7 percent from the median price a year ago. That was the second-biggest year-over-year price decline following a record 8.4 percent drop in February.

The records go back to 1999.

It marked the seventh consecutive year-over-year drop in prices, although the March sales price was up slightly from a

February median price of \$195,600. Economists prefer to compare the prices on a year-over-year basis because, unlike sales, the monthly prices are not adjusted for normal seasonal variations.

The March sales decline, which was in line with expectations, followed a 2.9 percent increase in sales in February. The February rise, which followed six straight monthly declines, had raised hopes that the steep housing correction could be hitting bottom.

However, many private analysts said they do not expect a rebound for a number of months, given the problems weighing on housing from a severe glut of unsold homes to tighter credit standards for prospective buyers and a rising tide of mortgage foreclosures.

Sales were down 19.3 percent compared with a year ago, reflecting the depth of the housing bust, which is coming after sales set records for five consecutive years.

Panel reports link between smog and premature death

BY H. JOSEF HEBERT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Short-term exposure to smog, or ozone, is clearly linked to premature deaths that should be taken into account when measuring the health benefits of reducing air pollution, a National Academy of Sciences report concluded Tuesday.

The findings contradict arguments made by some White House officials that the connection between smog and premature death has not been shown sufficiently, and that the number of saved lives should not be calculated in determining clean air benefits.

The report by a panel of the Academy's National Research Council says government agencies "should give little or no weight" to such arguments.

"The committee has concluded from its review of health-based evidence that short-term exposure to ambient ozone is likely to contribute to premature deaths," the 13-member panel said.

It added that "studies have yielded strong evidence that short-term exposure to ozone can exacerbate lung conditions, causing illness and hospitalization and can potentially lead to death."

The White House Office of Management and Budget, which in its review of air quality regulations has raised questions about the certainty of the pollution and mortality link, did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment.

"The report is a rebuke of the Bush administration which has consistently tried to downplay the connection between smog and premature death," said Frank O'Donnell, president of Clean Air Watch, a Washington-based advocacy organization.

Vickie Patton, deputy general counsel for the Environmental Defense Fund, said the Academy's findings "refutes the White House skepticism and denial" of a proven link between acute ozone exposure and premature deaths. Such arguments have been

used to diminish the health benefits of reducing air pollution, she said.

The Academy panel examined short-term exposure — up to 24 hours — to high levels of ozone, but said more studies also were needed on long-term chronic exposure where the risk of premature death "may be larger than those observed in acute effects studies alone."

Ground-level ozone is formed from nitrogen oxide and organic compounds created by burning fossil fuels and is demonstrated often by the yellow haze or smog that lingers in the air. Ozone exposure is a leading cause of respiratory illnesses and especially affects the elderly, those with respiratory problems and children.

While premature death from ozone exposure is greater among individuals with lung and heart disease, the report said such deaths are not restricted to people who are at a high risk of death within a few days.

The scientists said they could not determine, based on a review of health studies, whether there is a threshold below which no fatalities can be assured from ozone exposure. If there is such a point, it is below the ozone levels allowed for public health.

Environmentalists and health advocates have argued that a string of health studies and surveys show that exposure to smoggy air not only aggravates respiratory problems, but causes thousands of deaths a year.

But in a number of instances the EPA and the White House Office of Management and Budget, which reviews regulations, have been at odds over the certainty of a link between smog levels and deaths.

Patton said the OMB in a number of air pollution regulations has sought to minimize the relationship of pollution and premature deaths, resulting in a lower calculation of health benefits from pollution reductions.

"This has been used by industry to try to attack health standards by minimizing the societal benefits," said Patton.

Scientists study Arctic haze for clues to rapid melting

BY DAN JOLING
Associated Press Writer

FAIRBANKS, Alaska Visitors to Alaska often marvel at the crisp, clear air. But the truth is, the skies above the Arctic Circle work like a giant lint trap during late winter and early spring, catching all sorts of pollutants swirling around the globe.

In recent weeks, scientists have been going up in government research planes and taking samples of the Arctic haze in hopes of solving a mystery: Are the floating particles accelerating the unprecedented warming going on in the far north?

While carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that trap the Earth's heat are believed to be the chief cause of global warming, scientists suspect that airborne particles known as aerosols are also contributing to the Arctic meltdown.

To prove their suspicions, they are analyzing the haze, using mass spectroscopy and other technology to identify what is in it, where it came from and how it interacts with the clouds, the sunlight and the snow cover.

Their air samples have been found to contain dust from Asian deserts, salts that swell up moisture, particles from incomplete burning of organic material from forest and cooking fires, and all manner of nasties emitted by automobile tailpipes, factory smokestacks and power plants.

Collectively, they are a United Nations of pollution. Through chemical analysis, the particles can be traced to their sources throughout Asia, Europe and North America.

"The Arctic is a melting pot for mid-latitude pollution," said Daniel Jacob, a Harvard scientist taking part in the research.

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f: (310) 393-1279
<http://www.smgov.net/farmers%5Fmarket/pdf/Musician%20RFQ%202008.pdf>

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Respondents must submit one (1) original and four (4) complete copies of the application by mail or by hand to:
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City of Santa Monica, Farmers' Market Division
200 Santa Monica Pier, Ste F
Santa Monica, CA 90401
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Handout of new U.S. Gov't Presidential Dollar coins surge as public snaps them up for free

Valuable Presidential Golden Dollar coins being given away free with orders for Framed Money Gallery, but frame shop workers under strain of Public rush, impose household limit of 2



■ SNEAK PEAK: This is the incredible Framed Presidential Money Gallery displaying the Presidential Golden Dollar coins that are being given away free for everyone who beats the order deadline for the Framed Money Gallery. Zachary Brown, age 6, was so excited just to touch them then jumped for joy when his grandmother ordered him the Framed Money Gallery and he was handed the entire first year of coins free. The unveiling of the Framed Presidential Money Gallery stole the show from presidential performers Tim Watters and Brent Mendenhall who were helping to hand out the free coins. Readers of today's newspaper can still call the direct claim line at 1-800-924-7912 for the next 72 hours to be among the first to also get them free.

Free money: national handout clogging phone lines as people everywhere scramble to beat 72 hour deadline

By Adam K. Oyler
UNIVERSAL MEDIA SYNDICATE

Have you heard about the free money giveaway that's sweeping the nation? Well, listen up because here it is.

Everyone who gets in on this will be among the first to get the U.S. Government's dazzling new Presidential Golden Dollar coins.

But the government is not the one to thank. The World Reserve has just announced it is handing out the entire year of the valuable coins free.

These extraordinary coins are being given away free to everyone who beats the deadline to cover shipping and the discounted \$28 framing fee for the newly unveiled Presidential Framed

Money Gallery.

So, what's the catch?

