

STOCKING UP
SEE PAGE 7

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE BUSY WEEKEND ISSUE

Teacher accused of molesting students

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Editor in Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY A Lincoln Middle School teacher was being held on \$1.1 million bail Sunday for allegedly sexually molesting four female students, authorities said.

Thomas Arthur Beltran, 60, was arrested on Saturday in the 6100 block of Centinela Avenue in Culver City and booked at the Santa Monica city jail for performing lewd and lascivious acts on children under the age of 14, Santa Monica Police Department's Lt. Alex Padilla said during a news conference Sunday outside the Public Safety Facility.

Investigators believe that in at least one case, the alleged molestation took place for a year.

"We are still trying to interview kids to

see when and where these incidents occurred," Padilla said.

Officers were alerted on Friday, May 2 by the parents of a 12-year-old girl who was a student of Beltran's. The girl told investigators that the abuse occurred during the school year in his classroom at Lincoln.

Beltran, who taught at the school for 20 years and has been employed by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District for the last 30 years, specialized in teaching English as a second language. On the Lincoln Middle School Web site it lists Beltran as working in the Humanities Department.

A substitute teacher will be assigned to cover Beltran's classes while the investigation continues.

SMMUSD Superintendent Dianne Talarico said crisis counselors, both internal and external, will be made available at

Lincoln to provide support to students, their families and faculty.

The district's administrative team met with school officials and members of the PTA on Sunday afternoon to formulate a response plan, which will include an adults-only meeting with school officials and parents to discuss the situation tonight at 7 p.m. on the Lincoln campus. Talarico added that a statement would be made to students sometime during the school day, but wasn't sure of the specifics as of press time.

District and school officials have decided to proceed with plans to administer state assessment tests that were previously scheduled to take place.



BELTRAN

"I just feel awful," Talarico said. "I know these are allegations at this point, but my heart and my thoughts and prayers are with the families and the children at this time."

The district is fully cooperating with detectives, she said.

School board President Oscar del la Torre said he too is concerned about the well being of the students and the entire Lincoln Middle School family.

"This is our number one concern right now, because [Beltran] has been an employee for many years we want to see if there are any other victims," de la Torre said. "Because a lot of students (speak English as a

SEE TEACHER PAGE 10

COMMUNITY PROFILES STUART GARBER

Going his own way

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Stuart Garber was caught in a pickle.

It was 2002 and Garber had received a call from a long-time patient, informing the practitioner of homeopathic medicine that she was no longer taking a treatment for a thyroid problem.

The Santa Monica doctor advised the patient to resume the medication, only to be told that she had no intention of doing so, bluntly asking Garber, "So what are you going to do about it?"

Garber was caught in a tricky situation, knowing it was his ethical duty as a doctor to ensure his patient's well-being, but knowing equally well that there was no way she would go back on the medicine.

"She was on it for like 25 years," Garber said in an interview last week. "Conventional medical wisdom is if you're on a drug for

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.comSEE CP PAGE 10 **MEDICINE MAN:** Stuart Garber looks upon a number of homeopathic remedies that he created at his practice on Second Street.

Gary Limjap

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Calendar

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Story Time for Twos

2601 Main St., 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.

The Ocean Park Branch Library brings back their music and story program for toddlers aged 24 — 36 months. Registration and an accompanying adult are required. For more information or to make a reservation, call (310) 392-3804.

Tango with Tango

1416 Electric Ave., Venice, 8:30 p.m. — 10 p.m.

Learn Argentine Tango with Makela Tango at the Electric Lodge. No partner necessary. For more information, visit www.makelatango.com.

'Lose Weight for Good'

1328 22nd St., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Saint John's Health Center presents "Los Weight for Good," a comprehensive program for healthy weight management. No food to purchase, no shakes to drink — just a sound approach to lasting lifestyle solutions. Instructed by a dietitian, cost for the 13-week series is \$300. Flexible access to the Santa Monica Spectrum Health Club and Santa Monica curves is available to those without a current gym membership. Classes fill up quickly so call today — (310) 829-8453!

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Partner for your health

1332 Sixth St., 11:30 a.m.

The California Partnership for Long-Term Care is an innovative program of the State of California, Department of Health Services. The Partnership's mission is to provide Californians with affordable, quality on-going care insurance protection, so you will not be forced to spend everything you have worked for.

Rolling with Ray

Westside, 1 p.m.

Novelist Raymond Chandler gravitated to sin and debauchery, so Santa Monica in the 1930s was a frequent stop for Philip Marlowe, one of his most popular characters. From shady doctors to second wives with pasts to crooked cops with a loathing for a mouthy PI, this tour has it all. Chandler's canonization of sin, wealth and sunshine on L.A.'s Westside fed the abiding myths of the American hard-boiled genre and play into the popular conception of the region. For information, call (323) 223-2767.

Getting wild on the Westside

Noon — 5 p.m.

For the first time, the true crime archeologists of the 1947project have set their sights on points west of Robertson Boulevard, and the results are truly astonishing. In this new tour spotlighting some of the weirdest, most horrific and downright unbelievable crimes of historic West Los Angeles. Seats are \$55 a person. For more information, call (323) 223-2767.

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.



New digs

Recording Academy to relocate to Lantana campus next year

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

EASTISDE The Recording Academy has signed a lease with Maguire Properties, Inc., a Southern California real estate investment trust, for a major new freestanding building at the Maguire's Lantana Entertainment Media Campus located at 3030 Olympic Blvd.

The Academy — internationally known for the Grammy Awards — will relocate its corporate headquarters during the first quarter of 2009.

Arlene Sommer, executive managing director, and Mark Robinson, corporate managing director, of international tenant advisory firm Studley's West Los Angeles office represented The Recording Academy in the transaction.

"As The Recording Academy and its mission and outreach have grown over the years, so have our goals and staff," said Neil Portnow, president/CEO of The Recording Academy. "As we look toward the next 50 years, we are excited to relocate our headquarters to this beautiful new facility at Lantana which not only accommodates our growth but provides an appropriate environment for our many important programs and initiatives now and into the future. And we are pleased with the opportunity to remain in our longtime home of Santa Monica."

Lantana is the premier entertainment (film, television, music and distribution) industry campus on the Westside. The project is 93 percent leased to such tenants as Todd-AO Studios, Revolution Studios, IMAX, Larry David Productions, Larry Gordon Productions, Steven Bochco Productions, Dick Clark Productions, BermanBraun Productions and Beacon Pictures. The 12-acre campus is comprised of three original low-rise office and studio production office buildings plus two new office buildings and parking, which brings the total project to nearly 550,000 square feet.

"The Recording Academy's selection of this project as its headquarters solidifies Lantana as the premier West Los Angeles location for popular entertainment industry firms," said Robert F. Maguire III, chairman/CEO of Maguire Properties. "We are delighted with the addition of The Recording Academy to the stellar roster of tenants who make Lantana home."

Checking twice



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

TALK TIME: SMPD officers speak to Michael, originally from Cincinnati, who was alleged to have been yelling at people passing by on Ocean Avenue.

Born to ride along

Editor's note: For the next two weeks, Editor in Chief Kevin Herrera will be writing a first-person account of what it's like to be enrolled in the Santa Monica Police Department's Citizen Police Academy, which is intended to foster better communication between Santa Monicans and police officers, while giving residents a better understanding of what it takes to preserve the peace.

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Editor in Chief

CITYWIDE So much for that ride along curse that I kept hearing about.

While Santa Monica Police Department's Officer Richard "Ricky" Verbeck and I didn't run into any serious trouble, nor make any arrests during my ride along Friday night (and I'm happy we didn't because of all the paperwork that follows), we, or should I say he, did some quality police work, handing out traffic tickets for running stop signs, helping a young woman get treatment after expressing suicidal thoughts, reuniting a man

with his lost pit bull, and busting an apologetic homeless man for urinating in public.

We were pretty much booked from beginning to end, responding to various calls for service while also having the time to do some proactive police work. In all, we were productive, helping keep the streets safe for all of us, at least for one night.

GETTING READY TO ROLL

The shift started with roll call. Officers working night watch (4 p.m. to 2 a.m.) gathered in a briefing room with their superiors to get up to speed on the latest crimes that occurred that day or that week, along with

arrests made, crime trends and statistics. It was like a professional sports team in their locker room, going over the Xs and Os before the big game, except here, every game is big. Officers leave the Public Safety Facility not knowing if they will return.

There was an early morning sweep along the beach. Several people were cited for camping. Some crimes are up, including rapes and murders (two deaths, up 100 percent from last year), while the majority are down double digits, providing hope that the crime rate will continue to be the lowest it's been in the last 50 years.

Percentages may raise alarm, especially when considering the two murders we've had this year, but when looking at the base numbers it is clear that Santa Monica is a safe city.

