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THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 151



Santa Monica Daily Press

TIME TO DELIVER
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE FEEDING THE DREAM ISSUE

City Council divided on Pico library proposal

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL When it comes to opening a new library branch in the Pico Neighborhood, there's little question that the City Council is in support.

As far as the exact location, the opinions are less than unanimous.

Those differences came out Tuesday following a presentation by the Santa Monica Public Library about two possible homes for the proposed branch — Virginia Avenue Park and an undisclosed spot on Pico Boulevard.

The council, which barely had a quorum, was evenly divided as both Councilmembers Kevin McKeown and Gleam Davis expressed support for placing the branch on the boule-

SEE LIBRARY PAGE 10

PREP SPORTS ROUNDUP

Pacifica Christian thinking playoffs

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

MID-CITY There's no chance a first-year team could make the playoffs, right?

Apparently, that line of thinking is lost on Pacifica Christian High School's baseball team, which has defied the odds by posting an 8-2 record and even more impressive 7-1 mark in Mulholland League play.

"It's a really great situation to be in with such strong talent," Head Coach Julian Chavez said. "Especially considering that most of the team are freshmen."

SEE ROUNDUP PAGE 11



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

BUSY BUNCH: **Bees surround a queen who has just separated from another hive.**

To the rescue

SM resident wants to relocate bee hives instead of killing them

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CITYWIDE Whenever Daniel Salisbury comes across a bee hive while walking around Santa Monica, he doesn't run for cover or call the authorities. Instead, the antique dealer and amateur bee keeper goes out of his way to collect them and relocate them to his property in Morro Bay.

Why?

It's not to make money from their honey. Salisbury, who said his roughly 20 hives produce about 100 pounds of sweet honey each year that he gives away to friends and family, is concerned about the shortage of bees needed to pollinate valuable crops such as almonds and oranges.

Salisbury and some entomologists believe bees are under attack from a variety of sources and if something is not done, bees could become extinct, posing a serious threat to the food supply. Roughly one-third of the food people consume is pollinated by insects, including honey bees, experts said.

"Domesticated bees are disappearing," Salisbury said. "There is such a danger right now that they are not going to be around. Einstein said that [four] years after the bees go, mankind goes.

"This is serious."

To combat the problem, Salisbury would like City Hall to create a pilot program in which he and other bee keepers can be notified when a hive is found, contain the bees and relocate them to a relatively-isolated area in Santa Monica, such as property around the Santa Monica Airport. Excess swarms could be relocated elsewhere, "requeened," and rented out to farmers looking

SEE BEES PAGE 12

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Dining out for life
Participating Santa Monica Restaurants
Breakfast, lunch and dinner
Dining Out for Life is an event that includes restaurants from throughout the greater Los Angeles region who have agreed to donate a minimum of 25 percent of their sales to Project Angel Food. The nonprofit cooks and delivers more than 11,000 meals every week to men, women and children suffering from life threatening illnesses. For more information, visit www.diningoutforlifela.org.

Sunset yoga on the beach
Grassy area at Ashland and Main St.
Ashland and Main St., 6:15 — 7:45 p.m.
Sunset yoga is a weekly yoga retreat to nourish your mind, body and soul. Bring your mats, dress warmly and flow to the rhythm of the ocean and the warm sun setting on the horizon. A donation of $12 is suggested. Call Grace at (310) 985-8395 for more information.

Spa night for pets
Three Dog Bakery
411 Santa Monica Blvd., 4:30 p.m.— 7:30 p.m.
Call the store to reserve your spot for a spa night with your four-legged friend. The proceeds from the $15 donation will go to feed local shelter dogs. Call (310) 260-9604 for more information.

Friday, May 1, 2009

Celebrating the islands
SMC Performing Arts Center
1900 Pico Blvd., 7:30 p.m.
This is the 10th annual Asian/Pacific Islander Celebration in honor of Asian/Pacific Islander Month. This year's lively program features the popular, innovative performance group Hiroshima, renowned for its mission to bridge cultural divides through the power of music. Refreshments will be served. Admission is $15 or $20, and buying tickets in advance is recommended. Call (310) 434-4303 for details.

Gumball 3000
Third Street Promenade, SM Pier
7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Gumball 3000, a European automobile phenomenon, is kicking off its 11th annual race in Santa Monica with a car display and concert. After a international tour from the United States to North Korea to the Beijing Olympics, Gumball 3000 participants will engage in a more classic coast-to-coast road trip from Santa Monica to Miami. One hundred and twenty of the most fantastic cars ever built will be out just north of the pier for your viewing pleasure. This event is free.

Saturday, May 2, 2009

Interior design
Montana Avenue Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave., 2 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Professional designer and teacher Danielle Kurz will share her expert tips on how to make homes and offices beautiful yet livable. Admission is free. Call (310) 829-7081 for more information.

Music on the lawn
Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main Street, 2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
The Bright Light Chamber Players are a non-profit group of professional, local musicians who are committed to making this community a better place through music. Cellist Whitney Griggs Raleigh is the musical director of this rotating group of artists. The performance will be presented on the Main Street porch with viewing from the park. Admission is free. Call (310) 392-3804 for more information.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.



A DAY IN THE LIFE

Linda Carter, USPS mail carrier

BY RACHEL DARDASHTI
Special to the Daily Press

Linda Carter, a Santa Monica mail carrier for the United States Postal Service, begins sorting and casing letters and packages for delivery at 7:30 every morning. Hastily, she grabs the mail for her route and quickly looks through it. Deliberately, Carter runs her finger tips over every piece of mail before she divides it based on its intended address. Carter knows that the faster she finishes her work in the office the more time she can spend outside in the field.

That well-known fact is one of the main reasons she has worked as a mail carrier for the past 15 years. Among other things, Carter enjoys the crisp air and the friendly people she meets along her route.

The sorting room where the carriers collect and comb through the mail is characterized by organized chaos. The cavernous room is filled with several cubicles, one for each worker, with numerous dividers. As carriers gather and disperse the mail, several personalities emerge. There are the lively jokers who awaken the room from its slumber. There are the quiet introverts who keep to themselves, barely saying a word. And there are those who are a mixture of both characters. They talk freely and work efficiently throughout the morning, casing mail with the distinct purpose of getting outside. According to the carriers, the culture of each post office is unique.

Amidst the cluttered space there is a distinct structure. At exactly 9 a.m. a mass exodus from the work room signals the beginning of a 10-minute break. Nearly every carrier leaves their station for a trip to the restroom and a snack. Minutes later they begin to trickle back in and return to the business of categorizing the letters and packages that will fill mail boxes throughout Santa Monica later in the day.

After the last of the parcels and advertisements are divided and arranged by address, Carter and her colleagues cluster larger packages and "accountables" (certified mail and keys) and begin loading everything into trays and bins to be taken to the car and eventually delivered.

On a recent Wednesday, Carter began her route on Montana Avenue around 10 a.m. As she collected the mail for her first block of deliveries, she took a deep breath of the morning air and smiled.

"I've been here for 15 years and my favorite job is delivering the mail and being out there with my customers," she said.



Rachel Dardashti news@smdp.com

LOYALTY: **Santa Monica mail carrier Linda Carter has worked for the postal service for 15 years.**



Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

TAKING TIME: **Mail carrier Linda Carter interacts with a resident on her route.**

With great care and pleasure, Carter dropped off letters to businesses and apartments. She traversed alleys and streets and climbed stairs to locate various addresses. Several times she stopped to ask about people's lives and reminisced with locals including dog-walkers and parking attendants that she sees daily. Everyone Carter encountered emulated her easy demeanor and kindness. At a local real estate office, she even asked the administrator about the economy and housing markets, hoping to learn more about the issues that effect homeowners.