There is none. Just be absolutely sure to call in your claim before the 72 hour deadline if you want to get the entire four coin year set of Presidential coins free.

This is all happening because the World Reserve is issuing the Presidential Framed Money Gallery to the general public to display all forty of the U.S. Government's first ever Presidential Dollar coins. Rations of these never-circulated coins are uncertain because each dollar coin is only minted for just 93 days according to the release schedule of the U. S. Government.

"These new Presidential coins are so stunning because they're actually

engraved with edge lettering bearing the date, Mint mark, IN GOD WE TRUST and E PLURIBUS UNUM, which results in the coin's rare tactile feel," said Director Aaron L. Stryker from the World Reserve Monetary Exchange.

"Once they're gone, they're gone and by law once the U.S. Government shuts off, they will never be minted again. That's why the World's premier private monetary exchange is widely advertising its plans to issue the Presidential Framed Money Gallery along with the free coins. We want to make absolutely sure readers of this newspaper know that there are only 72 hours left on this announcement to get the entire year of Presidential

Dollar coins free," Stryker said.

Those who get in on this free giveaway by claiming the Framed Money Gallery will have a magnificent display to show off the entire collection of all 40 of the valuable U.S. Presidential coins. That's why it's so important to beat the 72 hour deadline right now.

"At the rate we are giving these away we will be forced to hand out millions of dollars of the valuable new Presidential Dollars free to the general public," Stryker said.

Collectors are trying to get all they can because these are no ordinary coins. These are real U.S. Government first issues in never-circulated condition. Smart collectors know how valuable first issue coins can

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become.

And, since everyone is trying to get them, one thing is for sure, those lucky enough to get in on this now are certain to get an entire year of Presidential Dollar coins free.

What does all this mean for you?

Well, coin values always fluctuate. But, just think if you would have saved just one uncirculated Eisenhower Dollar from as recently as 1973. Believe it or not, it's now worth 1200% more today. So, getting four Presidential Dollar coins free with the Presidential Framed Money Gallery for the twenty-eight dollar discounted framing fee is a real steal.

"To be among the first to get these never-circulated Presidential Golden Dollar coins you must make sure you get through to the Direct Claim Hotlines. If lines are busy please be patient," Stryker said.

But whatever you do keep trying, because all claims will be honored before the 72 hour deadline expires.■

On the worldwide web: www.wrme.net

HOW TO GET ALL THE COINS FREE

The Toll Free Direct Hotlines are now open. All those who beat the 72 hour order deadline will get the entire four coin year set of the Presidential Golden Dollar coins free just by covering shipping and the discounted framing fee for the Presidential Framed Money Gallery. To ensure the framers can keep up with the rush of orders, they have imposed a strict limit of 2 per household.

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The entire year of free coins will be delivered in never-circulated condition and protected with professional display capsules that are also being issued free for viewing the special edge engraving. The entire first year of Presidential Golden Dollar coins will be delivered with the Framed Money Gallery in never-circulated condition. Those who miss the deadline will be turned away and required to wait for future announcements authorized by the World Reserve in this and other publications. THE WORLD RESERVE MONETARY EXCHANGE IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY. THE INCREASE IN COLLECTIBLE VALUE OF CERTAIN PRIOR ISSUES OF THE U.S. COINS AND CURRENCY DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT CURRENT ISSUES WILL ALSO INCREASE IN VALUE. ALL TRANSACTIONS LESS SHIPPING ARE BACKED BY THE WORLD RESERVE MONETARY EXCHANGE WITH A 90 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE OF THE PURCHASE PRICE UP TO \$10,000.00.

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■ **MILLIONS IN FREE MONEY:** The giveaway of these Presidential Golden Dollar coins has collectors scrambling to get them because of the never-before-seen special edge engraving. Now that everyone else is catching on, the direct claim lines to get them free are being flooded with calls



■ **VALUABLE COLLECTION:** Everyone who gets the free Presidential Dollar coins along with the Presidential Framed Money Gallery will have a very valuable collection of U.S. Government coins that you would expect to only see hanging under guard in our nation's capital.



■ **EVERYONE LOVES THE GIFT OF MONEY:** The valuable coins are only being released from the U.S. Government for 93 days each, then only four times a year, for the next nine years. So imagine the look on everyone's face when they receive the Framed Money Gallery with the entire first year of Presidential Dollars coins free.



■ **URNS ANY ROOM INTO A SHOWPLACE:** The Framed Money Gallery is so impressive, local frame shops can charge \$231 but a special discounted framing fee is being given so the Framed Money Gallery is a real steal at just \$28 for those who beat the deadline and get the free coins.



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May 23	JOURNEY UNAUTHORIZED
May 30	WHEN IN ROME/FLOCK OF SEAGULLS
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Coalition collects signatures to save parks

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

WILL ROGERS Eighty-seven hundred down, 1,300 more to go.

That is the number of signatures that outdoor enthusiasts from the Westside hope to collect in the next eight days, concluding a nearly two-month long petition drive aimed at lobbying state officials to preserve three local parks threatened with closure.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's budget proposal for fiscal 2008-09 includes a bid to close 48 state parks and reduce lifeguard staffing at 16 state beaches, a move that could save more than \$9 million to help close a \$16 billion deficit next year.

Among the parks that would be affected are Will Rogers State Historic Park, Topanga State Park and Los Encinos State Historic Park, all three of which are frequented by Westsiders.

The Campaign to Save Topanga State Park, an organization of nature lovers fighting to save the three parks, has so far gathered nearly 8,700 signatures since the middle of March and hopes to reach 10,000 by May 1, after which point the petitions will be sent directly to lawmakers in Sacramento.

"We are astounded by how little people know about the enormity of this issue," Lynne Haigh, an organizer with the campaign, said on Tuesday. "This is an educational process as well."

Located in the Santa Monica Mountains, Topanga State Park is nearly 13,000 acres and encompasses the vast majority of the area bounded by the I-405 Freeway, the Santa Monica city border, Pacific Coast Highway and Highway 27. The park drew 470,000 visitors last year and is approximately 2.5 times the size of the city of Santa Monica.

Will Rogers State Historic Park is about 186 acres and Los Encinos State Historic Park, which is located off Ventura Boulevard, is most well known for its nine-room adobe structure.

"Topanga is the largest wild park land in an urban area in city limits of a major city at least in North America and maybe anywhere in the world," Haigh, a docent with the Topanga State Park, said.

The organization contends that the minimal savings does not justify the impact of losing 48 parks and lifeguards at 16 state beaches, pointing to the fact that the line item amounts to about 1/13th of 1 percent of the state budget.

"It's extremely short-sighted," Haigh said.

If closed, the parks would be placed in caretaker status and all formal entries would be gated off to the public. But many of these parks have multiple unofficial entry points, which would increase the risk of vandalism and wildfires in a worst case scenario, Haigh said.