SEE RIDE PAGE 8



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Chamber contributes to gridlock

Editor:

I'd like to respond to your article "Chamber opposes potential initiative" (page 1, March 29, 2008) in which you reported on the Chamber of Commerce's opposition to the Residents Initiative to Fight Traffic (RIFT).

It appears as though the Chamber does not fundamentally understand or is choosing to ignore the overwhelming benefits of RIFT to Santa Monica residents, visitors, customers and small businesses.

RIFT is a local ballot measure that would cut the annual rate of traffic-generating commercial development roughly in half.

For those of us who live, visit, shop or work here, that means a drastic slow-down in the amount of additional traffic, more and more of which comes into our city every year.

Commercial developments cause three to four times the amount of traffic on Santa Monica streets than residential buildings. Over the past 25 years, more than 9 million square feet of commercial development have been added to our beach city.

It doesn't take a mathematician to realize that this adds up to unbearable gridlock on our streets. (Not to mention a daily battle to find parking.)

RIFT does not in any way impact existing Santa Monica businesses. In fact, RIFT will likely protect small business owners who increasingly face unaffordable rent hikes, displacement or eviction.

Do you think developers care about saving our small, locally-owned businesses when faced with an opportunity to redevelop their buildings and charge sky-high rents to chain stores?

It's nice of the Chamber to say that they're concerned about protecting Santa Monica's tax base. However, they ignore the strain that commercial development places on our city's precious public resources by requiring new services such as police, firefighters, traffic engineers and infrastructure.

According to the city, commercial growth since 1995 is consuming an increasing share of "energy use, water use, and waste generation [increased] largely as a result of new office construction and larger daytime populations resulting from higher occupancy rates in hotels and office buildings and the regionalization of the city's commercial districts" (OC Report, Feb. 25).

RIFT will enable City Hall to approve only those new commercial developments that substantially increase our tax base. With the passage of RIFT, Santa Monica can deny those developments that consume our services and bring in more traffic.

Let's see a quick show of hands from the Chamber Board: Who is in favor of more traffic and more government to service new developments?

If the Chamber has a better plan for reducing Santa Monica's traffic and controlling the commercial development that has run rampant for the past 25 years, then I'd like to see it.

I bet all five of Santa Monica's neighborhood organizations who endorsed RIFT, and the 10,000 residents who signed RIFT's petition would, too.

Elizabeth Riel

Chair of the North of Montana Neighborhood Association



Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Does Santa Monica care?

HAS ANYBODY ELSE NOTICED THAT

our two chief governing entities — the city and the school district — ignore the pain and suffering of our most vulnerable citizens including disabled children with special needs and seniors and the weak who depend on public assistance housing?

A review of the city's housing element during Tuesday's City Council meeting brought forth a litany of complaints about harassment and intimidation by their landlords from very low, low and moderate income tenants living in subsidized, Section 8 and deed-restricted housing. The majority of complaints came from "low income" renters at the Plaza at the Arboretum, 2200 Colorado Ave., and at the Sea Castle, 1725 Ocean Front Walk. Both properties are managed by Metric Property Management, a national property management firm whose Web site boasts about integrity and honesty.

Tenants complained of mold problems, odors, security issues, bad maintenance, shoddy repairs and dark, dank units. They said they were afraid to ask for even basic repairs. They also mentioned the intimidation and constant threats from building managers.

Denise McGranahan, with the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Monica, told council they were working with 30 clients from four deed-restricted buildings who all had grievances. One example involved documents tenants were required to sign giving landlords entry to apartments at any time, day or night, to make repairs after a complaint was made. Such a contract is a clear violation of basic tenant rights.

McGranahan also revealed that vacated deed-restricted apartments were being re-rented out to Arboretum employees, which is a flagrant violation of the Arboretum's development agreement with the city.

These complaints are just the tip of the iceberg. I have good reason to believe that the city was well aware of these and numerous other tenant/landlord issues through its housing division which administrates many of the subsidized programs, rent control administration and the consumer division in the city attorney's office.

I've also heard the same kinds of horror stories about the low income/public housing properties owned and managed by the city's own Community Corporation of Santa Monica, for years. CCSM's complainers are ignored and dismissed as "troublemakers," according to one tenant I've talked to.

If the city turns a blind eye and deaf ear to these abuses, what else has fallen through the cracks?

How about residential space in mixed-use developments? By including condos or apartments in mixed-use developments, developers receive bonuses such as extra height and density, unavailable in strictly commercial projects. When completed and

"housing space" is leased commercially, that's a code violation and one that's rarely enforced. Worst of all, housing promised is never delivered.

I'm not to sure what's going on but it seems like a lot of people aren't doing their jobs. It's inexcusable that "those in charge" have allowed these situations to happen, let alone continue in a community that says it cares about those in need.

Whether they be school district or city staff, elected politicians or their political appointees, it's a sure bet that if I've heard about these and other maltreatment issues, they have too. It's only after someone "goes public" that those in charge scramble, make excuses or plead outright ignorance. Pathetic, isn't it?

SMC CONSTRUCTION BOND IN THE WINGS?1

Rumors are Santa Monica College will probably float another facility construction bond on the November 2008, ballot. I've been told boilerplate is now being drafted by SMC's Marketing Manager Don Girard for Board of Trustees review, possibly next month, so the total dollar amount is not finalized. SMC's press relations manager, Bruce Smith, denies any knowledge of it.

Costs of the bond, if placed on the ballot and approved by voters, will be born by all property owners and renters in the Santa Monica/Malibu Community College District. The college's most recent bond proposal, the \$135-million Measure S was barely approved in the November 2004 election. Measure U, a \$160 million bond proposal, was approved by voters in March 2002. College bonds have raised nearly \$300-million for campus capital improvements in the last six years.

HISTORIC DISTRICT PRESERVED

Last Tuesday, the City Council also told Mark Woollen to go back to the drawing boards. He's the property owner of 2617 Third Street who proposed building a modern, two story "addition" behind a classic 1905 period bungalow in the heart of the "early 20th Century" themed Third Street Historical District in Ocean Park

His neighbors and historic preservationists vigorously opposed the project. City council voted to advise Woollen that he and his architect must make the project more compatible with the surrounding neighborhood in order to get their blessings.

Everyone is happy council finally acknowledged that Woollen's project didn't comply with historic district guidelines. Good decision. It's a victory for preservation and keeps a door open for Woollen to propose an "addition" in an architectural style that's more harmonious with neighborhood character.

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Your column here
Christopher Nyerges

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

To change the world, start with yourself

I WAS ONLY A TEENAGER, BUT I COULD never get it out of my mind: "How should we be living our lives? Is there not more to life than seeking money, possessions, and pleasure?" These questions, and their countless variations, were the driving force that led me on my path of botany, ecology, indigenous skills, and spiritual evolution.

I spent the last 30 years attempting to learn and to apply the "little things" that I can do, and that anyone can do, to choose to be a part of the solution. It is the way that I maintain hope, and that I can find a way to mentally rise above what seems a hopeless situation.

Besides learning many of the elements of what anyone can do, even if you're in the cities, I realized that there is no "enemy" out there. The "enemy" is always within. It is my own proclivity to laziness, to choosing the path of least resistance, to choosing something based solely on economics.

My pursuit of "what to do?" initially led me to study botany. In botany, and specifically in discovering how indigenous peoples used their floral friends, I realized that food and medicine were richly abundant on this earth. While modern agriculture continues to travel down the high-tech path of genetically modified foods, the most nutritious plants on the earth are still wild plants, plants such as dandelion, purslane, curly dock and other so-called "weeds" that are found in urban areas throughout the world.

Dandelion — richer in beta-carotene than carrots. Purslane, the richest plant source of Omega-3 fatty acids. Curly dock, one of the richest sources of vitamin A. These wild plants, and hundreds more, I have used and taught to thousands of students over the past 3 decades. Acorns still abound, and it is a fascinating path of discovery to collect the acorns and process them in the traditions of the Old Ways. In our urban areas, we can find lambs quarter, a spinach relative that is arguably nature's best mineral tablet. We find abundant carob trees planted as ornamentals, and these are edible right off the tree, with three times as much calcium as the same amount of milk. Chickweed is a common weed of lawns, rich in vitamin C and a delicious salad plant.

WHY A LAWN?

Why, why, why? It is apparently because "we" believe that there is some socially

redeeming value in lawns. We have never cared for lawns, and have always used that space to create compost, and raise such plants as fruit trees, roses, lavender, and edible groundcovers such as nasturtiums, mints, and tradescantia. This is one of the "little ways" we choose to not contribute to the waste of water and fuel that goes into the care and maintenance of lawns. It is one of our little ways in which we can take charge and be a part of the solution.

And we have spoken up when other neighbors cut their "weeds" down to the bare soil. This is as foolhardy as a lawn, even worse, for it dries the soil, reduces the amount of moisture that that soil can release into the local atmosphere, and contributes to desertification.