Carter's confident stride, however, does not mask her concerns about the economy. Even USPS has told its employees they may cut workers.

"They said if you haven't been working for the post office for six years, you may be fired," Carter said. "But it hasn't happened yet, so I don't think it will."

Like most, she is happy to have a secure job. However, she has seen the mail volume drop and with it so have her hours. In the past, she would rack up overtime, but now she works only eight hours a day.

"It's still good to me because I get a paycheck," Carter said.

In addition to her paycheck, Carter receives generous benefits. As the cost of health insurance continues to sky-rocket and coverage continues to worsen, she enjoys reasonable prices for both her medical and dental needs. When considering her 401K and her union, there are many advantages to Carter's position as a mail carrier. However, daycare for her two children was never one of them. Carter said that daycare was always her responsibility, which made her position more difficult when she was first starting. Now that her children are grown, she no longer has to worry about that. But, each day brings a new challenge.

Carter, who jokes that her name is the same as the actress who played Wonder Woman, has dealt with both terrifying and frustrating situations. On her first day, Carter could not find her customers. Eventually, she had to call for help after spending several hours both lost and confused. Once she had to jump on top of a car to avoid a hostile dog. (She hopes never to have to use her last line of defense, her Mace.) Carter said one of her colleagues had her nose mangled by a dog and had to have plastic surgery.

Despite the challenges, after 15 years she cannot imagine doing anything else.

"Personally, I love carrying the mail," she said.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Keep the spirit alive

Editor:

We have read your April 18 article regarding Vidiots video store [facing] fine[s] about its window displays with interest, but mostly with much dismay. As longtime residents of Santa Monica, we have felt increasingly concerned about City Hall's initiatives. It seems to us like city officials, in their lust for development and tax money, are going after what makes Santa Monica such a wonderful place, i.e. what attracts business and people in the first place, i.e. tax money, i.e. the hippie-chic, cottage-y [sic], true community feel. Vidiots – a reputed video store not only in Southern California but also nationally – is part of what makes Santa Monica so unique, so human, and such a wonderful place to live in because it has character and personality. So are, or were, other small businesses that have resisted to, or collapsed under the might of City Hall's "corporate" initiatives. Does City Hall really think that turning our unique community into a bland Marina del Rey, or worse, The Americana at Brand, will improve it? They may reap tax benefits in the short term, but in the long run they will have killed the golden goose. So please, keep Vidiots, its displays, and our neighborhoods alive – and worth living in. Everyone will benefit from it.

O'Donnell family
Santa Monica

Don't dump on dispensaries

Editor:

Re: Pot dispensaries raise eyebrows in Venice

Considering the plain truth that marijuana prohibition is founded on racist lies, it is shameful that anyone dares uphold cannabis laws.

"Marihuana influences Negroes to look at white people in the eye, step on white men's shadows and look at a white woman twice." (Hearst newspapers nationwide, 1934)

"There are 100,000 total marijuana smokers in the U.S., and most are Negroes, Hispanics, Filipinos and entertainers. Their Satanic music, jazz and swing, result from marijuana use. This marijuana can cause white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers and any others."

" ... the primary reason to outlaw marijuana is its effect on the degenerate races"

– Federal Bureau of Narcotics Director Harry J. Anslinger, 1930

"Marijuana is an addictive drug which produces in its users insanity, criminality and death."

"Marijuana is the most violence-causing drug in the history of mankind."

"[Smoking] one [marihuana] cigarette might develop a homicidal mania, probably to kill his brother." (see U.S. Government Propaganda To Outlaw Marijuana – http://www.druglibrary.org/schaffer/hemp/taxact/t3.htm).

These fictions and new ones equally false are the reason for punishing people for using marijuana. Which one of these alibis does the Venice Neighborhood Council use to justify a brain dead position on marijuana dispensaries?

Raymond Givens
San Diego

Questioning the benefit

Editor:

I saw your front page article [and] was surprised that a famous tattoo artist got such prominent coverage ("Tattoo artist spreads self-help gospel at PYFC," page 1, April 29). It appears that the Pico Youth and Family Center listened to quite a role model recently. I wonder how many kids, without money, will be inspired to get one of those $500 tattoos permanently inked onto their young and growing bodies. The prisons of our great state are loaded with guys that can give inspirational speeches. Why not have the local kids listened to speeches by people that have made it the easier way, through education? Also, hip hop is a hobby. It's probably harder to get a career in hip hop then it is as a professional athlete. Plus, what's the long-term outlook for hip hop employment. I wonder if the Pico center is providing a long term benefit to our youth?

Mike Sherman
Santa Monica



Your column here

J. Matt Barber — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Perez Hilton: The foul face of gay activism

Editor's Note: This article contains graphic but accurate material that may be offensive to some readers.

DURING LAST SUNDAY'S MISS USA pageant openly "gay" activist and pageant judge Perez Hilton — the self-styled "Queen of Media" — ambushed Carrie Prejean, the openly Christian Miss California, with a politically loaded question on so-called "same-sex marriage." Prejean's candid answer — as both Hilton and Miss USA organizer Donald Trump later admitted — likely cost her the crown. From the moment she opened her mouth, Prejean has given liberals a clinic in class. Hilton, on the other hand (aka Mario Armando Lavandeira), has provided the world a sneak peek into the soul of homosexual activism.

This is one for the up-is-down-black-is-white hall of fame. The media's fabricated flap over Prejean's answer — a public defense of legitimate marriage — has a reasonable America scratching its collective noggin in stunned disbelief. Not because of the answer she gave Perez, which was both well received by the pageant audience and overwhelmingly shared by about 70 percent of Americans, but, rather, because of Hilton's hate-filled, misogynistic response to her answer and the disgraceful, knee-jerk defense of that response by liberals in Hollywood, the media and organized homosexuality.

After Hilton asked the lovely and talented Miss California whether "every state" should legalize "same-sex marriage," Prejean responded: "In my country, in my family … I believe that a marriage should be between a man and a woman. No offense to anybody out there, but that's how I was raised and that's how I think it should be — between a man and a woman."

Oh, the humanity!

Evidently this was not the rooty-tooty-fresh-n'-fruity answer Hilton — the creepy valley girl wannabe with a five o'clock shadow — had hoped for. He promptly marked Prejean's score card with a zero, plopped down in front of the television cameras and began blubbering away like a fussy little snot with a dirty diaper.

Having already publicly called Prejean a "dumb b...h," he then yammered to a sympathetic Norah O'Donnell on MSNBC that, not only was he refusing to apologize, he was actually "thinking the C-word." This, of course, one of the vilest things anyone can call a woman. Yet, rather than taking Hilton to task for the boy lover's girl-hating poison, O'Donnell joined in on the bash-fest, criticizing Prejean for her traditional view.

But Hilton wasn't done yet. Ramping up his vicious attack on the Christian California bombshell, our lispy-wispy lil' cupcake dove headlong into the annals of dirt-baggery lore. He defaced a photo of Prejean on his Web log scribbling, below her chin, a crude depiction of a male phallus ejaculating in her mouth.

How did Prejean react?