Trails, many of which are maintained by hikers, would also be overgrown, she added.

Haigh, a licensed clinician by trade, has

been a resident of Topanga for 35 years and is a volunteer docent, providing guided tours of the park. She has hiked the Backbone Trail in Topanga State Park, which is roughly 70 miles, about five times.

"I've been a naturalist and outdoor person a good part of my adult life," Haigh said.

The campaign is comprised of a collection of outdoorsmen and women just like Haigh. Among the volunteers is Stephanie Waddick, a Santa Monica resident who has been a docent with Topanga State Park since January 2006.

Waddick, who has helped collect signatures for the petition, makes it a point to go hiking in the Santa Monica Mountains during her days off from work, an escape from the chaos of city life.

"When you go to Topanga, everything sort of falls off," she said. "As soon as I can't hear the sound of traffic, it's sort of like a weight has dropped off and it's so beautiful."

The Campaign to Save Topanga State Park is among a handful of grassroots efforts popping up throughout the state in response to the governor's controversial budget proposal. Among the organizations, and perhaps one of the biggest, is a campaign to save the Armstrong Redwoods in Northern California.

"The governor's proposal has galvanized local communities to work within their business communities, civic groups and educational groups to stand up for what could be lost under this proposal," Traci Verardo-

Torres, the director of legislation and policy for the California State Park Foundation, said on Tuesday. "What this proposal has done is awoken people to the fact that the state park system itself is so underfunded."

The California State Park Foundation itself launched its own campaign, called Save Our State Parks. The group is researching a number of alternatives to present to the governor.

"We're looking at more solutions that aren't just about returning \$13 million to the state park, but how to tackle the overall issue of sustainability because we don't want to be in the situation (again)," she said.

The possibility does remain that the parks could be preserved as legislators work on the budget in Sacramento.

Assemblywoman Julia Brownley, D-Santa Monica, whose district includes Will Rogers, Los Encinos and Topanga state parks, serves on the budget Subcommittee for Environmental Resources and has expressed support for saving the parks.

Lisa Page, a spokeswoman with the governor's office, said on Tuesday that the governor has put forth his proposal and has asked legislators to do the same, adding that he is open to all options.

"The governor doesn't want to make these cuts," Page said. "The governor actually has put forth a long-term solution so we wouldn't be in this situation again."

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Animal rights activists expected to challenge court ruling

FROM UCLA PAGE 1

February.

The injunction prohibits three groups and five individuals from coming within 50 feet of the residences of UCLA personnel involved in animal research during any demonstration; at night, this restriction increases to 150 feet. It also prohibits the posting of personal information about UCLA personnel on Web sites maintained by the groups and individuals.

The order was expanded to include those acting in concert with the already named individuals and groups. Those failing to comply with the injunction are subject to contempt of court charges.

The trial on a permanent injunction is scheduled to begin Feb. 17, 2009.

"This preliminary injunction is an important step in UCLA's ongoing efforts to protect researchers from extremists who

have engaged in unlawful tactics to advance their beliefs, and we intend to vigorously enforce it while pursuing a permanent injunction," UCLA Chancellor Gene Block said.

"UCLA holds free speech sacrosanct, but the use of Molotov cocktails, vandalism and threats is not protected speech," Block said. "We remain committed to the humane use of animals in research that is heavily regulated and critical to the development of lifesaving treatments for a wide variety of ailments."

On three occasions since June 2006, Molotov cocktail-type fire bombs have been left near the homes of UCLA faculty who conduct or oversee research involving animals, UCLA officials said.

In addition, their homes have been vandalized and they have received threatening phone calls, e-mails and, on at least one occasion, a package rigged with razor blades. Extremists have appeared at residences in

the middle of the night, worn ski masks to conceal their identity and used megaphones to shout threats, obscenities and epithets, UCLA officials said.

Those named in the university's complaint are groups known as the UCLA Primate Freedom Project, the Animal Liberation Front and the Animal Liberation Brigade and five individuals believed to affiliate with these groups: Linda Faith Greene, Hillary Roney, Kevin Olliff, Ramin Saber and Tim Rusmisl.

Christine Garcia, an attorney representing the activists, said her clients were disappointed by the ruling and believe it is an attack on free speech. They plan to challenge the injunction and have filed an anti-SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) motion that should be heard before the courts on May 29.

"This is disappointing because I believe free speech was just brushed aside in this

case," Garcia said. "I don't think the plaintiffs were able to provide any connection with any evidence ... They spoke in very vague terms. At no point did they speak to anything specific that any individual did."

Court papers filed by UCLA allege that these groups and individuals have promoted and facilitated unlawful activities directed against UCLA faculty and administrators. On March 9, two individuals named in the restraining order were arrested by UCLA police on suspicion of violating the requirement that they stay at least 50 feet away from a residence during a demonstration.

The Santa Monica City Council recently adopted an ordinance requiring protestors to adhere to a 50-foot buffer zone around targeted residential properties earlier this year. There have been several residential protests in Santa Monica the past several years.

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City officials propose removing carob trees

FROM TREES PAGE 1

added. Many of the trees are in imminent risk of failure, he said.

A community meeting in which residents can discuss various replacement trees is scheduled for May.

"A high risk tree is not acceptable to this city," Warriner said.

Warriner added that just last Thursday, a limb from a carob tree fell on top of a car on 12th Street and an entire carob tree, also on 12th Street, uprooted and fell over. There were no reported injuries in either tree incidents.

The carob trees are considered to be susceptible to decay fungi and have a tendency to fail, according to Warriner. The trees are the sixth most common in the city. Many of the trees, while they might appear healthy on the inside, suffer from internal decay.

Warriner said the tree removal is about being proactive rather than reactive, a way to keep City Hall out of legal trouble. City Hall lost out on a million dollar claim a few years ago after a limb from a eucalyptus tree fell on top of a car. There have been several similar claims filed against City Hall.

The tree removal aspect of the project is estimated to cost \$230,000 and the replacement trees are expected to cost about \$115,000. The project includes a \$50,000 contract for corrective pruning to 330 healthy Carob trees.

About 98 trees with the highest risk factor

will be removed in the next 30 days, pending City Council approval. The second phase of the project, which includes the removal of 202 trees, will begin in the summer.

Shannon Daley, who has lived in the neighborhood for seven years, called the project a farce and said there hasn't been enough documentation presented to the public that demonstrates the condition of the trees.

A member of the North of Montana Avenue Association, Daley said that tree canopy is a major concern of residents in the neighborhood.

"This will destroy the character of the neighborhood," Daley said.

Brian Varnum, who also lives in the neighborhood, was one of the most vocal opponents to the project during the press briefing. He hinted toward a legal battle against City Hall if it proceeds with the project.

"We live here and we love our neighborhood," he said.