It is difficult enough to create a beautiful area where there was once a pointless lawn. It is more difficult to convince others, since most in today's mindset will not only ridicule you, but will find ways to fight you, legally or otherwise.

It is wise to find ways to become a part of the solution, and it is also wise to go forward with eyes open, to avoid unnecessary battles. It is wiser to convince your neighbors to the vast practicality of what you do, rather than have to fight your neighbors when they suggest your "overgrown lawn" is lowering their property values.

One person may not be able to change the world, but each of us can change ourselves. By studying plants, and learning their value, I have begun to see how botany is related to the health of the soil, and how the health of the soil is related to the network of animal life on that land, and this has led me to see how the health of the wild animals directly affects my health and well-being. This is a science, not a "New Age" word game, and the application of practical urban ecology should be approached as a hard science, where you can observe positive results, and where you can repeat those results if you follow the same procedures.

CHRISTOPHER NYERGES is the author of *How To Survive Anywhere* and co-author of "Extreme Simplicity: Homesteading in the City." Since 1974, Nyerges has led Wild Food Outings, Survival Skills outings, and Urban Homesteading classes in California.

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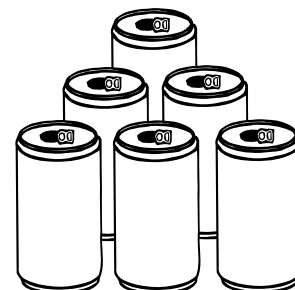
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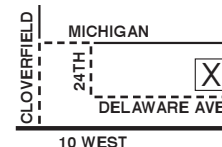
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The Q-Line

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With the price for seemingly everything on the rise, people are having to make tough decisions to cut corners and save pennies.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:
What are you doing to offset the cost for everyday goods and services?

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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Nearly 80% of Santa Monica's core workforce lives outside city limits. Workforce housing offers many potential benefits, including an improved ability to attract and retain quality workers, enhanced employee interaction with the community, reduced traffic congestion both on local streets and in the regional transportation network and improved employee accessibility in the event of an emergency.

The City Manager has invited a broad base of community stakeholders to participate in a Workforce Housing Committee to investigate the needs, assess financial tools and explore geographic opportunities. The next committee meeting will be held May 5, 2008, and is our wrap-up meeting. It is open to the public.



For more information, please call the
City Manager's Office at (310) 458-8301.

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KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

"Know Before You Go" is a weekly update on construction projects throughout Santa Monica.

Annenberg Community Beach Club

Beach Parking Lot 10 will be closed for rehabilitation Feb. 7 through May 20. Beach patrons are advised to ride a bike or park in Lot 9 north. The self pay machine in Lot 9 allows payment for either all-day or two-hour parking. Flag persons will be in the area to ensure safe conditions and limit disruption to Pacific Coast Highway.



Annual Tree Trimming Project

City trees will be trimmed at the following locations: 30th Street (Pico Boulevard to Ocean Park Boulevard), 31st Street (Pico to Ocean Park), 12th Street (Montana Avenue to Wilshire Boulevard), Sixth Street (Wilshire to Colorado Avenue), Grant Street (Lincoln Boulevard to 16th Street), Ocean Avenue (Adelaide Drive to Pico), 17th Street (Broadway to Pico). There will be minimal lane closures from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. The annual tree trimming schedule is subject to change without notice due to inclement weather, emergencies, community events, budget conditions, street repairs or other public improvements. Residences and businesses will be notified in advance of tree trimming operations, blocks will also be posted with no parking signs.

Back On the Beach Café (445 Pacific Coast Hwy.)

Flag persons will be in the area to ensure safe conditions and limit disruption to traffic flow on PCH on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Beach Parking Lot 10 will be closed for rehabilitation Feb. 7 through May 20. Beach patrons are advised ride a bike or park in Lot 9 north. The self-pay machine in Lot 9 allows payment for either all-day or two-hour parking.

Big Blue Bus Campus Expansion (1620 Sixth St.)

No public parking at the eastside of Sixth Street (South of Colorado Avenue). Mar. 3, 2008 to Aug. 25, 2009: No parking along, and no pedestrian access to west sidewalk of Seventh Street, between Colorado and Olympic boulevards. Jan. 21, 2009 to Apr. 21, 2009: No parking along, and no pedestrian access to south sidewalk of Colorado between Sixth and Seventh streets.

Colorado Ocean Relief Sewer Project

Traffic from the I-10 Freeway will be directed to avoid Colorado Avenue by either using Pico Boulevard or East-West streets North of Colorado. Project is scheduled for completion in May 2009. Detours are as follows:

- Westbound Colorado Avenue will be closed at Second Street.
- Eastbound Colorado Avenue will be reduced to one lane between Ocean Avenue and Second Street.
- Southbound Second Street will be closed at Colorado Avenue.
- Pedestrian access to businesses and through the work area will be maintained.

Marine Street Utility Undergrounding

Relocation and undergrounding of electric, phone, and cable facilities on Marine Street, between Lincoln Boulevard and Prospect Court. Parking limitations will be posted daily and detours may be announced as necessary.

Second/Fourth streets Streetscape Improvement Project

Construction crews will be working on both sides of Second Street from Wilshire Boulevard to Colorado Avenue. There may be occasional disruption to some parking spaces. Please follow posted detour signs.

Traffic Signal Upgrade

Fiber optic infrastructure installation and traffic signal modifications will continue in the following locations: 1) San Vicente Boulevard and Seventh Street; 2) Ocean Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard; 3) Santa Monica Boulevard and Seventh Street; 4) Pico Boulevard and Main Street; 5) Ocean Avenue and Moomat Ahiko Way. Work hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Traffic lane closures and sidewalk closures should be anticipated at these locations.

East Colorado Improvement Project

Pedestrian and neighborhood traffic improvements on Colorado Avenue between 20th Street and Centinela Avenue. Streets will be reduced to one lane both east and west bound from 20th Street to 26th Street. Some parking lanes will be removed during various construction phases. Pedestrian walkways will also be reduced during the construction period.

Citywide Sidewalk Repair Project

Repairs to various sidewalk locations Citywide. Traffic lane closures and sidewalk closures should be expected throughout the construction zones. Detours may be announced as necessary, please follow posted detour signs.

Citywide Street Repair Project

Repairs to various street locations Citywide. Work is scheduled at Colorado Avenue & Fourth Street, Broadway between Fifth and Sixth Streets, Fourth Street & Civic Center Drive, Main Street (in front of City Hall), and Santa Monica Boulevard from Lincoln Boulevard to 26th Street. Traffic lane closures and sidewalk closures should be expected throughout the construction zones. Detours may be announced as necessary, please follow posted detour signs.

Street and Park Lighting Project, Project #8

Potholing, asphalt patching, and underground electrical conduit installation by boring/drilling done on Ocean Avenue from Bicknell to Hollister avenues from May 5 to May 9, 2008. Please follow posted detour signs. One lane may be closed as needed.

For more information on projects, please visit the **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO WEB SITE** at: www.knowB4ugo.smgov.net

Pushed by higher prices, immigrants stocking up on rice

BY JULIANA BARBASSA

Associated Press Writer

RICHMOND Shoppers surveyed shelves loaded with rice at the Ranch 99 Asian supermarket, chatting in languages from Mandarin to Portuguese as they hunted for their favorite varieties, checked brand names and compared prices before heaving 50-pound bags into their carts.

Skyrocketing prices and media reports of a shortage are driving many immigrants and U.S. Asians, Hispanics, Indians and others to stock up on rice — a once inexpensive staple that is reaching record-high prices across the country. In Indian corner markets and warehouse-sized supermarkets specializing in Asian goods, customers who usually take home a 20-pound bag are taking two, or even reaching for the 50-pound bag.

"It's all in the news, on TV and newspapers," said Grace Yap, originally of China, who was shopping at Ranch 99 with Birgitta Elmahdy, born in Sweden.

"I'm from a place that eats a lot of potatoes, but I bought two bags," Elmahdy said. "Then I thought about it — that'll last me a year!"

Emphasizing that there is no rice shortage in the United States, economists and commodity traders blame the price hikes confronting U.S. consumers on everything from the weather in producing countries to the increased buying power of countries like China. Chief among those factors was the decision by India, Vietnam, China, Egypt, Cambodia and Brazil to curtail exports to protect prices at home, said Nathan Childs, an economist and rice expert with the Department of Agriculture.

Seeking to tame rising rice prices, which have more than tripled since January, Thailand proposed an OPEC-style cartel on Friday with major rice exporters Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam to give them more control over international rice prices.