While talking to Matt Lauer on NBC's Today Show she said, "I knew at that moment after I answered the question, I knew, I was not going to win because of my answer, because I had spoken from my heart, from my beliefs and for my God. … I wouldn't have answered it differently. The way I answered may have been offensive. With that question specifically, it's not about being politically correct. For me it was being biblically correct."

On the Fox News Channel's Hannity program, Prejean shared, "You know, I forgive him. I know that he's angry for whatever reason. I know there must be a bigger issue going on in his life."

Like I said — class.

FROM THE MOMENT SHE OPENED HER MOUTH, PREJEAN HAS GIVEN LIBERALS A CLINIC IN CLASS. HILTON, ON THE OTHER HAND (AKA MARIO ARMANDO LAVANDEIRA), HAS PROVIDED THE WORLD A SNEAK PEEK INTO THE SOUL OF HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVISM.

This whole hateful affair provides the perfect metaphor for the current divide between defenders of traditional sexual morality and the extremist "queer" activist movement. As Congress debates the constructive repeal of both the 14th Amendment guarantee of "equal protection under the law" and the First Amendment guarantees of free speech and freedom of religion through passage of discriminatory and wholly unnecessary "hate crimes" legislation, this little episode once again reminds us that the self-described champions of "tolerance" and "diversity" are the most intolerant and hateful among us.

How soon we forget. Just hearken back a few months to the passage of California's Proposition 8, which restored the definition of natural marriage to the Golden State. There we all played witness to "gay" activist calls for church burnings, Mormon Temple vandalism, death threats against Prop. 8 supporters and quasi-riotous assaults against peaceful Christian marriage supporters.

So, insofar as liberals continue to dig their own hole by defending Hilton and piling on Prejean, I submit they're doing the other 70 percent of us a favor. In their biting anger, they've cast aside the sublime mask of "tolerance," revealing an ugly, desperate and most intolerant countenance below.

For that, I say thank you. For your treatment of Carrie Prejean, I say shame on you.

MATT BARBER is director of cultural affairs with both Liberty Counsel and Liberty Alliance Action. He also co-hosts the nationally syndicated "Liberty Live" talk radio program on AFR Talk. Send comments to Matt at jmattbarber@comcast.net.

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Meredith Pro Tem

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

A mother's measuring stick

A CAR HIT A 26-YEAR-OLD PREGNANT woman while she was fleeing from a bear in Colorado Springs last week. Thankfully she and the baby are fine. More importantly though, the news might just mean that I'm not the worst mother ever.

The woman was running in an open space where bears are common while she was five months pregnant. Not to pat myself on the back, but I neither ran when I was pregnant nor did I frequent any bear hotspots. Still, as my first Mother's Day with my daughter approaches, I'd be lying if I said I wasn't nervous that she might stage a boycott.

Don't get me wrong. All signs point to a happy and healthy nearly 9-month-old baby girl. Smiling is her favorite pastime next to laughing and giggling. She sleeps 11 to 13 hours at night and only cries when I drop her.

Therein lies a significant part of the boycott fear. It's not as if I actually drop her. I just seem to place her in situations where the probability of her falling to the uncushioned ground is high.

Like last month when I put her down on the center of my bed so I could go downstairs to throw in the laundry. She had been similarly left on the bed a zillion times before without incident. She was lying down on her back and cooing when I left the room just like all the other times. When I returned, however, she was face down on the floor and bawling like, well, a baby. It was at that moment that I realized she had finally learned to roll over in both directions. Despite her bruised and dented forehead, at least there was a little bit of a bright side (that's what I'll tell her therapist in 20 years anyway).

At her 6-month well-child visit, the pediatrician asked how she was doing at rolling over.

"She does it perfectly from her back to front," I said proudly.

The pediatrician frowned.

"But what about from her tummy to her back?"

"No, she doesn't like being put on her tummy," I explained. "So we just don't do it. We'll figure she'll roll over at some point when she feels like it. After all, how many kids don't figure out how to roll over in both directions by the time they go to college?"

I laughed. The pediatrician frowned again.

As we've since learned, of course, I was right. And now she's really good at rolling over both ways. I know this because two weeks ago she rolled off the couch onto the floor while I was sitting three feet away.

I was reading The Eighth Month chapter in "What to Expect the First Year" the other day about how most babies at this stage can pull themselves into a standing position and might even start walking. Crawling was a foregone conclusion. My daughter shows no signs of crawling or the desire to budge unless she's being carried like Cleopatra on her throne.

STILL, THERE ARE SOME THINGS I'M PROUD OF AS A MOM. LIKE THE FACT THAT MY DAUGHTER HASN'T WATCHED A SINGLE CARTOON, EVER.

Last week I placed her on the floor in a crawling position with the remote control (the object she most covets) a few inches away from her. She looked at me blankly, patiently waiting to be picked up and/or handed the remote. I've now decided to stop pushing her to move on her own with the assumption she'll master walking sometime between now and her high school graduation.

Still, there are some things I'm proud of as a mom. Like the fact that my daughter hasn't watched a single cartoon, ever. Sure, she watched "Oprah" with me. But when there are really trashy guests — like Tonya Harding or Michael Phelps — I always change the channel. And even though I sometimes go hours (and hours and hours) without changing her diaper, she has never had diaper rash and only a few times has she had a blowout rivaling Mount St. Helens, circa May 1980.

Did I mention the pregnant woman in Colorado Springs plans to give her baby the middle name Bear whether it's a boy or girl because she's just so grateful it didn't kill her? I think I'll read my daughter that newspaper article tonight instead of "Goodnight Moon." Hopefully when she hears it it'll improve my chances for experiencing a happy Mother's Day with her.

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

The Q Line

Tough choices

City Manager Lamont Ewell has asked hundreds of city employees to forego performance bonuses to prevent cuts to services and possible layoffs because of a reduction in revenue.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think employees should give up their bonuses or should the city find alternative means to cut costs?

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

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Swine flu alert goes global

LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON The Geneva-based World Health Organization on Wednesday raised its alert level for the fast-spreading swine flu to its next-to-highest notch, signaling a global pandemic could be imminent.

The move came after the virus spread to at least 10 U.S. states from coast to coast and swept deeper into Europe.

"It really is all of humanity that is under threat during a pandemic," said WHO Director General Margaret Chan. "We do not have all the answers right now but we will get them."

In the United States, President Barack Obama mourned the first U.S. death, a Mexican toddler who had traveled with his family to Texas. Total American cases surged to nearly 100, and Obama said wider school closings might be necessary.

In Mexico, where the flu is believed to have originated, officials said Wednesday the disease is now confirmed or suspected in 159 deaths, and nearly 2,500 illnesses.

There were no other deaths confirmed from the flu. But health officials in the United States and around the world braced for them.

Dr. Richard Besser, the acting chief of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in Atlanta there were 91 confirmed cases in ten states, with 51 in New York, 16 in Texas and 14 in California. Two cases have been confirmed in Kansas, Massachusetts and Michigan, while single cases have been reported in Arizona, Indiana, Nevada and Ohio.

State officials in Maine said laboratory tests had confirmed three cases in that state, although those had not yet been included in the CDC count. And the Pentagon said that a Marine in southern California had tested positive for the disease.

WHO has confirmed human cases of swine flu in Mexico, the United States, Canada, Britain, Israel, New Zealand and Spain.

Germany and Austria became the latest countries to report infections. Germany reported four cases on Wednesday, Austria one.