Elaine Polachek, the director of the Community Maintenance Department, said that Santa Monica is not alone in experiencing problems with carob trees.

"There are inherent risks when you have internal decay," Polachek said.

Warriner added that many of the cities do not even include the public in tree removal and replacement projects, pointing to the cities of Glendale and Bellflower.

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TAGGED: Carob tree no. 325 — as identified by its tag — is among the 300 of its kind slated for removal in the next few months, part of a \$395,000 tree removal and replacement project.

Helping homeless a difficult task

FROM HOMELESS PAGE 3

providers have continued to work with the other 100 people identified in the survey. Of those four of them are permanently housed, two are in temporary shelters and one in jail.

"The hardest part has been getting people to make the transition and, frankly, finding housing units to rent," Rowe said. "We have the funding to pay pretty much market rate for everybody, but it is difficult in this housing market to find available units for folks. That is our biggest challenge, aside from the fact that we are dealing with a population that is complex, with a lot of issues to work out."

Officials said the project is intended to help more than just those initially identified. It is seen as a way to encourage other homeless people in the area to get help. That, proponents say, will save millions of dollars in taxpayer money that would otherwise go to hospitalization and emergency treatment.

The challenges so far have included gaining the trust of the homeless people they identified, getting them documentation such as identification cards, and signing them up for services.

That's because 91 one of the 110 people identified in the survey as being vulnerable are suffering from some mental illness and are abusing alcohol or drugs, Rowe said. Most are eligible for public assistance, such as Social Security Insurance, but only 37 are taking advantage of it.

Further numbers crunching reveled that of the 110, 33 are veterans who could be receiving treatment and counseling at the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration campus. City officials and service providers met with VA officials last Friday to discuss ways to better coordinate their efforts.

THOUSANDS OF HOMELESS SERVED BY SHELTERS

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and its partner agencies announced Tuesday that this year's Winter Shelter Program provided emergency shelter and services to 8,617 homeless individuals and 359 homeless families.

Over the course of the season, the program provided over 141,000 shelter nights and served over 282,000 meals to those in need.

The Winter Shelter Program works to protect the health and safety of homeless individuals by increasing the number of shelter beds during the year's coldest and wettest months. This winter, the program made available 1,700 beds in Los Angeles County, supplementing the 4,440 beds offered by service providers on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

Homeless from Santa Monica were transported to shelters in Culver City and West Los Angeles.

"The Winter Shelter Program is a vital service for thousands of people in Los Angeles County," said L.A. County Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke.

DAILY PRESS

One issue that was discussed was changing the requirements to receive services. Rowe said a major barrier for some veterans is the abstinence requirement. Those who wish to access services from the VA must be alcohol and drug free.

Representatives from the VA could not be reached for comment.

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Supporters of gay marriage ban ready to submit petitions

BY LISA LEFF

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO The sponsors of a proposed constitutional amendment to outlaw same-sex marriage in California said they have gathered enough signatures to qualify the measure for the November ballot.

A coalition of religious groups called Protect Marriage collected more than 1.1 million signatures in support of the amendment, said Brian Brown, executive director of the California office of the National Organization for Marriage.

The initiative needs 694,354 signatures, or 8 percent of the votes cast in the last governor's race, to make it onto the ballot.

"We have gone against tremendous odds to do this, and now the voters in California will have the chance to protect marriage," Brown said.

Supporters of the Limit on Marriage initiative plan to deliver their signed petitions to county registrars this week, ahead of the April 28 submission deadline set by the California Secretary of State's Office. The signatures must be verified before the amendment can be approved for the election.

Although gay men and lesbians cannot legally wed in California, opponents of same-sex unions want the ban written into the state Constitution.

In that way, neither the Legislature nor the California Supreme Court can legalize gay marriage without approval from voters.

They were especially anxious to put the question before voters this fall because the state Supreme Court is scheduled to rule by early June on a series of lawsuits seeking to toss out California's existing one man-one woman marriage laws.

If passed by a majority of voters, the constitutional amendment would overturn a court ruling in favor of gay marriage advocates. They hope California will become the second state after Massachusetts to legalize same-sex marriage.

"We shouldn't have to be guessing. This shouldn't be something left to the court either now or in the future," Brown said. "The idea that California voters should be the ones to decide this is an idea that resonates with people."

If it qualifies for the ballot, the measure promises to be the center of a hard-fought campaign.

Protect Marriage raised more than \$1.5 million in contributions to support its petition drive, money that allowed the group to hire paid signature collectors to supplement the volunteers it recruited from churches, Brown said.

A coalition of gay rights groups called Equality for All launched an aggressive counter-campaign to persuade people not to sign the qualifying petitions.

Its "Decline to Sign" volunteers approached patrons outside the shopping centers where the signature gatherers were working and asked them instead to sign pledges supporting same-sex marriage. Representatives from the two sides have

accused each other of trying to squelch free speech. There were reports of heated debates and even fisticuffs in some locations.

Dan Hawes, an organizer with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force who has spent two months on the effort to keep the initiative from qualifying, said he had never seen such a coordinated attempt to prevent a marriage amendment from making it to the ballot.

“WHEN GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER PUBLICLY OPPOSED THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, HE SAID THE PEOPLE OF CALIFORNIA ARE MUCH FUTHER ALONG ON THIS ISSUE, AND THE GOVERNOR IS RIGHT. THE VOTERS HAVE MOVED ON.”

Seth Kilbourn,
Political Director of Equality California

"There is a real sense of hope and possibility here because of the court ruling that is coming down in June," he said. "The fact that could be taken away in five months is really painful for people who want to marry."

Earlier this month, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger upset the amendment's backers when he told a gathering of gay Republicans he thought the measure was unnecessary and that he would actively oppose it. He has twice vetoed bills seeking to make gay marriage legal.

"When Governor Schwarzenegger publicly opposed this constitutional amendment, he said the people of California are much futher along on this issue, and the governor is right. The voters have moved on," said Seth Kilbourn, political director of Equality California, the state's largest gay-rights lobbying group.

Kilbourn said the amount of money the initiative's sponsors spent and their use of paid petition circulators showed that California voters may be reluctant to write a same-sex marriage ban into the state Constitution.

"We are confident we will be able to defeat this measure, when and if it appears on the ballot," he said.

The National Organization for Marriage, headquartered in New Jersey, and the Colorado-based Focus on the Family have contributed heavily to the Protect Marriage campaign. It also has received significant backing from the Knights of Columbus.



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State Senate agrees to suspend teachers for sexual misconduct

BY JULIET WILLIAMS

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO The state Senate on Monday unanimously approved legislation to automatically suspend teachers' credentials if they have had their license revoked in another state for sexual misconduct.

The bill by Sen. Jack Scott, D-Pasadena, is intended to close a loophole in California's teacher licensing system. It allows those teachers to remain in the classroom while the California Teacher Credentialing Commission investigates their case, a process that can sometimes take two or three years.