Take escalating prices, add to that news of food riots abroad, and many American buyers are choosing to be safe and purchasing more, especially since rice keeps well. That sends ripples all the way up the buying chain, said Pat Daddow, owner of the California Rice Exchange, a platform where farmers sell to processors.

mine, Indian basmati and long grain white rice — varieties not grown domestically. Sam's Club, a division of Wal-Mart Stores Inc., caters to small businesses such as restaurants, and limited shoppers to four 20-pound bags each.

Whatever experts call it, shoppers are choosing to buy a little more of whatever type of rice they prefer.

"I've had to double the order," said Kirk Tamachi, the Asian food buyer for Berkeley Bowl supermarket in Berkeley, Calif. "We normally sell two, three (50-pound) sacks a day of the different varieties we have, but we got wiped out."

eventually cause panic among her customers.

Kuo-Chen Yen, manager of New A & N Food Market Inc., hasn't had trouble getting rice, just keeping it on the store's shelves. It usually takes him two weeks to sell 10,000 bags of rice. Now it only takes a week.

Until rice prices flatten out, Yen said he is forced to pass the cost increase on to consumers.

"I'm just paying more to get the rice," he said.

Peter Wong, who's in charge of the rice at Hong Kong Super Market in Queens, said he's seen his sales increase by 40 percent. But he's not selling out. Like Yen and Suen, Wong had plenty of rice to go around.

Wong didn't think there was a risk that his customers would stop buying jasmine rice, even as it topped \$19 for a 25-pound bag.

"The Chinese eat rice," he said with a smile. "They have no choice."

All types of rice grown in the United States have seen price increases as they fill in demand usually met by their competitors abroad. California farmers, for example, will be selling more to Turkey, now that Egypt, which also produces medium-grain rice, pulled out of the export market.

Long grain rice grown in the Southern U.S. went from \$397 per ton in April 2007 to \$794 a year later. The medium-grain rice grown in California went from \$551 per ton to \$750 per ton in the same period.

But it's the imported rices that don't grow in the U.S. — the basmati or jasmine preferred by Southeast Asians, Indians, Filipinos and many Chinese — that are in the greatest demand and going for the highest prices.

EVERYONE IS ANTICIPATING A PRICE RISE, SO THEY'RE TRYING TO BUY AHEAD OF IT. THAT CREATES A SHORT-TERM RISE IN DEMAND, AND HIGHER PRICES."

Pat Daddow,
Owner, California Rice Exchange

Grocery stores in Flushing, Queens, home to one of New York's three bustling Chinatowns, also have seen a spike in rice sales along with prices

Helen Suen, Hing Long Supermarket's accountant, has produced invoices documenting the store's rising rice costs. At the beginning of the year, she bought jasmine rice through a wholesaler. Each 25-pound bag was \$11, which the store sold for \$13. Today, Hing Long pays \$17 per bag and charges \$20.

If the trend continues, Suen thinks it will

"You hear prices are going up, so instead of buying one bag, you buy five," he said. "Everyone is anticipating a price rise, so they're trying to buy ahead of it. That creates a short-term rise in demand, and higher prices."

But is it hoarding? Not really, since there's no shortage, said Daddow.

"It's just rational economic behavior," he said. "If gas were going up tomorrow, wouldn't you fill up your tank?"

The stockpiling has led U.S. warehouse retail chains to limit sales of bulk imported Thai jas-

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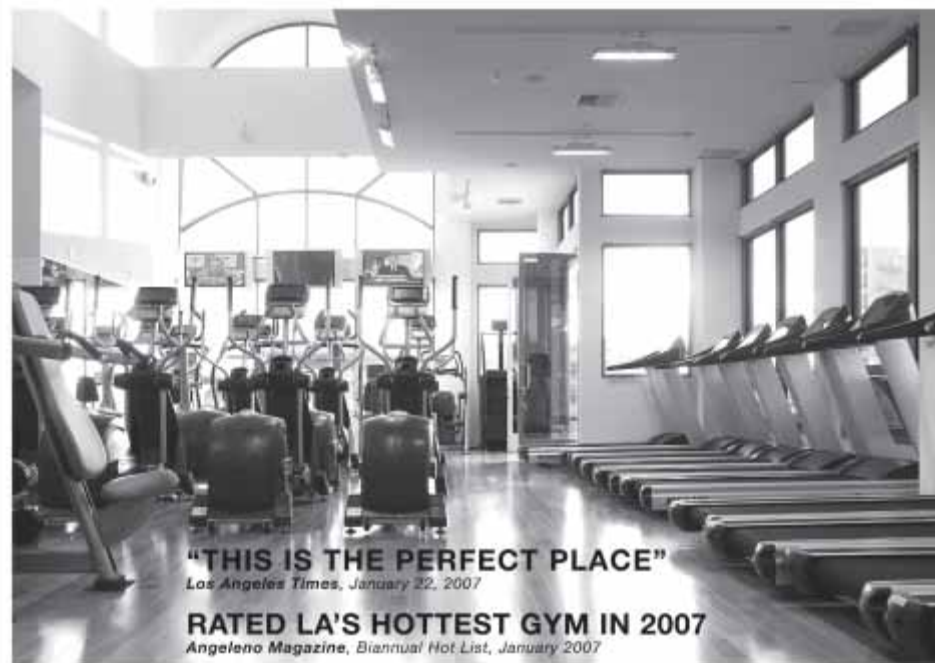
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Working the beat is serious business

FROM RIDE PAGE 3

And that's with the city by the sea being attached at the left hip to Los Angeles, which has been dreadfully dubbed the murder capital of the nation in recent years and has witnessed over 80 murders so far this year.

After viewing photos of those arrested, a few jokes cracked at their expense, the officers dispersed. I was led to an office so that I could sign a waiver and receive my "Citizen Observer" name tag.

From there I met up with Verbeck, 28, a six year veteran who grew up in Santa Monica as the son of a police officer, spending much of his childhood at the station and around the boys in blue. It was those experiences and the camaraderie his father had with his fellow officers that led Verbeck to put a career in computers on hold to pursue his lifelong dream of working patrol.

"It's not about the money," Verbeck said, explaining why he passed up on careers that could have paid more than a life in law enforcement. "I like helping people. Every day you can go home at the end of the day and say, 'I made a difference in someone's life.'"

Case in point, a few weeks ago Verbeck and his partner were eating lunch at Bubba Gumps on the Santa Monica Pier when they received a call about a kid who wasn't breathing. The two left their meal and ran to the scene. They met with a mother who was hysterical. Her baby boy, "Little Jessie," 15 months, was choking on a churro. He wasn't breathing. Verbeck turned the boy around and gave him a few back blows while using his fingers to clean out the kid's mouth, tossing bits of churro to the ground.

"I don't necessarily care for the sound of a baby crying, but when he started whimpering, I was like 'Thank God,'" Verbeck said. "You don't realize it at the time, but later on you think, 'Wow, I just saved a baby's life.' It feels really good."

Verbeck and I had met twice before, the first time being the day I spent hanging out at Will Rogers Park with the SMPD's Mounted Unit. Verbeck was in training, learning how to maintain control over his horse as he ran through a series of movements needed to hold his own in a crowd.

The second time we met, Verbeck, a training officer who specializes in defensive tactics, played a drunk who had to pee, jumping out of a parked car during a mock traffic stop, forcing me to pull my weapon out of fear. He likes to bring that up.



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

KEEPING BUSY: SMPD Officer Richard 'Ricky' Verbeck fills out some paperwork while working the Night Watch on Friday evening.

"You almost shot me for going to the bathroom," he said with a laugh.

He's a cool cat, a dedicated officer who likes to work in the trenches and knows how to have fun doing it. He's got a reputation for being a good cop, which put me at ease. I was worried that I might have to spend the next six or eight hours with someone who was guarded and unwilling to communicate. That's not Verbeck. He's open, honest and likes to laugh, so right away I knew we were in good shape.

**YOU DON'T
REALIZE IT AT
THE TIME, BUT LATER ON
YOU THINK, 'WOW, I JUST
SAVED A BABY'S LIFE.' IT
FEELS REALLY GOOD."**

Richard 'Ricky' Verbeck,
SMPD officer

We walked to our squad car, checked the electronics and the rest of our equipment to make sure everything was functioning properly. Aside from a camera that records when an officer goes a certain speed or flips on his or her lights, the car comes equipped with a computer system that includes a touch-screen and keyboard, allowing officers to enter in license plates, drivers license numbers and scan through calls for service. We also checked our weapons, a shotgun with hard-hitting slugs and an assault rifle.

When everything is in order, we head out for a night of crime fighting.

ON THE STREETS

"This is right where I want to be, so I couldn't be happier," Verbeck said of patrol as he drove east on Colorado Avenue, just passing Santa Monica Place. "I work with a great group of officers, hard workers ... We're a close group. After work sometimes, we get together at someone's house, kick back and have a good time. These aren't just people you work with, they become your friends."

As for Night Watch, Verbeck loves it. It is the time of day that allows the officers to not only answer calls for service, but to be more proactive in their approach as they hit hot spots looking for anything suspicious.