In Washington, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano was questioned closely by senators about whether the U.S. should close its border with Mexico, where the outbreak apparently began and the casualties have been the greatest. She repeated the administration's position that questioning of people at borders and ports of entry was sufficient for now and said closing borders "has not been merited by the facts."

The WHO said the phase 5 alert means there is sustained human to human spread in at least two countries. It also signals that efforts to produce a vaccine will be ramped up.

Just Monday, the WHO had raised the alert level from 3 to 4. The organization is part of the United Nations.

Asked for advice for ordinary citizens, Chan, the WHO chief, said: "Continue with your business but try to pay special attention to personal hygiene."

Dr. Keiji Fukuda, WHO's top flu expert, said vigilance was all important because it was not known how severe the outbreaks would become.





Simple Real Food

Amanda Cushman
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

In to Indian food

FOOD IS VERY TRENDY, JUST LIKE clothes, names of children and travel destinations. Right now India is leading the pack with the huge success of Bollywood and of course "Slum Dog Millionaire." Suddenly all things Indian are appealing and food is not the least of it.

I have always loved all things Indian, having traveled there for over six weeks in my early 20s. I never lost my love for the place, the people and especially the cuisine.

The spices alone could send me over the edge with their heady aromas and amazing ability to transform a simple vegetable or protein.

There are scores of Indian places in the Los Angeles area, but I am often drawn to the smaller mom and pop establishments that are in the neighborhood, so I recently paid a visit to Agra Indian Kitchen on Lincoln Boulevard at Washington.

A very small place that is simple and down to earth with friendly and efficient waiters.

My husband and I went with another couple who have been there more than once and recommended it for the delicious food.

We ordered a lamb curry, a chicken vindaloo, raita, mango chutney, fish tika masala and a couple naan breads. The food arrived promptly and was spicy, filling and well flavored.

They serve a good sized portion of papadum before the meal arrives with a tasty dipping sauce made with cilantro and another one that is sweetened with tamarind.

The only critique I would offer is that the dishes could use less sauce and more protein, but this seems to be an Indian theme as I have noticed this before when eating in these places.

I recommend Agra for a good meal that is inexpensive and satisfying.

Here are a couple recipes from my recent Indian cooking class in Venice if you want to try this delicious cuisine at home.

Remember it is all bout the spices so don't use older ones with no flavor. If you can't identify the spice when you smell it with your eyes closed it is time to throw it away.

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

Indian Curried Chicken
Serves 8

Ingredients

2 pounds of boneless skinless chicken breasts, trimmed, cut into chunks
1/2 cup flour seasoned with salt and pepper
3 tbs. canola oil
1 onion, finely chopped
3 garlic cloves, minced
1/2 tsp. ground ginger
1 tsp. ground cumin
1/4 tsp. turmeric
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes
1/2 tsp. saffron threads
1/4 tsp. ground cardamom
1/8 tsp. ground cloves
1/8 tsp. ground nutmeg
1/2 cup chicken stock
1 1/2 cups coconut milk
Cilantro leaves, garnish
Cooked basmati rice

Procedure

1. Season the chicken with the seasoned flour and shake off the excess flour.
2. Heat 2 tbs. of the oil in a large high-sided skillet and brown the chicken on all sides about four minutes. Remove to a plate.
3. Melt the remaining 1 tbs. of oil in the same skillet and add the onions and garlic and sauté for five minutes. Add the spices and cook another minute, stirring. Stir in the stock and coconut milk and bring to a simmer, cook for about 20 minutes until slightly thickened. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
4. Add the chicken and bring to a simmer over medium low heat, cover and cook five to seven minutes until cooked through.
5. Serve the chicken over cooked rice with cilantro leaves as a garnish.



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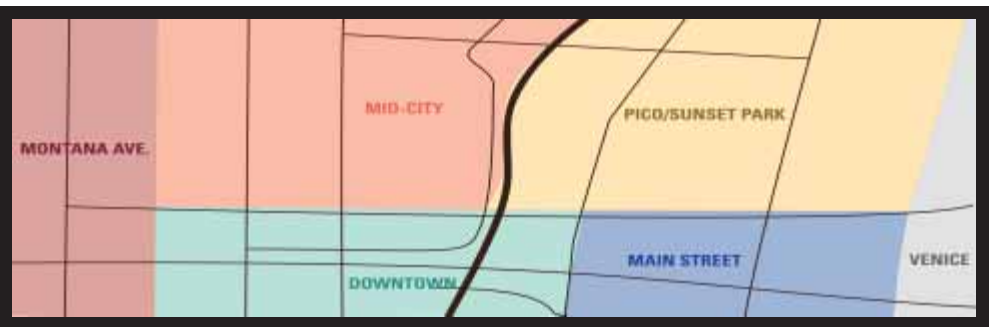
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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

NEW SITE? **Virginia Avenue Park could be the home of a library branch serving the Pico Neighborhood. The City Council is undecided, looking at spaces along Pico Boulevard as well.**

Virginia Avenue park eyed as possible home for library

FROM **LIBRARY** PAGE 1

vard, believing it would enliven the commercial thoroughfare while preserving open space, while Mayor Ken Genser and Councilman Richard Bloom backed the park option, pointing out the benefits of adding another attraction to the area.

"I think locating the facility on the site there is going to work quite well with the other pieces we have there now," Bloom said.

Bloom added that the park has become a focal point for the entire city, adding that placing a library there would enhance the diversity of services offered.

Mayor Pro Tem Pam O'Connor and Councilmen Bob Holbrook and Bobby Shriver were absent.

City staff will continue exploring the possibility of building a library at the park while looking for other opportunities along Pico Boulevard before reporting back to council with a final proposal.

The price of opening a branch library could be expensive at either Virginia Avenue Park or elsewhere on Pico Boulevard, estimated to cost $12.8 million and $30 million respectively for construction and site acquisition. The branch would command an annual operating cost of about $870,000 at either location, Greg Mullen, the head public librarian, said. The project could be funded through the Redevelopment Agency

Residents in the neighborhood, which has the highest concentration of minorities and low-income families in the city, have for years sought their own branch. The idea was brought back to life again last year when officials with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District began working on plans for the reconstruction of Edison Language Academy and community leaders suggested a public library be placed on campus.

But the prospect of locating the library at Edison became unlikely as city officials met with the district, learning that design changes would delay construction. District officials also expressed concerns over keeping a portion of the campus open to the public during school hours.

The neighborhood has had access to service through the Fairview Branch on Ocean Park Boulevard since it opened in 1956, but some residents have said that Pico Boulevard represents a cultural divide that they believe keeps them away from the library, according to a city staff report. Other residents have also expressed concerns about safety issues for children crossing Pico Boulevard.

While some residents support a branch at Virginia Avenue Park, the Pico Neighborhood Association's board of directors have urged city officials to explore a site on Pico Boulevard.

Linda Piera-Avila, who serves on the board, told the council that placing a library on Pico would help revitalize the boulevard and make it more pedestrian friendly.

"I know there are concerns that there are quite a few liquor stores along Pico Boulevard and I think the community feels that a library would be a better land use than a liquor store," she said.

City staff searched for several properties in the neighborhood, keeping an eye out for parcels that were approximately 25,000 square feet that could accommodate parking for 28 to 30 cars, estimating that a library would take up about 7,500 square feet. None of the properties are for sale but one owner has expressed interest in engaging in co-development opportunities, Andy Angle, the director of Housing and Economic Development, said.