Scott said his bill was prompted by an Associated Press investigation last year into sexual misconduct by teachers. It passed 38-0 and now goes to the Assembly.

Also on Monday, a Senate committee passed a bill by Sen. Bob Margett, R-Arcadia, to close another loophole. That one allows teachers who are charged with sexual misconduct in California but enter no contest pleas to a lesser offense to retain their teaching credentials.

The bill could be heard in the full Senate as soon as Wednesday.

Margett's bill also was prompted by the AP's report last year. It found 2,570 educators nationwide whose teaching credentials had been revoked, denied, surrendered or sanctioned between 2001 and 2005 following allegations of sexual misconduct.

The AP's investigation in California confirmed at least 313 cases in which teachers had been punished for sexual misconduct. That included dozens involving pleas of no contest, a common legal agreement that allows a defendant to avoid a trial or civil liability but still leads to conviction.

The two bills aim to close certain gaps in California's teacher licensing system, including one that allows some teachers to

remain in the classroom after they have been accused of serious crimes.

Scott's legislation also would require the credentialing commission to automatically revoke teachers' licenses if a criminal conviction has limited their contact with children.

The state's largest teachers union, the California Teachers Association, initially opposed both bills but agreed not to fight them after the senators made changes.

Margett revised his bill to ensure that it only applies to sex crimes and drug offenses, not other offenses for which a teacher can lose their license, said Mary Armstrong, legal counsel for the state credentialing commission, which sponsored both bills.

"They're attacking very small areas of the law that have a very big impact," she said.

Margett's bill also would extend the statute of limitations for disclosing past teacher misconduct.

Under California law, the results of misconduct allegations are sealed by the Teacher Credentialing Commission after one year. That restricts school administrators' ability to confirm teaching candidates' full record if they learn later that the applicant lied about his or her background.

Margett's legislation would make the records available for five years instead of one year.

The Teacher Credentialing Commission sponsored the bills after the AP published the results of its seven-month investigation in November.

The Association of California School Administrators, the California School Boards Association and the Los Angeles Unified School District support the bills.

California law also prohibits the credentialing commission from revealing the reason that teachers who plead no contest lose their licenses. The Senate bills do not address that issue.

Veterans Affairs officials want dismissal of lawsuit

BY PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO A government lawyer on Monday urged a judge to dismiss a lawsuit charging the Department of Veterans Affairs with failing to properly treat thousands of veterans for mental illness, saying the VA runs a "world class" medical care system.

In opening statements of the trial, veterans' lawyers painted a diverging portrait of the system, one in which suicides and suicide attempts are rising at alarming rates because of VA incompetence and recalcitrance to address the issue. Two veterans groups have joined in a class-action lawsuit against a sprawling VA system that handled a record 838,000 claims last year. U.S. District Court Judge Samuel Conti is hearing the case in a two-week trial, without a jury.

Justice Department lawyer Richard Lepley argued Monday that the VA has responded to the unprecedented number of claims, which

officials say is being driven by aging Vietnam veterans and other warriors of the Cold War era, by launching a massive new hiring process.

Lepley told the judge that the VA has added more than 3,700 new "mental health physicians" to a mental health professional staff of 17,000 that treats increasing cases of post-traumatic stress disorder and other psychological problems in the last year.

"We are staffing up," Lepley said. "We can't do it overnight."

Government lawyers say the VA has been devoting more resources to mental health and making suicide prevention a top priority. They also argue that the courts don't have the authority to tell the department how it should operate.

Earlier in the morning, veterans lawyer Gordon Erspamer told the judge that the VA isn't doing enough, calling for the judge to order a massive overhaul of how the VA processes claims and perhaps hire a "special master" to preside over the agency.

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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES
Schwarzenegger buys 25 acres in Santa Barbara

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and wife Maria Shriver have purchased a 25-acre tract in an exclusive coastal enclave in Santa Barbara County for \$4.7 million.

The Santa Barbara area has long been a magnet for celebrities, from Oprah Winfrey to Michael Jackson. Schwarzenegger snapped up a parcel in the Rancho Monte Alegre project, a former ranch in Carpinteria dotted with waterfalls and lush canyons that is being transformed into privately owned estates ranging from 20 to 720 acres, the Los Angeles Times reported this month.

It wasn't clear when, or if, the governor plans to build on the site, although it allows a home up to 8,500 square feet.

He flirted with buying a home in Sacramento after he was elected in 2003, but is still commuting from his sprawling compound in Los Angeles' Brentwood area.

His office declined to comment.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BARSTOW
Demolition begins on bunker where teens died

The Air Force is demolishing an abandoned Mojave Desert military bunker where two teens were killed in January. The World War II-era bunker south of Highway 58 in the Helendale area had become a teen hangout and 18-year-old Christopher Thompson and 16-year-old Bodhisattva Sherzer-Potter were shot to death after a party.

Three teenagers charged with the murders are awaiting trial.

Tractors are demolishing the bunker in a \$500,000 project that should be completed by the end of next month.

AP

SANTA BARBARA
Man allegedly bilked 62 in adoption scam

An arrest warrant has been issued for the Santa Barbara leader of an alleged adoption scam that preyed on would-be parents promised children from Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Russia. Prosecutors say Orson Mozes bilked 62 people out of thousands of dollars, some paying up to \$11,000, for adoptions.

The 56-year-old defendant is charged with felony counts of taking money under false pretenses and grand theft by use of the Internet. Mozes and his wife Christen Brown, who wasn't named in the arrest warrant, operated the Adoption International Program.

Prosecutors say the Web site posted photographs of children available for adoption and would-be parents were told to send a \$7,000 to \$11,000 agency fee to "hold" a specific child and remove the child's picture from the site.

Mozes vanished last June. District attorney's office supervising investigator Laura Cleaves says the FBI and Interpol have been asked to help find Mozes.

AP

SAN DIEGO
Council approves firefighter raises

Firefighters get a 5 percent pay hike under a one-year contract given preliminary approval by the San Diego City Council.

San Diego firefighters haven't gotten a raise in four years.

The contract approved by a 7-1 vote on Monday still needs a second vote of the council. It calls for a 3 percent salary increase on July 1 and a 2 percent increase Sept. 1.

Last week, the City Council tentatively approved a one-year contract calling for a 6 percent pay hike for police officers.

AP

SANTA BARBARA
Man gets nearly a year in jail for attacking kitten

A Santa Barbara man will spend nearly a year in jail for banging the head of his roommate's kitten against a wall.

Nicholas David Thompson pleaded no-contest to a felony animal cruelty charge and he was sentenced Monday to 360 days in Santa Barbara County Jail.

Superior Court Judge Frank Ochoa also ordered the 21-year-old defendant to attend anger management classes for a year.