"You get all types of calls," Verbeck said of Night Watch. "It's early enough in the day that if there is a bank robbery, we can get involved. Then it folds into the nighttime when we get plenty of calls, street robberies, narcotics, burglaries ... You get more of the serious offenses. During Day Watch, you are answering call after call after call and you don't have that time for that self initiated type of work."

For Verbeck that means checking on alleys where he knows heroin users like to shoot up, or parking near a stop sign at the entrance to the 1550 beach parking lot, catching drivers who fail to obey the stop signs, putting the lives of bike riders at risk as they roll by on the bike path. We did both.

Working night watch isn't for everyone. The hours can be tough, especially for those with families. For Verbeck it works just fine. His wife is in medical school and is busy studying most nights. The two can wake up late, hit the gym and have lunch together before he heads to the station.

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Police believe there may be more victims

FROM TEACHER PAGE 1

second language), I just hope that they feel comfortable in coming forward and trusting the system.”

De la Torre, who said the investigation is the district's top priority, fears that if there are other alleged victims that they will not come forward because of their parents' immigration status.

“I hope that doesn't interfere with getting to the bottom of what actually occurred,” de la Torre said.

The investigation is ongoing and those with information are urged to contact the SMPD at (310) 458-8491. Anyone wishing to remain anonymous may call the SMPD tip line at (310) 458-8449 or the We Tip hotline at (800) 782-7463.

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BREAKING THE NEWS: Members of the Santa Monica Police Department announce molestation charges against local teacher Thomas Arthur Beltran during a news conference at the Public Safety Facility on Sunday. Beltran has been a teacher in the school district for the last 30 years.

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Santa Monica doctor creates line of homeopathic remedies

FROM CP PAGE 1

that long it shuts down the gland and you pretty much have to be on it for life.”

He offered a deal — the patient would be the first to try a new homeopathic remedy the doctor had toyed with in his mind for some time, and in exchange, she would promise to stick to a strict regimen that included check-ups every few weeks.

The remedy — a concoction of biotherapy formulas — would eventually normalize the patient's thyroid levels after six months of use and go on to cure the various ailments of countless successive patients, their problems ranging from insomnia to skin diseases.

That one concoction would spark a chain of events and chance meetings that would land the homeopathic remedy on the shelves of Whole Foods and Wild Oats markets in Santa Monica and West Los Angeles.

Six years since Garber received that fateful call from his thyroid patient, the doctor is playing double duty, both as a homeopathic doctor and an entrepreneur, his line — “Dr. Garber's Natural Solutions” — released in Whole Foods stores nearly three weeks ago.

Natural Solutions, whose line includes 11 different remedies for diseases ranging from allergies to constipation, is based on three different biotherapies, which are natural substances used to fight illnesses.

The biotherapies include a gemmotherapy, which is the active growing agents in plants; the lithotherapy, which come from mineral rocks; and organotherapy, made from healthy tissue.

While Garber was surprised to see the results with his thyroid patient, he wasn't convinced of the formula until receiving a call from another patient who had a sleeping problem.

Garber went back to the lab and tinkered with the formula. On the first night the insomniac patient tried the sleeping treatment, she dozed off.

“I thought wow, I think I hit on something important here,” Garber said.

Garber, who in 1997 became the first person in the country to receive his doctorate's degree in homeopathy, began offering the treatment to other physicians soon after.



GARBER

**I THOUGHT
WOW, I THINK I
HIT ON SOMETHING
IMPORTANT HERE.”**

Stuart Garber

His colleagues reported similar results on their own patients and it wasn't long before Garber began receiving suggestions to explore marketing opportunities.

In 2005, Garber sold his first batch to a medical distribution company. Dr. Garber's Natural Solutions hit the shelves at the Santa Monica Homeopathic Pharmacy next.

Whole Foods entered the picture when Garber met an acquaintance of the head buyer for the company's Northern California region. He sent off a batch to the buyer who enjoyed

the product, but found it an inopportune time to introduce it to stores. Garber was told thank you, but try again six months later.

So he did.

In a chance meeting, Garber ran into a friend who knew the buyer for the Southern California region for Whole Foods. The buyer coincidentally had heard of Dr. Garber's Natural Solutions and had tagged it as a possible new product for the popular stores.

More than half a year later, Natural Solutions is now available.

“At Whole Foods Market, we have stringent quality standards for all the products that we carry,” Robin Rogosin, the Whole Body Buyer and associate coordinator for the Southern Pacific Region, said in a statement on Friday. “Dr. Garber's Natural Solutions are uniquely formulated ... and have been shown to be helpful among Dr. Garber's patients in his clinical practice.”

While Garber is a practitioner of homeopathic medicine, his career started in 1981 as a holistic chiropractor.

Raised on Long Island, Garber moved out to the West Coast to attend the Los Angeles College of Chiropractic, receiving his master's degree in 1981.

He started working as a protégé to one of the top cranial doctors in the world whose practice was located in Los Angeles. After a few years, Garber bought the practice.

It was during his travels in Europe that Garber began meeting homeopathic doctors. He began incorporating homeopathy into his practice slowly.

After taking a sabbatical for a few years from the profession, during which time Garber earned his PhD in homeopathic medicine, he opened his practice in Downtown Santa Monica in 1998.

Garber said he hopes to see his products expand within the Whole Foods company and eventually go global.

“This way a lot more people can have access to products that really work for them, that don't have any side effects, that are easy for them to use, and that will really make an impact on the quality of their lives,” he said

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Along for the ride

FROM RIDE PAGE 8

call. A man with a metal pipe has allegedly been threatening people inside a business on Wilshire Boulevard near 28th Street. Verbeck hits the sirens and slams on the accelerator, the V-8 engine roaring as we speed past motorists.

"You never blow through intersections," Verbeck said as he slowed down near the corner of Colorado Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard. "You'd be surprised how many people just don't hear the siren or don't pay attention to it."

We get there in about a minute, and find several other officers on scene and a black man, who looked to be homeless, in handcuffs sitting on the ground. The situation is under control, so we jump back in our squad car and continue to cruise. We drive toward Downtown to Verbeck's beat, Beat 1, which covers everything west of Pacific Coast Highway. That's when we receive a call about a man yelling at people passing by. We get the description on the computer and start looking along Ocean Avenue.

We spotted the suspect near Santa Monica Boulevard and Ocean. It's an older white gentleman with even whiter hair. He looked lost. Verbeck and another officer questioned him. He said his name is Michael and he's originally from Cincinnati where he worked as a machinist. The officers searched him and sat him down on the sidewalk so they could chat. After a few minutes and a stern warning, they let the man go.

"This job really makes you appreciate what you have," Verbeck said as he drove to the next call, a young woman reportedly distraught and contemplating suicide.

On the computer screen it said she's a cutter. When we arrive we meet up with five or so officers who are talking with the woman. She seemed fine, perhaps a little groggy from some sleeping pills she took earlier. The officers handcuffed her for her own safety and transported her to a local hospital for observation.

We leave and head over to an alley just off Olympic Boulevard and 20th Street. Verbeck wants to check up on an old friend, a homeless man named Jonny, one of Verbeck's success stories. Jonny, an Latino man with a shaved head and tattoos, was a drunk about three years ago, Verbeck said. He would constantly run into Jonny and his drinking buddies, who would pound beers in the alley. Verbeck would constantly cite them, but after a few months, he realized that wasn't working.

So instead, Verbeck began pouring out their beer. Nearly every day he would do this, all the while pleading with Jonny to give it up. Finally, after getting frustrated with having his beer dumped, Jonny put the booze down and started on the road to recovery.

When we met up with him, he said he's been sober for quite some time and was working construction in Los Angeles. He seemed grateful for Verbeck's help and showed him his new dog.

"You really helped me out," Jonny told Verbeck. "You set me straight."

The two shook hands and we left.

"If I can help make a difference with at least one of these guys, that's good," Verbeck said as we headed back to the beach.

While rolling on Ocean Front Walk, we spotted five Latino males dressed in baggy jeans and long T-shirts smoking what appeared to be a joint. Verbeck rolled over slowly, got out of the car and called for back up before approaching the men, who were not too pleased to be stopped. They started talking back to Verbeck, who kept his cool despite the chatter.

"I came at you with respect," Verbeck told them, getting the attention of one guy who told his friends to shut up and listen to what Verbeck had to say.

The guys wanted to know why they were stopped. Verbeck told them it was because they were smoking on the beach and walking on the bike path, both violations of the municipal code. Verbeck searched them and ran a few names through his computer while two other officers stood chatting with the group, cracking jokes about their baggy pants as they laughed at one officer's tight trousers. It seemed that a tense situation turned quickly as they all laughed, exchanged some daps and went on their way.