"We may need to look at something that would allow the library to go forward but also allow the current owner to continue their activity on the site," Agle said.

If located at Virginia Avenue Park, the library could be situated in the zone reserved for the Farmers' Market but be placed in a way to have minimal impact, Mullen said.

City staff is looking at two options for the park, including one in which about five stalls at the market would be impacted and another where none would be displaced.

Many residents have said they would be willing to give up a small amount of open space to gain a library at the park, city staff said.

"People saw a strong potential for synergy between the park activities and library services," Mullen said.

Davis expressed concerns that construction could impact park patrons.

"My support for this library is that it fulfills a great need in a neighborhood that has many needs," she said. "I think this project will serve the community greatly if we do it well."

McKeown said the community fought long and hard to expand and reconstruct the park and would not want to lose any open space.

Some argued that the students at Edison Language Academy and Grant Elementary School would be better served if the library is located at Virginia Avenue Park, which is located just blocks from both campuses.

Genser, who was originally in favor of placing the branch on Pico, said he recently spoke to an educational advocate who pointed out that the park location might draw students who otherwise might not visit the library.

"There is a whole range of youth activities in the park," Genser said. "That argument was very compelling to me."

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ON THE HUNT

Byron Kennerly *news@smdp.com*

Santa Monica Police Officers scan the neighborhood around Cloverfield Boulevard and 22nd Street Wednesday after getting a call about a man loading a shotgun near the I-10 Freeway. Officers were unable to locate any man with a shotgun after about an hour and called off the search. Officers tried contacting the person who made the report but all they got was a voicemail.

Samohi takes on Inglewood

FROM **ROUNDUP** PAGE 1

With youth at the team's core, the chances of the Seawolves making the playoffs appears to be in their hands. Pacifica Christian is currently in first place in league and have just three games remaining.

"It's really cool to see improvement day to day," first baseman Zach McMillan said before practice. "It's cool to look ahead to the future.

"When we're seniors, we'll be so much better."

For the time being the big test will come May 7 when the Seawolves take on Wildwood, a game that could possibly decide the league championship. The game gives the Seawolves the opportunity to avenge a season, and program, opening 6-7 loss to Wildwood on March 5.

Freshman pitcher Kevin Hammer is psyched at getting the opportunity to take on a team that many considered the class of the league coming into the season.

"[Beating] them would be great for us," Hammer said. "We played them really strong last time.

"It was our first game ever, but we gave them a tough time."

Hammer pointed out that the Seawolves' strength in the field and on the mound could pave the way to what just a few months ago appeared to be a pipe dream of winning a league title or, for that matter, a playoff berth.

"Our individual players are more confident in their own abilities," Hammer said. "We trust our pitchers and hitters to get the job done."

Pitching may be what the Seawolves hang their batting helmet on, but its offense that has powered Pacifica Christian to the verge of a post season appearance.

The Seawolves currently have four hitters batting over .500. Hammer leads the pack with a .529 average with Keenan Pierandozzi-Howes slugging a stellar .516. The team has combined to hit just four home runs, but has scored a hefty 118 runs all season, a category Hammer also leads with 19.

But before Pacifica Christian can start making plans for the postseason, the Seawolves will face Summit View on the road today at 3:30 p.m.

SAMOHI SOFTBALL BANKS ON BLANKS

Baring a colossal collapse, the Vikings' softball team should cruise to a sixth consecutive Ocean League title, but it's another streak that is on the mind of Head Coach Debbie Skaggs.

"The victories are easy, but it's all about keeping the streak alive," Skaggs said of her team's current 21 game streak of shutting out league opponents. "That's our goal, but I don't want other teams to know about it."

In fact, the Vikings, who are currently ranked fifth in Division IV, have not allowed a run to any opponent since March 27, a span that includes eight games.

"[The scoreless streak] puts pressure on the players, for sure," Skaggs said. "We can't let [opposing teams] score, that's their mentality."

That approach has proven successful thus far. The Vikings sport a 15-5 overall record and are perfect in league, 4-0.

Leading the way is star pitcher Celisha Walker, a junior who has amassed a 10-3 record and a 1.69 ERA. Her latest outing, against Mary Star of the Sea, resulted in a perfect game for the junior who has orally committed to New Mexico State.

Walker is expected to pitch today when the Vikings take on league rival Inglewood at home. The game is scheduled to begin at 3:15 p.m.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the Santa Monica Rent Control Board adopted Regulation 9010 at its regular meeting of April 23, 2009.

This Regulation, as set forth below, will become effective by promulgation the day after publication in the newspaper.

9010. No Evictions for Violating Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 4.44.040 Which Prohibits Smoking in Multi-Unit Common Areas

(a) Santa Monica Municipal Code ("SMMC") section 4.44.040 regulates smoking in common areas of multi-unit residential properties by providing a private right of action against an individual who smokes in a common area. Multi-unit common area is defined in SMMC section 4.44.010 as: "Any indoor or outdoor area that is accessible to and usable by the occupant of more than one unit, including but not limited to halls, walkways, lobbies, laundry rooms, common cooking areas, outdoor dining areas, patios, play areas, swimming pools, gardens, and parking lots."

(b) SMMC section 4.44.040(a) states as the sole remedy a private right of action. Violators are not subject to criminal penalties.

(c) SMMC section 4.44.040(c)(1) expressly states that "Nothing in this section may be used as grounds to terminate a tenancy. Nothing in this section shall render smoking in Multi-Unit Common Areas a violation of law pursuant to any rental housing agreement."

(d) No violation of SMMC section 4.44.040 shall be used as grounds to terminate a tenancy under section 1806.

(e) This regulation does not affect existing grounds for eviction as set forth in section 1806.

[9010 Adopted 4/23/09]

A complete copy of this regulation is available at the Rent Control office, 1685 Main Street, Room 202, (310) 458-8751 or on the website: www.smgov.net/rentcontrol

Bees threatened by multiple sources

FROM **BEES** PAGE 1

to pollinate their crops.

Salisbury said his next step is to make a presentation to the City Council. He has offered to volunteer his time in relocating the swarms.

Currently, when a resident calls about a bee hive, exterminators with the Los Angeles County West Vector Control District vacuum the bees and freeze them for testing, killing the swarm. Pesticides are not used in the process and bees are only removed if the property owner feels they are a threat. Some are allergic to the venom released by a bee sting. In extremely rare cases, some have died from exposure.

Getting City Hall to go along with his plan could prove to be quite difficult for Salisbury.

Robert Saviskas, the executive director of the Los Angeles County West Vector Control District in Culver City wrote in an e-mail to Councilman Kevin McKeown and Santa Monica's vector representative Nancy Greenstein that he wouldn't recommend relocation because it would disturb the natural balance that exists.

"A lot of things could go wrong," Saviskas wrote. "I think the adage, 'If it works, don't fix it' applies here."

McKeown said the issue should be looked at and he has forwarded Salisbury's information to city staff.

"Killing potentially useful bees still doesn't make sense, but I acknowledge that bee stings are a serious health threat to some people, so if we moved forward on any pilot project I'd want to make sure we knew we could control and contain swarms safely in densely populated urban environments," said McKeown, who admits to trapping bugs and spiders in his home and releasing them outdoors instead of killing them.

"Strategies that might work in the countryside to shift swarms into hives might present risks here in the city," McKeown said.