Thompson allegedly banged Gigi's head against a wall and tossed the kitten into the shower and turned on the water. The roommate and his friend managed to rescue the kitten, and Gigi recovered.

AP

VENTURA
Residents billed \$99 for brush clearance inspections

Some residents in brushy areas of Ventura are upset about a \$99 weed-abatement inspection fee assessed by the city fire department.

The city sent the bill for \$99 along with its annual clearance reminder to about 1,200 homeowners with property near brush-covered areas. Those who don't pay the \$99 by June 1 face fines and the possibility of property liens.

Fire Marshal Brian Clark says the fee is necessary to pay for hundreds of hours it takes to make the inspections. He says the department can no longer afford the inspections.

Resident Mary Lory complains city leaders didn't give any notice before forcing them to pay for a basic government service. A fire department employee told her it wasn't a tax or penalty. The homeowner calls it "extortion."

AP

SAN DIEGO
County may lease three firefighting aircraft

Three firefighting aircraft will cost \$3 million during the fast-approaching San Diego County wildfire season. Supervisors Ron Roberts and Bill Horn propose leasing two Canadian Bombardier SuperScooper air tankers and a spotter plane to direct helicopters and planes making water drops on wildfires.

Roberts says the leases, beginning in late summer, are "the most significant thing we could do to protect the people of San Diego County this year."

The Board of Supervisors is expected to vote on the proposal May 6.

The new planes would join two firefighting helicopters owned by the city and two owned by the county.

AP

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SURF REPORT



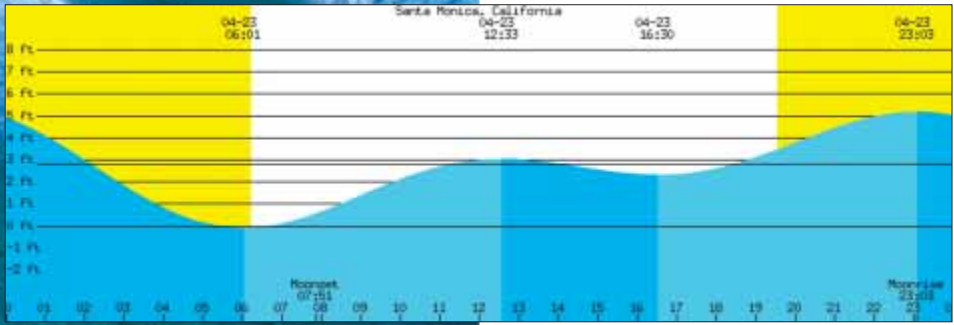
SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 55°

SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)
Today the SW should continue to back off to around knee high. Wind swell in the waist+ range is also expected. Winds on Wednesday could be a problem as a trough passes to the north tonight. No precipitation is expected from this passing low (besides some AM drizzle), but onshore winds should pick up quite early. Tide runs negative in the early morning hours.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
OFFSHORE FLOW DUE THIS WEEKEND.

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



Santa Monica, California

Time	04-23 06:01	04-23 12:33	04-23 16:30	04-23 23:03
11 Ft				
10 Ft				
9 Ft				
8 Ft				
7 Ft				
6 Ft				
5 Ft				
4 Ft				
3 Ft				
2 Ft				
1 Ft				
0 Ft				
-1 Ft				
-2 Ft				

Highwater: 07:51 Lowwater: 23:58

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 16, 2008

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

QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 0

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 35 / ns

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

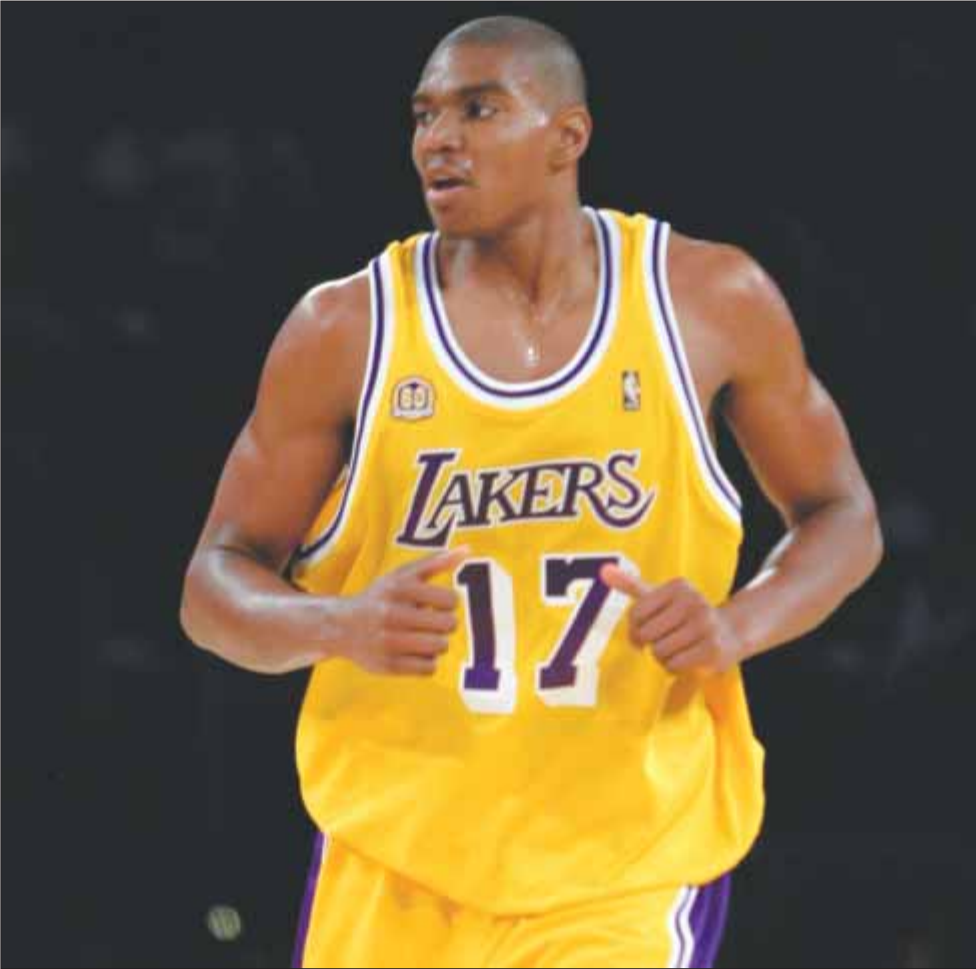
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

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.

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Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

HOLDING PATTERN: The Lakers' Andrew Bynum isn't expected to join the team any time soon.

NBA

Lakers not counting on Bynum to return

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson indicated Monday the team doesn't expect injured center Andrew Bynum to make a serious contribution any time soon.