It turned out what we thought was a joint was a cigarette on of them rolled. While he could have cited them for smoking, Verbeck choose not to, letting them walk off into the sunset.

As we rolled through the 1550 lot, our heads on a swivel scanning the lines of parked cars as the sound of laughter and the surf spilled into the patrol car, Verbeck turned to me and assumed the reporter role, asking me how long I've been writing and how our chosen professions seemed to relate, both of us always on the lookout for something out of the ordinary, both professions respected, but often criticized.

We spoke briefly about our families, his mother having just called to say hello, and presumably to check up on him like all mothers do.

"I love you," she said with that tone that touches every man and makes them remember when they were young and vulnerable.

"I love you, too," Verbeck said as he hung up his cell phone and continued through the parking lot.

Up and over a concrete parking block and into an adjacent lot we went. Verbeck shined the high beam at a car that pulled into a parking space. The lot closes at sunset and Verbeck wanted to let them know so they wouldn't have to be towed later. He was also being proactive, looking to keep his lots free of anything that might turn into a problem later. It turned out that the driver wanted to leave, but their key broke in the ignition. We left them, knowing that we would have to come back later to check up on them.

The rest of the night was clam. We pulled over a driver for illegally tinted windows and because his brake lights weren't working. Verbeck wrote him a ticket and we pushed on. There was a call about a possible domestic disturbance, so we headed over to 26th Street and Pico Boulevard to investigate. It turns out a couple had too much to drink and were involved in an argument, the boyfriend punching a cabinet and mirror, cutting his hand.

"Just normal, fun couple problems," the girlfriend said.

Seeing that the situation was under control, we rolled out. It was nearing 10:30 p.m. and it was about time to call it a night for me. Verbeck still had another three and a half hours left. I was told that the officers would probably prefer it if you left before the shift was up, so I wanted to oblige.

Verbeck dropped me off in front of my office. We shook hands and I thanked him for the ride. I left feeling as if I learned a lot about the working lives of these officers and what it takes to do the job right. It felt good.

But not all days are like this. Sometimes you see things that haunt you, like the time Verbeck held an elderly man as he took his last breath, the victim of a car accident on Idaho Avenue last year. It was hard for him to let go of the memory of the man's face as his life slipped away. That was one of the few times Verbeck called his wife to talk about what he had seen.

For the most part, officers have to process things and move on. It helps to not take anything too seriously.

"Humor is key in this line of work," Verbeck said. "If you can't laugh most of this stuff off, then you're in trouble."

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Earth Talk

By the editors of E Magazine

Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Avalence LLC

CLEAN ENERGY: Avalence LLC's Martin Shimko demonstrates the company's 'Hydrofiller,' which makes, stores and dispenses hydrogen. This unit powers the fuel-cell powered back-up power system at the Chewonki Foundation, a camp and environmental education center in Wiscasset, Maine.

Cleaning up the dirty world of technology

Dear EarthTalk

What is the "clean tech" business sector and why have I been hearing that term so much lately?

Andrea Newell
 Denver, CO

CLEANTECH IS A LOOSELY DEFINED category of businesses dedicated to creating cutting edge technologies that address the world's environmental problems. These high flying companies — most of which began small with the hope of ascending to publicly traded status — are the new darlings of Wall Street, attracting billions in venture capital and public funding in what many financial analysts are calling the next big thing since the burst of the dot-com bubble.

Venture capitalists poured more than \$3 billion into the cleantech sector in 2007 alone. Whether this cleantech boom will lead the rest of the economy down the green path for the long term — or go bust in a couple of years like its dot-com predecessor — remains to be seen.

In the thick of the movement is Cleantech Network LLC, a research firm and clearinghouse for cleantech companies and investors that also publishes the online information clearinghouse, Cleantech.com. The firm defines its budding industry as "new technology and related business models offering competitive returns for investors and customers while providing solutions to global challenges."

The firm interacts with a network of 8,000 investors, 6,000 companies and 3,500 professional organizations involved in alternative energy and energy efficient transportation, wastewater management technologies, air pollution control innovations, sustainable materials production and sourcing, environmentally responsible industrial

and agricultural applications, and waste recycling and management.

Some examples of the thousands of companies that consider themselves part of the cleantech movement include: Finavera Renewables, a firm that is developing underwater turbines and buoys to generate power from the ocean's tides and waves; 3TIER Group, which uses advanced computer modeling to help energy companies and utilities figure out where best to site wind, solar and hydro-electric projects; Avalence LLC, which is developing high-pressure hydrogen generation and storage equipment that will dispense hydrogen for use in transportation, home power and industrial applications; and, Infinia Corporation, which is developing a utility-scale system to harvest solar energy.

Over and above the cleantech sector's potential for addressing crucial environmental problems, analysts see it as a bright spot in the darkening picture of the recession-bound economy over the next few years.

Marketing research and consulting firm Fuji Keizai USA expects the global market for cleantech products and services to grow from the \$284 billion it is generating today to over \$1.3 trillion within a decade. The value of the companies in the sector is also expected to grow from today's \$104 billion to some \$467 billion in the same 10-year time frame.

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Californians urged to conserve water amid drought concerns

BY SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Californians are being asked to water their lawns less, plant native shrubs and install more-efficient irrigation systems to stave off water shortages and mandatory rationing amid growing worries about a possible long-term drought.

The increasingly urgent call to conserve water comes as state officials said Thursday that the Sierra Nevada snowpack, a key source of the state's water supply, has fallen about one-third below normal levels.

"We need to recognize that we're in a water shortage and begin to act accordingly," state Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman said.

While officials say it's too early to impose rationing, cities and water districts around California are preparing plans for mandatory conservation to deal with a possible drought.

In Southern California, the Metropolitan Water District, which serves 18 million people, recently raised its water rates by 14 percent and has cut deliveries to farmers by nearly a third. It also launched an advertising campaign urging homeowners and businesses to reduce outdoor watering by at least a day.

"We're in a pretty painful water supply picture," said Jeffrey Kightlinger, the district's general manager. "We don't want to institute rationing, but if this continues you will see us take a look at that next year."

Residents of Long Beach aren't allowed to run fountains, and it's illegal for restaurants to serve customers a glass of water unless they ask for it.

New housing and retail developments in Riverside County are on hold because the necessary water supplies cannot be guaranteed.

In the Coachella Valley, which includes the sprawling resort communities around Palm Springs, water managers have proposed a tiered water pricing system. The idea is to charge customers who use more than their fair share of water, said Mark Beuhler, assistant general manager of the Coachella Valley Water District, which supplies water to 130 golf courses and about 100,000 homes.

"We saw the writing on the wall," Beuhler said. "It is probably the most single effective thing we can do to achieve conservation."

The East Bay Municipal Utility District, which serves 1.3 million customers in Contra Costa and Alameda counties with water from the Mokelumne River watershed, are considering rationing because its water supply has been the worst in 17 years. Its board is scheduled to consider a drought management program on May 13.

"Some of the things that could happen are not using fountains, requiring use of a shut-off nozzle in the hose at your house, or

restrictions on when people can water their lawns," said district spokesman Jeff Becerra.

Farmers in Central Valley and cities from the San Francisco Bay Area to San Diego are already coping with significant cutbacks in water deliveries.

Pumping out of the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta — the heart of California's water delivery system — has been scaled back this year to comply with a judge's order to protect a threatened fish species.

The bleak snowpack exacerbates those pumping cuts, water officials and farmers say.

"It's problems stacked on top of other problems," said John Harris, a western Fresno County farmer who isn't farming about a third of his 12,000 acres this year.



**IT'S PROBLEMS
STACKED ON
TOP OF OTHER
PROBLEMS."**

John Harris,
Western Fresno County farmer

Growers in northern San Diego County are stumping citrus and avocado trees due to water shortages. Farmers in Fresno and Kings counties haven't planted about 200,000 acres of crops, about a third of the land irrigated by Westlands Water District.

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission will continue to ask customers to voluntarily cut back on usage — a tactic that worked well last summer, when use fell 13 percent, said spokesman Tony Winnicker. "As long as our customers continue to use the same good habits they showed last year, we should be able to get through this year without any cutbacks," Winnicker said.

The outlook is brighter for communities along the central coast, which has had plenty of rain to fill their local reservoirs, said Jeanine Jones, the drought coordinator at the Department of Water Resources.

For the most part, the state has little authority to impose mandatory rationing. That can only be done if the governor declares a statewide drought emergency, something no previous governor has done, Jones said. In California, rationing and conservation decisions are locally driven.

Ellen Hanak, a water expert at the Public Policy Institute of California, said communities should be thinking now about adopting conservation and water pricing programs rather than wait until conditions worsen.

"If you're constantly planning to have no cutbacks during dry times, you're probably spending too much on storage," Hanak said. "There's a balance to be struck."