Entomologists believe bee colonies are being threatened by a number of factors, including pathogens, mites, pesticides, and a lack of nutrients caused by swarms feeding on a single crop. Others believe cell phone towers could be to blame while some think it is cosmic karma.

While there is some disagreement over the severity of colony collapse, with some entomologists claiming the issues is overblown, the number of managed colonies has declined since the 1940s when there were five million in the U.S., said Walter Sheppard, a professor of entomology at Washington State University who is overseeing a breeding program for honey bees.

SEE **BEES** PAGE 13

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Bee plan has its critics

FROM BEES PAGE 12

When mites arrived in the 1980s, the number dropped to three million. As more families moved away from rural areas, the number of farmers maintaining their own hives dropped. By 2000 the number of managed colonies was down to 2.3 million, Sheppard said.

"I don't believe many bee keepers doing research on hives believe honey bees will go extinct, but the cost of pollination will go up if things continue as they are," Sheppard said. "We have seen people trucking in bees from Florida, Georgia, and Washington state into California to pollinate because there was a shortage. That stresses the bees, which are being jostled around for a week, and that is believed to be adding to the decline."

There are two types of bees found in the U.S.: European and Africanized. Africanized bees are more prevalent in warmer climates, such as the Southwest.

Africanized bees have shown to be more resilient against mites destroying hives. By cross-breading with European bees, colonies can have better rates of survival, which is why Salisbury is in favor of relocating Africanized bees found locally.

Saviskas said Africanized bees, which first appeared on the scene in 1998, have been interbreeding with European bees so successfully that over 80 percent of all bees tested in the county are now Africanized bees.

"Where there are larger populations of Africanized honeybees (Southern California and the Southwest border states), there is virtually no colony collapse disorder," Saviskas said. "It is believed that this interbreeding between Africanized honeybees and European honeybees is one of the reasons."

Vector Control no longer relocates bees to other areas to prevent the inadvertent spread of mites that might trigger or accelerate colony collapse, Saviskas said.

Relocating hives may not be necessary, given that Saviskas has seen a 22 percent increase in beehive and swarm activity in 2008 over numbers recorded in 2007. In the first four months of 2009, there has been an additional 28 percent increase in activity compared to the same period in 2008, evidence that bees could be rebounding.

P. Kirk Visscher, a professor of entomology at UC Riverside, said that the extent of colony collapse may have been exaggerated. He has seen an increase in the number of managed colonies so far this year, but doesn't believe bees are out of the woods just yet.

As far as Salisbury's plan, Visscher isn't sure it is practical.

"It requires expertise in dealing with bees," he said. "To do it is time consuming and it increases the time and the extent to which colonies pose some threat.

"It's a laudable goal and I'm sympathetic to the idea, but I don't think it would be worth it in the end."

Salisbury admits that he may be biting off more than he can chew.

"The only thing that scares me is whether or not I am taking on more than I can handle," he said.

kevinh@smdp.com



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To purchase tickets:
Ž Online @ SMC.edu/eventsinfo "Special Events"
Ž Phone SMC College Box Office (310) 434-3000
Ž In Person, one hour before performance only on May 1st, at Broad Box Office, 1310 Eleventh Street, Santa Monica



The Broad Stage

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

THE SMC Associates

Santa Monica Jaycees hosting a Wine Tasting at the Buffalo Club



Thursday, April 30th, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

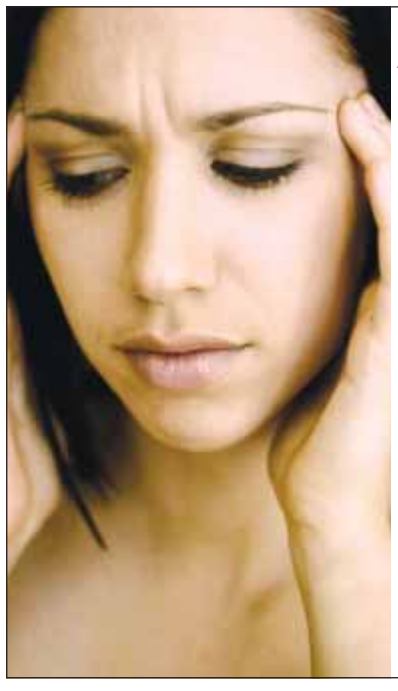
Join the Santa Monica Jaycees as they host a unique wine tasting experience at the Buffalo Club. Featuring six wines from South France. Young professionals ages 21 to 40 are especially welcomed to meet and mingle with other young professionals of the Westside. Bring your business cards to enter a drawing for a wine glass set.

Buffalo Club, 1520 Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica

Cost: $30 Jaycee members, $35 non-members
Pre-Register: www.smjaycees.org

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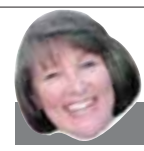

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Play Time

Cynthia Citron — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

All at sea about 'The Seafarer'

SOMETIMES SIBLINGS COMMUNICATE with each other in a secret, private language that is unintelligible to the rest of the world. In Conor McPherson's play, "The Seafarer," the language is Irish.

Not Gaelic Irish. It's English-Irish, actually, spoken with a brogue so thick and obscure that it might as well be Chinese.

The title of the play is taken from an old English elegy, a poem that is defined as "a sorrowful piece of writing." Long the subject of scholarly controversy, the poem is most commonly viewed as an allegory, a psychological monologue by a "penitential exile" who sees all life on Earth as like death.

In McPherson's play, the "penitential exile" is "Sharkey" Harkin (Andrew Connolly) who has returned to his childhood home in a suburb of Dublin to tend to the needs of his blind brother, Richard, played with vicious hostility by John Mahoney. Sharkey, in his long years of wandering, had apparently committed a crime. His self-imposed penitence seems to be to endure and obey his brother's relentless demands.

It is Christmas Eve morning as the play opens and slowly — very very slowly — introduces us to the brothers and the dismal state of their relationship. There is a lot of talk about feces (Richard spends a long time in the bathroom, shouting through the door) and complaints about vandals who have apparently defecated in the back yard, leaving a mess that Richard orders Sharkey to clean up.

Richard, who has awakened with a hangover, begins drinking again immediately and doesn't stop throughout the long day. Sharkey, an alcoholic, has given up liquor and manages to refrain from drinking even when their home is "invaded" by friends paying a Christmas visit. Paul Vincent O'Connor plays their likable, loyal friend Ivan and Matt Roth plays Nicky, a man who has earned the enmity of Sharkey and is an unwelcome guest. Moreover, Nicky has brought a friend with him, a suave, sophisticated gentleman named Mr. Lockhart (a smoothly sinister Tom Irwin).

The friends have come to play cards. And, as it is revealed, Mr. Lockhart, who turns out to be the devil, has played cards with Sharkey before — and lost. The game, therefore, is being played for more than ordinary stakes.

The only consistently intelligible monologues are delivered by Mr. Lockhart, who ruminates on death and heaven and hell with a melancholy brilliance that, in my view, is the essence of the play. Irwin, who has been a member of the renowned Steppenwolf Company since 1979, is well remembered here as the amnesiac lead in "Pyrenees," which ran at the Kirk Douglas Theatre in 2005.

Playwright Conor McPherson directed his own play, "The Seafarer", when it opened in London in September 2006 and on Broadway in December 2007. Jim Norton, who played Richard in both productions, won an Olivier Award and a Tony, and McPherson was nominated for an Olivier for Best Play and Tony awards for Best Director and Best Play.