When asked after practice if there was a risk of messing up team chemistry by playing 7-footers Bynum and Pau Gasol at the same time, Jackson replied: "I think without a doubt that Andrew would come off the bench and we would play him a little bit off the bench if there was any chance that he could come back and play again, but it's such a remote thing. We're not seriously thinking about it."

Gasol had 36 points, 16 rebounds and eight assists in the Lakers' 128-114 victory over Denver on Sunday in Game 1 of their first round playoff series.

The 20-year-old Bynum averaged 13.1 points, 10.2 rebounds and 2.1 blocked shots before injuring his left knee Jan. 13. He hasn't been cleared for practice, nor has forward Trevor Ariza, who hasn't played since breaking his right foot Jan. 20.

Ariza averaged 6.5 points and 3.5 rebounds in 24 games after being acquired from Orlando on Nov. 20.

Jackson said Ronny Turiaf was sent home Monday because of a sore throat, but he hoped the backup forward/center would be available Wednesday night in Game 2 of the Lakers' first-round playoff series against the Denver Nuggets.

And reserve center DJ Mbenga was hospitalized after a collision in a 2-on-2 game following practice. Team spokesman John Black said a CT scan showed Mbenga had bruised ribs on his right side and was listed as day-to-day.

In Denver, Nuggets coach George Karl

said Monday there was a "good chance" he would make a lineup change in Game 2.

"We talked about some lineup changes before yesterday," Karl said. "We decided to go with the guys that got us to the dance. There is a good chance there will be a change."

Reserve Linas Kleiza scored a career play-off high 23 points in nearly 38 minutes, and fellow backup J.R. Smith added 15 points in almost 23 minutes in Game 1.

Karl also said he was "really disappointed" with his team's defensive effort in the opener.

"I don't think we matched their playoff intensity and defensively, we got shocked by the high-low game of Gasol and (Lamar) Odom," Karl said. "We generally froze up in a big game, the first game of a series. I don't think we performed at a level we are capable of performing."

Nuggets forward Kenyon Martin said he believes his team can make the necessary adjustments.

"We didn't do a real good job helping one another," Martin said. "It wasn't just a particular matchup. Most teams that win championships play defense. We want to be one of those teams."

Teammate Marcus Camby agreed, saying: "Defense is a whole lot more important now. Defense is something we talked about all season long. We're not that bad a defensive team as it is being made out to be."

Camby, the NBA's defensive player of the year last season, had only four points, seven rebounds and two blocked shots along with a team-high four turnovers in Game 1. He sat out the entire fourth quarter.

"I'm not frustrated with it," Camby said. "The guys that were in there were playing hard. I have to be ready to go on Wednesday."

MOVIETIMES

AERO THEATRE 1328 Montana Avenue (323) 466-FILM Call for information	1:30, 2:40, 3:40, 4:50, 5:50, 7:00, 8:00, 9:15, 10:10 The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13) 1hr 53min 11:00 a.m., 11:45 a.m., 1:40, 2:25, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 8:00, 10:00, 10:45 Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) 1hr 51min 11:30 a.m., 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15 Prom Night (PG-13) 1hr 28min 1:45, 4:10, 7:05, 9:20	1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599 Expelled: No Intelligence Allowed (PG) 1hr 30min 12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:50, 12:10am Superhero Movie (PG-13) 1hr 25min 11:40 a.m., 4:40, 10:10 Leatherheads (PG-13) 1hr 54min 11:50 a.m., 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 Shine a Light (PG-13) 2hrs 02min 1:50, 7:20 The Take (NR) 1hr 36min 12:40, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:20 Where in the World Is Osama Bin Laden? (PG-13) 1hr 33min 12:20, 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 9:40, 11:50
AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4 1441 Third St. (310) 458-1506 The Bank Job (R) 1hr 50min 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:00 Street Kings (R) 1hr 47min 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45 Pathology (R) 1hr 33min 2:25, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15 Under the Same Moon (PG-13) 1hr 49min 1:45, 4:15, 6:50, 9:25	LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741 Bra Boys (R) 1hr 30min 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 8:00, 10:15 Remember the Daze (R) 1hr 41min 12:25, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15 The Counterfeiters (NR) 1hr 38min 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30 Smart People (R) 1hr 33min 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10 Young@Heart (PG) 1hr 47min 1:20, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40	
AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262 21 (PG-13) 2hrs 03min 11:05 a.m., 1:00, 1:50, 4:00, 4:50, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:40 Nim's Island (PG) 1hr 35min 11:15 a.m., 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 The Ruins (R) 1hr 31min 3:00, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00 Prom Night (PG-13) 1hr 38min	MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE	

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

Take a ride, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ To learn more, you can either keep digging or detach and see what you notice when you are not triggered. Either approach will work. Detachment might be easier. Try it out. Some of you might try a mix of the two. Tonight: Go for a ride or take a walk.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Two proves to be a stronger number than one, no matter what you are doing. Work with one person at a time, avoiding groups. If you take a risk, make sure you can deal with the end results if they are negative. Tonight: Dinner for two.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Recognize when you cannot initiate and need to back off. You might be experiencing more pressure than you are comfortable with. A friend really supports you in any way you need, though this person will tell you if you are self-destructive. Tonight: Whirling around.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Deal with someone directly, and you might get some flak, but you'll also gain a deeper understanding. Praise, as well as criticism, heads your way. Take both with a grain of salt. Tonight: Easy does it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Your playful side emerges. Allow more lightness into your life. Spontaneity works, especially if you're making plans involving travel or people at a distance. Tonight: Let your hair down!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Information comes forward that puts a smile on your face. You have the ability to move situations forward. Investigate and understand what is behind another's reaction. You might think you are heading down the right path.

Tonight: Head home. Think "adventure."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You have a lot to say, but so do others. If you start discussing an issue, you can be sure others will spout off. Decide if you want to hear all this chatter. Actions still speak louder than words. Tonight: Meet a friend for nibbles and catching up on news.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Extremes punctuate your day. You might spend in excess and/or choose to go way overboard in some fashion. Only you can control yourself. Get on an exercise program. Screen calls. Tonight: Your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ You naturally help others smile. Touch base with the many people you care about. Resolving problems happens easily. Expect high responsiveness from a child or new friend. If you think you have solutions, test them on a partner. Tonight: In the whirlwind of life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Step back for now. You might not feel up to snuff, or you might not be pleased if you take a proactive stand. Tonight: Make it early.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Friendship is always highly valued by the Aquarian. Today your words mean a lot to certain friends. Realize you cannot give to everyone on an equal level. Tonight: Aim for what you want.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Take a stand and handle whatever you need to. Investigate a proposition, especially if it involves finances. Tonight: Too many irons in the fire?