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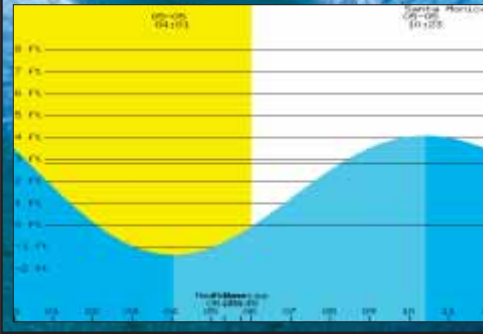
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QUICK STATS for the last 30 days!	Number of sewage spills --	1
	Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill --	3
	Number of wet days --	0
	Number of A grades for dry/wet weather --	37 / 38
	Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather --	9 / 38

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Camillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	C	38
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	38
El Pescador State Beach, between Luchana and Los Aliso creeks	A+	38
Escorial Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	38
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A	38
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	38
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	38
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	F	38
Escandido Creek, just east of Escandido State Beach	F	38
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth	B	38
Solstice Canyon at One Blocker County Beach	F	38
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	F	38
Maric Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	38
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	38
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily	F	38
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	38
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A	38
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	B	38
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCI stairs	A	38
Pose Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	38
Tuna Canyon	A+	38
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	F	38
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	38
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	38
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCI (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	38

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

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Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
BRONZE

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

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

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By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Cincinnati team

1 A lot

6 Mama's mate

10 Permit

11 Computer symbols

13 "Winnie-the-Pooh" writer

14 Australia city

15 Count starter

16 Lamb's mom

18 Binary base

19 Long-haired dog

22 Assist

23 Farm unit

24 Stood up

27 Stage items

28 Musical sound

29 Flower visitor

30 Muscular dog

35 Get older

36 Print measures

37 Cunning

38 Macbeth, for one

40 Repeater's phrase

42 Common dice roll

43 Out-pouring

45 Greedy one

DOWN

1 Aegean island

2 Ice-in-glass sound

3 Bowling site

4 Dress in

5 Honey

6 Pan, for one

7 High card

8 Monticello part

9 1920 Olympics setting

12 Coasts

17 Marry

20 Picture stand

21 Less common

24 Baseball stats

25 Less smooth

26 Taking a sabbatical

27 Carry on

29 Actor

Affleck

31 Prom crowd

32 Singer

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33 Cream of the crop

34 Winona of films

39 Outlaw

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41 Massage setting

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10						11				12
13						14				
15				16	17			18		
19			20				21			
			22				23			
24	25	26				27				
28					29					
30				31				32	33	34
35				36				37		
38			39			40	41			
42						43				
	44					45				

5-5

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8 28 37 53 55
Meganumber: 26
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8 10 22 33 44
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: \$21M



4 5 13 15 24



MIDDAY: 5 6 6
EVENING: 0 7 9



1st: 12 LUCKY CHARMS
2nd: 03 HOT SHOT
3rd: 02 LUCKY STAR
RACE TIME: 1:45.88

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ "Many of my young patients think about getting plastic surgery the way they'd think about getting their hair done," explained Dr. David Alessi of Beverly Hills, Calif., who is still amazed at women's willingness to endure "extreme" cosmetic alterations. "Vaginal rejuvenation" (labiaplasty) might be the most sensational procedure, but surgeons also do "forehead implants" and ankle and shoulder liposuction, break and reset jaws to tweak smiles, and lengthen or shorten toes (for "toe cleavage" with certain shoes). Alessi told a Glamour magazine writer for an April story that one 25-year-old recently asked him to "remove" her navel (whereas most umbilicoplasty patients merely request reshaping). Said a bemused colleague, "There's some consensus about what makes for an attractive ... face, but we have no definition of the ideal navel."

■ Gulfport, Miss., resident Michael Petro pleaded to a documentary filmmaker (in a clip later uploaded with his permission to the Internet) for help in recovering from his shattering loss during Hurricane Katrina, when his 115-year-old house was destroyed. Since then, he said on the video (reported by WLOX-TV in April): "Church groups have not come through, the government has not come through, insurance has not come through like was promised," and "(S)omebody has to fight to get these things back and going." According to WLOX-TV, the house that stockbroker Petro lost was 2,500 square feet, and the replacement he's pleading for help with is 6,000 square feet. Said Petro to the station, "I'm not too proud to ask"

TODAY IN HISTORY

1891 Carnegie Hall (then named "Music Hall") had its official opening night in New York City.

1904 Cy Young pitched the American League's first perfect game as the Boston Americans defeated the Philadelphia Athletics, 3-0.

1942 During World War II, Japanese forces landed on the Philippine island of Corregidor.

1945 In the only fatal attack of its kind during World War II, a Japanese balloon bomb exploded on Gearhart Mountain in Oregon, killing the pregnant wife of a minister and five children.

WORD UP!

disparate \DIS-puh-rit; dis-PAIR-it\, adjective:
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2. Composed of or including markedly dissimilar elements.

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The procurement schedule for this bid will be as follows:

Bid Issuance:	May 5, 2008
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City's Response to Questions:	May 29, 2008 (Thursday) by 5:00 PM PST*
Bid Closing Date:	June 12, 2008 (Thursday) @ 3:00 PM PST*

* PST = Pacific Standard Time

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the Purchasing Agent, City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California 90401, by calling (310) 458-8242, or by e-mailing your request to diane.howell@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by said Purchasing Agent.

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3. Dedicated Natural Gas

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In accordance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, bidders are hereby notified that DBE's are encouraged to submit bids and will be afforded full opportunity to submit/participate in this request.

The City of Santa Monica reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive all minor irregularities at its discretion.

Powdered cocaine not just for white yuppies any more

BY LARA JAKES JORDAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON They were indelible images of the cocaine world of the 1970s and '80s: Rich yuppies and white suburbanites partying down with a couple of lines of "blow." Stockbroker Charlie Sheen snorting up in the limo in "Wall Street." Woody Allen's sneeze in "Annie Hall."

More than 30 years later, the image remains but the reality of coke in the United States has shifted significantly. Long portrayed as a white crime, Hispanics now make up the overwhelming majority — 60 percent — of federal offenders facing powder cocaine charges.

In fact, data show, more Hispanics than whites or blacks have been sentenced on federal powder charges as far back as 1992. Law enforcement officials say that's because federal agents almost exclusively pursue cocaine traffickers from South America and Mexico instead of end-of-the-line U.S. consumers.

Until the last decade, when the price of cocaine dropped sharply, consumers were largely affluent and educated. That fed into the misperception — often reported by The Associated Press and other news organizations — that most powder cocaine offenders were white, experts say.

"There was a lot of publicity about the white population using it; it was more of a higher economic status thing," said Dorothy K. Hatsukami, a behavioral scientist at the University of Minnesota's Masonic Cancer Center. She co-authored a 1996 study medically challenging federal sentencing guidelines that penalized black cocaine offenders more harshly than white ones.

The study cited 1993 data indicating that 69 percent of powder and crack cocaine users were white, compared with 15 percent black and 13 percent Hispanic. However, it suggested that far more blacks and Hispanics used the cheaper crack cocaine than whites.

"Articles in the papers were all related to the jet-setters into powder cocaine, so that's probably why we were focusing on the white population," Hatsukami said in an interview this week. "There was a lot of media focus on whites and powder in the 1980s — then, it was almost legitimate to be using powder."

"That's what people did at parties, and people didn't think it was all that harmful."

The issue of race in cocaine use surfaced again recently with last winter's U.S. Sentencing Commission vote to ease penalties for crack cocaine offenders — more than 80 percent of whom have been black, according to data between 1992 and 2006. Fewer than 10 percent of crack offenders are white or Hispanic, the Sentencing Commission data show.

By contrast, the number of Hispanic offenders has risen steadily over the years, from 40 percent in 1992 to 58 percent in 2006, the data show. At the same time, the

number of white offenders has steadily dropped: from 32 percent in 1992 to 14 percent two years ago.

Federal drug agents and prosecutors are quick to defend their focus on leaders of major drug rings and international traffickers — mostly blacks and Hispanics — instead of small-time or individual cocaine users who are generally charged with state and local crimes.

Last year, for example, federal prosecutors won convictions against 445 people suspected of simply possessing drugs, according to Justice Department data provided in a study by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse at Syracuse University. The federal government convicted more than 12,209 — nearly 30 times as many — drug traffickers, manufacturers and distributors during that time, the TRAC study shows.

In the late 1970s and early-to-mid 1980s, cocaine traffic mostly moved up the Interstate 95 corridor. Colombian traffickers airlifted or shipped bricks of the drug to Miami, then moved it up the East Coast to New York, where it was distributed. A kilogram (about 2.2 pounds) then was usually worth at least \$50,000, Drug Enforcement Administration agent Michael Sanders said.

"That's a chunk of money — it was a big affluency thing," Sanders said. "It was pretty much white Americans — that was the market that was purchasing it."