In the current production at the Geffen Playhouse in Westwood, Randall Arney, the Geffen's artistic director, serves as the play's director, and while the staging is fine, and the dialogue sometimes even funny, Arney doesn't seem able to control either the unintelligible delivery of his actors nor the persistently over-the-top shrillness of Mahoney. Which is unfortunate, since Mahoney was universally loved in his long-time role as Frasier's dad and has shown himself, once again, to be an absolutely stunning actor in the current season of HBO's "In Treatment."

Probably the best thing about "The Seafarer" is the shabby, cluttered set designed by Takeshi Kata. Even more effective when contrasted with the richly elegant set this award-winning designer produced for the Geffen's production of "Boston Marriage" in 2005.

Janice Pytel has designed appropriately suitable costumes and Daniel Ionazzi's lighting design effectively illuminates the characters of the players, especially Sharkey, as he obsessively turns the lights on and off.

If one doesn't know that "The Seafarer" title refers to an old English poem, he might come away with the nagging question, "What does the title have to do with the play?" But now that I've answered that question for you, you can go and enjoy the play (or not) at The Geffen Playhouse, 10886 LeConte Ave., in Westwood, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 4 and 8:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 and 7 p.m. through May 24. Call (310) 208-5454 for reservations.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN 2008 ACTION PLAN FOR THE HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica has developed the Proposed Substantial Amendment to the Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan for the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing program (HPRP). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires grantees eligible to receive funds under the HPRP to complete a Substantial Amendment to their Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan. It delineates the City's proposed framework by which HPRP funds will be allocated to provide temporary financial assistance and stabilization services to Santa Monica residents who are in danger of losing their housing. The City is seeking community comments on the Substantial Amendment.

Copies of the Substantial Amendment are now available to the public for a 12-day community review period ending May 12, 2009. Copies are available 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 12, 2009, 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.

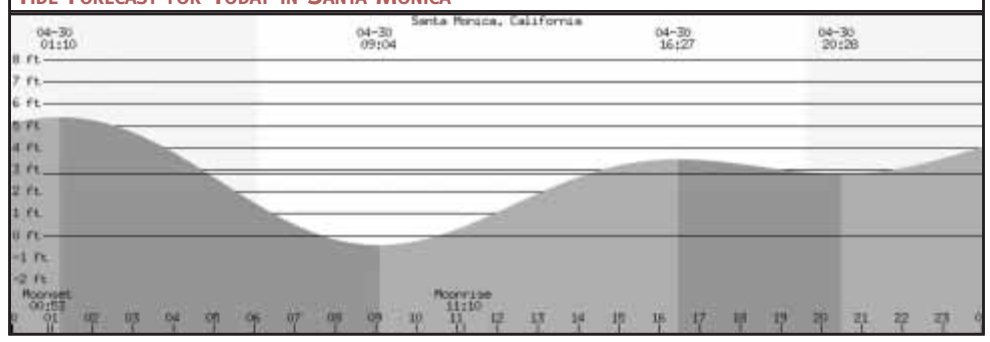


Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

Swell Forecast (3-5 FT)
Unavailable.

Long Range Synopsis
Unavailable.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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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 21, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / ns

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Duplicity (PG-13) 2hr 5min
1:35, 6:45

The Informers (R) 1hr 38min
2:30, 4:55, 7:15, 9:40

Is Anybody There? (PG-13) 1hr 32 min
2:15, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15

Sunshine Cleaning (R) 1hr 42min
4:25, 9:30

Observe and Report (R) 1hr 46min
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Fast & Furious (PG-13) 1hr 46min
2:10, 4:50, 7:35, 10:00

Crank High Voltage (R) 1hr 25min
2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55

Hannah Montana: The Movie (G) 1hr 42min
2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45

Earth (G) 1hr 30min
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 9:00

Fighting (PG-13) 1hr 45min
1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:40

Obsessed (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:30, 4:10, 7:05, 9:35

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

Adventureland (R) 1hr 46min
4:20, 9:30

Enlighten Up! (NR) 1hr 22min
1:55, 7:20

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

Goodbye Solo (NR) 1hr 46min
1:30, 7:10

Tyson (R) 1hr 45min
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

Gigantic (R) 1hr 53min
4:40, 9:40

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

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

I Love You, Man (R) 1hr 50min
2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

State of Play (PG-13) 1hr 58min
1:10, 3:30, 4:20, 7:20, 9:20, 10:20

The Soloist (PG-13) 1hr 49min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

Valentino: The Last Emperor (NR) 1hr 36min
2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40

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

At home, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Wait until the afternoon to get a problem alleviated. New beginnings come in out of the blue. Conversations charge the air with a hot mood. Your creativity surges, and you add that additional touch. Tonight: At home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Listen to news and get past an immediate obstacle. Don't wait. Zero in on what is important. Keep focusing on the quality of your communication. Stay on top of work, as you might call it an early day. Tonight: Make home and your family high priorities.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Deal with finances with a grain of salt. Investigate options more openly. In the afternoon, touch base with your lively and dynamic personality. Keep conversations moving and deal with others directly. Tonight: Hang out with others.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Get going quickly, as your best time will be in the morning. A boss or higher-up could be difficult, though you might have a choice, as you know which side your bread is buttered on. In the long run, you might be happier. Tonight: Pay bills, too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Though you might get a slow start, you will feel your Wheaties soon enough. Your instincts play out with a key partner. Listen to friends who have an awful lot to say. Still, understand that you are in command of your ship. Tonight: As you like.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Juggling friendship and a key relationship easily could land you in the proverbial doghouse. Others act up out of the blue. Use the afternoon for research or quiet work. Screen your calls and get to the bottom of a financial matter. Tonight: Take some long-overdue private time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Take a step forward and understand what is happening. Think in terms of gains and growth. You might have a problem dealing with someone in the morning, but by the afternoon, that same conversation would be a piece of cake. Tonight: Take a stand.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Reach out to others at a distance early on. A strong statement fits the bill. Others will react no matter what you do. Feedback comes in a meeting and/or through a friendship. Be aware of what is happening. Tonight: A must stance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Work with others directly. Distance yourself and research before committing to any plan. Your fiery nature plays out. If you are feeling impulsive, think before you leap. Careful. Tonight: Follow the music.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ If you continue to defer, everything might be easier. You simply cannot shove others out of the limelight. You know what you want. You know where you are heading. Tonight: Dinner for two.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Your ability to move a key idea forward needs to be worked through on many levels. Handle your work and immediate environment. Network in the afternoon, connecting with the many people you care about. Tonight: Say yes, and refuse to become part of the "party of no" in your personal life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Getting down to basics becomes difficult due to an imaginative nature. Brainstorm. Jump over obstacles. In the afternoon, you need to buckle down and perhaps get a little done. Tonight: Fit in a little exercise.