Happy birthday

Please note a tendency to go to extremes in some form this year. The variations you create might be fascinating to an observer. Nevertheless, often you might feel thwarted and frustrated. Trust in key established relationships, and you will get past any problems more easily. If you are single, you will discover an abundance of suitors. The call will be yours if you want to relate to any of them. If you are attached, the two of you will experience some wonderful times as long as you aren't into being right. SAGITTARIUS helps you get to the root of problems.

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

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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

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

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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

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

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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

INTRODUCING: EDDIE THE ENGAGED GUY

SO, EDDIE, HAVE YOU STARTED PLANNING YOUR WEDDING YET?

NAH, THERE'S NO RUSH. WE JUST GOT ENGAGED YESTERDAY

I'VE GOT OUR GIFT REGISTRY UP AND RUNNING, I HAVE A DATE AND LOCATION PICKED OUT, I'M GOING IN TODAY FOR THE FINAL ALTERATIONS ON MY DRESS...

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FEINSTEIN & BORUS girlsandsports.com

The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

IS THERE ANYTHING WORSE THAN WORKING ON YOUR BIRTHDAY?

yes.

YOU COULD HAVE A TERMINAL ILLNESS. THEN YOU'D APPRECIATE YOUR BIRTHDAY WHEREVER YOU ARE.

I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND ANYMORE.

FINE. NOW YOU'RE OLD AND ALONE.

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The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside

THERE'S A SHORTAGE OF COFFEE BEANS.

FIVE BUCKS FOR A CUP OF COFFEE?

THAT'LL BE EIGHT DOLLARS.

THEN I'LL HAVE A PASTRY INSTEAD.

THERE'S A SHORTAGE OF WHEAT.

EIGHT BUCKS FOR ONE LOUSY PASTRY?

JUST GIVE ME A GLASS OF WATER.

WELL, WE ARE IN A DROUGHT...

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Garfield

By Jim Davis

GARFIELD!

WHY ARE THERE BACON BITS IN MY FERN?!

UM, THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE MYSTERY TO ME

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Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

FUZZY AND SLIGHTLY SOGGY. JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT!

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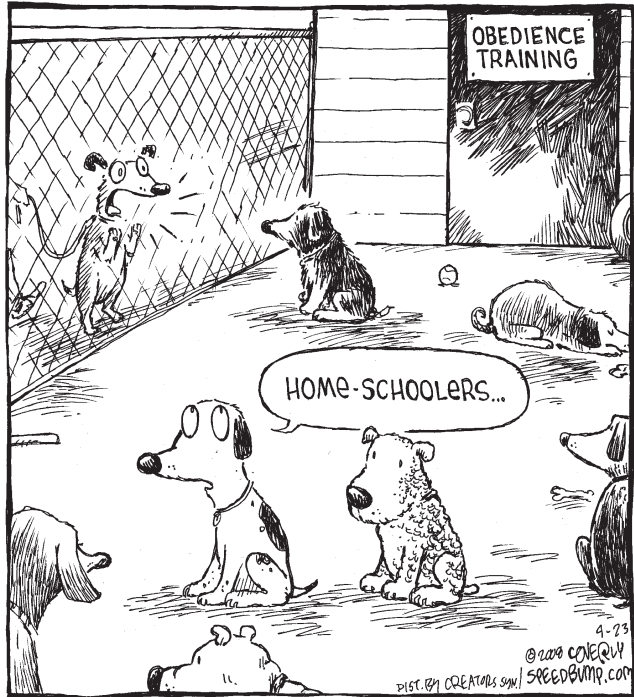
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Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

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CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 40 Future flower
- 1 Argument
- 5 Play group
- 9 Spud
- 11 Kitchen gadget
- 12 “— Grows in Brooklyn”
- 13 Overture
- 14 Golf position
- 15 Formal dinner
- 17 Was disadvantaged
- 19 Ques. follower
- 20 Barge back
- 21 Pub stuff
- 22 Nervous
- 24 Ring item
- 26 Borscht base
- 29 Dupe
- 30 Calendar stretches
- 32 Squash need
- 34 “East of Eden” brother
- 35 Spoken
- 36 Wed furtively
- 38 Gold-loving king
- 39 Block
- DOWN**
- 1 Flea-market unit
- 2 Cookout spots
- 3 Not moving
- 4 Golf prop
- 5 Five, in France
- 6 Real
- 7 Peaceful
- 8 Easy gaits
- 10 Given a new life
- 11 Force

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

Yesterday's answer

- 16 Opie's watcher
- 18 League unit
- 21 Some votes
- 23 Not standing
- 24 Masked man
- 25 Make unreadable
- 27 Ahead
- 28 Buy eagerly
- 29 Studies all night
- 30 Beer, in slang
- 31 Sacked out
- 33 Campus area
- 37 Bar concern

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

Comics & Stuff

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3 22 31 48 54
Meganumber: 9
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3 5 6 19 25
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: \$13M



9 10 15 18 26



MIDDAY: 3 9 2
EVENING: 4 2 2



1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:44.88

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Lawyer confidentiality rules kept one man improperly on death row for 10 years and a probably innocent man in prison for 26, according to news that surfaced in January (in Virginia) and March (in Illinois). Daryl Atkins (sentenced to death in 1997) was the victim of probable prosecutorial misconduct, according to his co-defendant's lawyer, Leslie Smith, who said he witnessed the misconduct but could not report it because a lesser sentence for Atkins would have exposed his own client to greater punishment. In Illinois, Alton Logan was convicted of a murder during a 1982 robbery. However, shortly afterward, Andrew Wilson admitted to his lawyers that he was the murderer, but bar association rules prohibited them from revealing that. When Wilson died in 2007, the lawyers went public, and Logan's case has been re-opened.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1564 is believed to be the birthdate of English poet and dramatist William Shakespeare; he died 52 years later, also on April 23.

1789 President-elect George Washington moved into the first executive mansion, the Franklin House, in New York.

1791 James Buchanan, the 15th president of the United States, was born in Franklin County, Pa.

1896 the Vitascope system for projecting movies onto a screen was publicly demonstrated in New York City.

1940 about 200 people died in the Rhythm Night Club Fire in Natchez, Miss.

1958 the film noir thriller "Touch of Evil," starring Charlton Heston, Janet Leigh and Orson Welles, who also directed, was released.

1968 student protesters began occupying buildings on the campus of Columbia University in New York; police put down the protests a week later.

1968 the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged to form the United Methodist Church.

1969 Sirhan Sirhan was sentenced to death for assassinating New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. (The sentence was later reduced to life imprisonment.)

WORD UP!

lionize \LY-uh-nyz/, *transitive verb*: To treat or regard as an object of great interest or importance.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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North of Montana	=	\$ 4,110,750	\$ 1,835,895
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 1,841,333	\$ 919,343
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 866,632	\$ 735,631
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,351,025	\$ 778,563
Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,715,786	\$ 1,370,405

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