Once the feds started cracking down on Miami, much of the traffic moved to Southwestern states, where Colombians paid Mexicans to smuggle the cocaine across the border, Sanders said. The price of a kilogram has since dropped substantially — to as little as \$15,000 in Houston and New Orleans recently, he said.

By 2000, half of all cocaine traffickers facing federal charges were Hispanic, U.S. Sentencing Commission data show. Additionally, Hispanics made up 61 percent of traffickers smuggling in more than 5 kilograms (about 11 pounds).

"I'm not going to tell you it's not worthwhile to put the user in jail," Sanders said. "But we are mandated to dismantle and disrupt major cartels. That's our ultimate goal."

For the most part, Sanders said, state and local police and prosecutors are responsible for cracking down on cocaine consumers.

The FBI reports that more than 875,000 whites and Hispanics were charged with local and state drug abuse crimes in 2006. By comparison, 483,800 blacks were similarly charged.

The data do not detail how many Hispanics alone were charged because the statistics only look at differences in race, not by ethnicity, said FBI researcher Nancy Carnes.

In recent years, the big-time distributors have started sending cocaine traffic to Europe.

"It's a market that's been largely untapped — up until now," Sanders said.

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME Case No. SS016685 Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

Petition of **GEORGE MADARASZ** AKA **GEORGE ROGERS MADARAS**for Change of Name TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

Petitioner or Attorney: **ALAN L. FREEDMAN** filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: **GEORGE ROGERS MADARAS** to **GEORGE MADARAZ** and **GEORGE MADARASZ** to **GEORGE MADARAZ**. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.

Notice of Hearing:
Date: **MAY 29, 2008** Time: **8:30AM**, Dept. A., Room 104
The address of the court is 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401.

A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.

Date: **APRIL 16, 2008**
GERALD ROSENBERG
Judge of the Superior Court
4/21/2008, 4/28/2008, 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080615890 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as **GETTY CAPITAL; GETTY; GFI; GCI, 1821 WILSHIRE BLVD, SUITE 640, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403, COUNTY OF LA; AI #/ON 3085122.** The full name of registrant(s) is/are : **LEAR FINANCIAL, 1821 WILSHIRE BLVD, SUITE 640, SANTA MONICA, CA 90403 (CALIFORNIA)** This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: **LEAR FINANCIAL** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/9/2008. 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 4/14/2008, 4/21/2008, 4/28/2008, 5/5/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080624359 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as **US INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY AND CULTURE PROMOTION COUNCIL, 15426 E. VALLEY BLVD. CITY OF INDUSTRY, CA 91746.** The full name of registrant(s) is/are : **LIU CONG WEI 2348 MOUNTAIN BROOK DR. HACIENDA HEIGHTS, CA 91745** 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/: **LIU CONG WEI** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/10/2008. 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 4/21/2008, 4/28/2008, 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080624516 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as **C&M TRUCKING, 18317 LA NACA ST. LA PUENTE, CA 91744.** The full name of registrant(s) is/are : **CARLOS CANTARERO 18317 LA NACA ST. LA PUENTE, CA 91744** 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/: **CARLOS CANTARERO** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/10/2008. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES

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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 4/21/2008, 4/28/2008, 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080632764 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as **RA-ZODESIGN,LLC, 7231 LYNALAN AVE. WHITTIER, CA 90606.** The full name of registrant(s) is/are : **RA-ZODESIGN,LLC 7231 LYNALAN AVE. WHITTIER, CA 90606** This Business is being conducted by, a limited liability. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/11/2008. 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 4/21/2008, 4/28/2008, 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080632765 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as **MCNL,LLC, 13683 CAMILLA ST. WHITTIER, CA 90601.** The full name of registrant(s) is/are : **MCNL,LLC 13683 CAMILLA ST. WHITTIER, CA 90601** This Business is being conducted by, a limited liability. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/11/2008. 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 4/21/2008, 4/28/2008, 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080624419 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as **HOLLYWOOD FAMOUS FLORIST, 7083 HOLLYWOOD BLVD. STE 105 HOLLYWOOD, CA 90028.** The full name of registrant(s) is/are : **MOLLY TATARELLA 3720 LUGO AVE. LYNNWOOD, CA 90262 RICA VANAUSS-DALL 7083 HOLLYWOOD BLVD. STE 105 HOLLYWOOD, CA 90028** This Business is being conducted by, a general partnership. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: **MOLLY TATARELLA** This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/10/2008. 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 4/21/2008, 4/28/2008, 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080569918 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as **LIFE/STYLE, 2727 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES.** The full name of registrant(s) is/are : **ELIZABETH CERVANTES, 36-450 BANKSIDE DRIVE, CATHEDRAL CITY, CA 92234; ROXANNA CERVANTES, 36-450 BANKSIDE DRIVE, CATHEDRAL CITY, CA 92234** This Business is being conducted by, co-partners. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/:

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ELIZABETH CERVANTES
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/2/2008. 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 4/21/2008, 4/28/2008, 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080463088 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as **LAW OFFICE OF SHARON NAIM; TEEN DRIVING COURSE . COM, 1620 26TH STREET, SUITE 1000N, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404, AI #/ON 2266683.** The full name of registrant(s) is/are : **CYBERACTIVE INC., 1620 26TH STREET, SUITE 1000N, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404 (CALIFORNIA)** This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)8/15/1999. /s/: **CYBERACTIVE INC.**

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/18/2008. 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 4/21/2008, 4/28/2008, 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080615984 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as **CONNOISSEURS ONLY; BAG CONNOISSEURS ONLY; CONS ONLY, 1031 PICO BLVD, SUITE 3, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405.** The full name of registrant(s) is/are : **KELLI KIRSTEN DAY, 1031 PICO BLVD, SUITE 3, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405** This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)4/9/2008. /s/: **KELLI K. DAY**

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/9/2008. 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 4/21/2008, 4/28/2008, 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080632763 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as **VELVET HANDS, 17143 VENTURA BLVD. ENCINO, CA 91316.** The full name of registrant(s) is/are : **GPML,INC. 17143 VENTURA BLVD. ENCINO, CA 91316** This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)4/1/2008. /s/: This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/11/2008. 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 4/21/2008, 4/28/2008, 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080632827 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as **MARSOL INSURANCE SERVICES, 14135 FRANCISQUITO AVE # 201 BALDWIN PARK, CA 91706.** The full name of registrant(s) is/are : **MIRIAM DELGADO 3246 BALDWIN PARK BLVD. BALDWIN PARK, CA 91706**

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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 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008, 5/19/2008, 5/26/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 200800739718 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CARPET MASTERS, 14015 CRENSHAW BLVD. #9 HAWTHORNE, CA 90250. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : EDUARDO GONSALES 4001 INGLEWOOD AVE. 101-266 REDONDO BEACH, CA 90278 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/: EDUARDO GONSALES This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/28/2008. 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 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008, 5/19/2008, 5/26/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080741310 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as WOW, 12122 FOSTER RD. #A NORWALK, CA 90650. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : YAM B. THAPA 12122 FOSTER RD. #A NORWALK, CA 90650 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/: YAM B. THAPA This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/28/2008. 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 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008, 5/19/2008, 5/26/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080759720 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as REAL DIVA'S COOK, 1506 W 111TH ST. LOS ANGELES, CA 90047. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : ERIKA SMART-DOUGLAS 1506 W 111TH ST. LOS ANGELES, CA 90047 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/: ERIKA SMART-DOUGLAS This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/3/2008. 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 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008, 5/19/2008, 5/26/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080761813 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as FIL-AM NON EMERGENCY VAN SERVICE, 309 LAS CASAS AVE, PACIFIC PALISADES, CA 90272, COUNTY OF LA. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : MENCHI VARON, 309 N. LAS CASAS AVE, PACIFIC PALISADES, CA 90272 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/: MENCHI VARON This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/30/2008. 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 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008, 5/19/2008, 5/26/2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20080762022 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as TOWER REMODELING, 105 N. CROFT AVE, #3, LA, CA 90048; PO BOX 1596, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : YUVAL MOSHE EITAN, 105 N. CROFT AVE, #3, LOS ANGELES, CA 90048 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/: YUVAL MOSHE EITAN This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/30/2008. 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

DBAS

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 5/5/2008, 5/12/2008, 5/19/2008, 5/26/2008

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The newspaper held by the Mona Lisa is a composite of two pages. The left page is a car advertisement for **W.I. SIMONSON INC.** featuring a "SUMMER EVENT" and a list of cars with prices. The right page is the front page of the **Santa Monica Daily Press**, dated Thursday, August 25, 2008. The headline on the right page is "Shriver digs in to assist veterans". Other articles visible include "High brow art" and "Backwheat to make the funk the Pier funk".



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Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 3,266,100	\$ 896,469
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 893,724	\$ 730,194
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