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

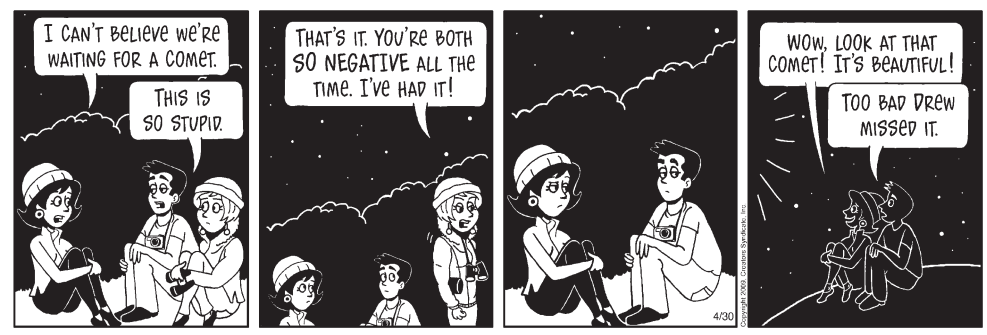
Happy birthday

This year, anchor in on givens and your solid assets. Communication and family need to become stars in your life. You might overthink finances to a point where it won't make any difference. Steer clear of complications and problems, if possible. Your public image could make a big difference in your work and community. Come January 2010, you will see a change or a difference within your immediate circle of friends. Networking becomes more important. If you are single, you are likely to meet someone special during this later period, when networking and friendship are favored. If you are attached, the two of you need to bond through a common goal. LEO provides good sense.

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



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



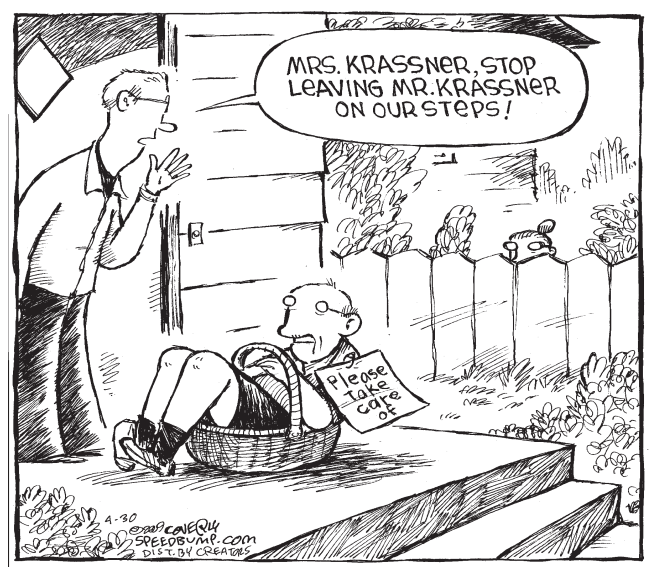
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Rachel Dardashti *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Iditarod need
5 Electrical problem
10 Star
12 Asian capital
13 Poet Breton
14 Whale's home
15 Tell tales
16 Drawing out
18 Incense
20 Future fish
21 Pro-shop purchase
23 Sanctions
24 Ready and willing
26 Mustang feature
28 Bakery buy
29 Revolved
31 Aard-vark's snack
32 Makes sense
36 Airplane no-no
39 Clumsy fellow
40 Bar mixer
41 Roof edges
43 Select group
44 Used up
45 Vegas machines
46 Vegas number

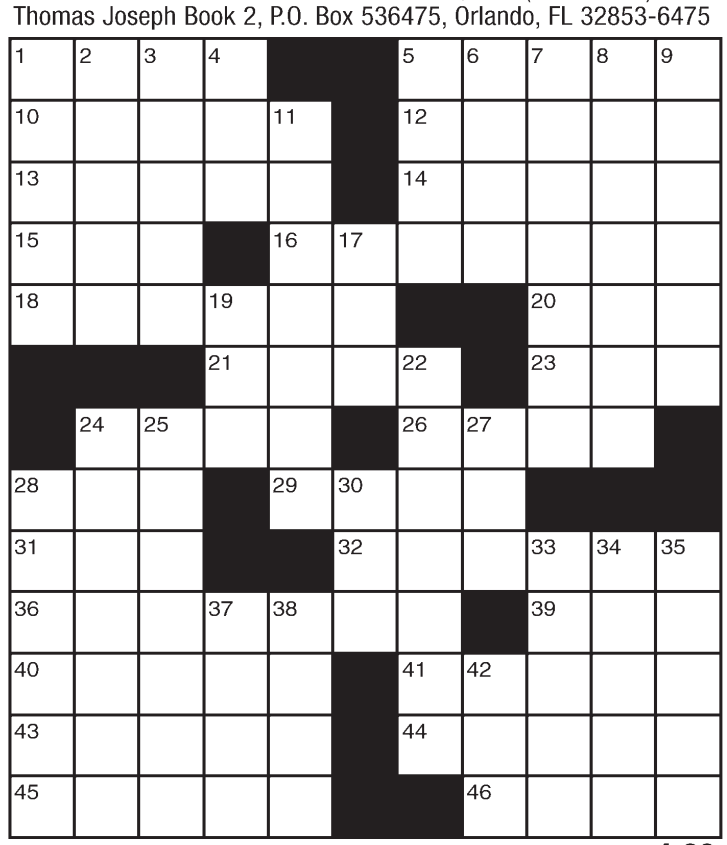
DOWN

1 Mapping ratio
2 Bolshevik leader
3 Church leader
4 German article
5 "Get lost!"
6 Bad writer
7 Cleek
8 Virginia river
9 Colora-tions
11 "Stayin' Alive" band, with "The"
17 Neckline shape
19 Cash dispenser
22 Blurred marks
24 Gang-ster's gal
25 Shake-speare's merchant
27 Plus
28 Treats the turkey
30 Bad review
33 Put away
34 Tip over
35 Nuisances
37 Enter-tainer Eartha
38 Frozen desserts
42 GI address

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Yesterday's answer

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4-30

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MEGA MILLIONS: 15 20 24 36 44
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FANTASY 5: 1 4 5 7 9

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 2 6 0
EVENING: 8 6 2

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 02 Lucky Star
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1.41.87

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Buddhist monks continue to add to their 20-structure compound near the Cambodian border using empty beer bottles, according to a February feature in London's Daily Telegraph. Their building program, begun in 1984, already uses 1.5 million bottles, mostly green Heinekens and brown, locally brewed Chang, both of which are praised for letting in light and permitting easy cleaning.

■ A group of an estimated 10,000 believers is attempting to reverse American Christianity's declining birthrate by shunning all contraception, in obedience to Psalm 127, which likens the advantage of big families to having a "quiver" full of "arrows" (and which calls itself the QuiverFull movement). "God opens and closes the womb," explained one advocate, to National Public Radio in March, noting that in her own church in Shelby, Mich., the mothers average 8.5 children. "The womb is such a powerful weapon ... against the enemy," she said. "The more children I have, the more ability I have to impact the world for God."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1904 the Louisiana Purchase Exposition opened in St. Louis.

1909 Juliana, queen of the Netherlands from 1948 to 1980, was born in The Hague.

1939 the New York World's Fair officially opened with a ceremony that included an address by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

1945 as Russian troops approached his Berlin bunker, Adolf Hitler committed suicide along with his wife, Eva Braun.

1948 the Charter of the Organization of American States was signed in Bogota, Colombia.

1970 President Richard M. Nixon announced the U.S. was sending troops into Cambodia, an action that sparked widespread protest.

1973 Nixon announced the resignations of top aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman, along with Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst and White House counsel John Dean.

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DBAS

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









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Median Price of ALL Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Late April 2009

	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$2,295,000	$1,645,000
North of Montana	$3,407,000	$1,246,500
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,697,500	$843,000
South of Wilshire	$970,000	$619,700
Sunset Park	$1,198,500	$698,000
Ocean Park	$1,199,000	$889,495

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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