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THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 151



BACK TO THE RACES
SEE PAGE 14

Santa Monica Daily Press
Since 2001: A news odyssey
THE BREAKING NEWS ISSUE

Teacher was warned in past

Santa Monica Police Department investigated molestation suspect in 2006

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE A Lincoln Middle School teacher charged on 14 sexual molestation counts was investigated in 2006 following similar allegations, according to a document made available by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District on Wednesday.

Thomas Beltran, a teacher at the middle school for the past two decades, was interviewed by Santa Monica Police Department investigators stemming from claims of inappropriate physical conduct but was never charged because there was insufficient evidence to tie him to a crime, according to a statement by the district on Wednesday. Beltran teaches English as a second language at the school.

The claims from the 2006 investigation have since been filed as criminal charges and are included in the current case, according to Sandi Gibbons, spokeswoman with the L.A. District Attorney's Office.

Beltran, a veteran public school teacher in the district for 30 years, was arrested in Culver City on Saturday, a day after Santa Monica police investigators interviewed a 12-year-old student who claimed she was sexually abused. During the interview, detectives concluded that there could possibly be other victims, according to the SMPD.

The district on Tuesday was notified of the March 2006 investigation by the SMPD, receiving a correspondence between former Lincoln Principal Kathy Scott and Det. Lloyd Gladden.

According to the document, a student reported to Assistant Principal Francis Costanzo on March 14, 2006 that she was uncomfortable remaining in Beltran's class because of the way he was touching her. The letter is dated March 30, 2006.

School officials removed the student from Beltran's class and talked to the teacher about his contact with students.

"I met with Mr. Beltran ... to inform him of (the student's) complaint," Scott states in the letter. "Mr. Beltran was shocked at the accusation and was upset that his actions had been interpreted as inappropriate."

The letter concludes by stating that Scott instructed the teacher not to touch any of his female students in his classroom to "protect himself from any further misinterpretation."

"Mr. Beltran was in total agreement with my request," Scott said in the letter.

Scott left the school in June of that year because she moved out of the area.

"This is all new to us," Mike Matthews, the assistant superintendent for human resources, said in an interview on Wednesday. "We're calling some previous employees to see what their awareness was of the issue."

The 2006 investigation is the only one made aware to the district thus far, Matthews said.

He added that the district was able to disclose the letter because it came from police files, not the school's, which would've made it a confidential personnel matter.

Beltran, a Los Angeles resident, was

SEE TEACHER PAGE 10



TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

Janitors with the Service Employees International Union Local 1877 held a rally outside The Water Garden on Wednesday after contract talks with commercial real estate management companies stalled. Janitors on the Westside of Los Angeles are asking for the same pay and benefits that their counterparts make in Downtown Los Angeles and other areas. Members of the union voted to go on strike Wednesday and plan to stage rallies throughout the Westside, including Santa Monica, which is home to a number of large, high-rent commercial developments.

Solar equipment may be getting more affordable

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Pricey solar panels, green in both cost and sustainability, could soon be more attainable under proposed state legislation that would allow cities like Santa Monica to provide financial assistance to interested property owners.

A bill authored by state Assemblyman Lloyd Levine, D-Woodland Hills, would authorize cities to form assessment districts through which they can provide property owners loans to finance the upfront costs of installing solar panels. The loans would be paid back with long-term repayments added to the property tax bill. Loans would be offered either through a floating bond or third-party source, such as a bank, in which case the interest would probably be higher.

The proposed legislation, known as AB 811, has caught the attention of Santa Monica city officials who have expressed interest in merging the law with the Solar Santa Monica program, a City Hall initiative

SEE LOANS PAGE 10

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Talking books
1600 Ocean Front Walk, 6:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Trained volunteer facilitators lead free public book discussions featuring the Santa Monica Citywide Reads selection "The Highest Tide," by Jim Lynch. No registration is required.

Laugh your chakras off
717 Broadway, 11 a.m.
Led by Kim Selbert, a certified laughter yoga leader, this class utilizes simple and fun laughter exercises to promote better health. Bet you didn't know that you could change your life through the simple act of laughing. This class takes place at Shakti's Elements in Downtown.

The Meathands have it
4455 Overland Ave. Culver City, 8 p.m.
The "Magic Meathands" perform an hour of fully improvised hilarity based on audience suggestions and participation. The show is presented by director Bill Johnson, in a great cafe that offers delicious coffee, food, drinks and comfortable couches. What sets this improv group apart is their personal connection with the audience and community, so their best material comes directly from the people around them. For information, call (310) 559-8868.

What's new this week
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad.

Friday, May 9, 2008

More than meets the eye
1323-A Third Street Promenade, 8 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
"The Transformers," a group of Emmy-winning comedy writers from a number of hit TV shows comes together to perform their high-wire improv antics every Friday through August. For more information, call (310) 451-0850.

Calling all sound lovers
13480 Maxella Ave., Marina del Rey, 7:30 a.m. — 2 a.m.
Do you love sound? If you believe in music and the power of sound or simply wonder how sound affects our daily lives, then the Global Sound Conference is for you. The Global Sound Conference is a unique event bringing together key people from the music, film and television industries with pioneers in the areas of sound healing and integrative medicine to show just how affective sound truly is. For tickets and more information, visit www.discoversound.com.

Dancing with Isabelle and Reiko
1334 Lincoln Blvd., 7:15 p.m.
Learn how to dance hot salsa in a relaxed atmosphere with Isabelle and Reiko. There are two classes offered: One for beginners and another for more advanced dancers. Once both classes are over, hang out for a while and socialize with fellow students. For more information, call (310) 392-3493.

The Meathands have it
4455 Overland Ave. Culver City, 8 p.m.
The "Magic Meathands" perform an hour of fully improvised hilarity based on audience suggestions and participation. The show is presented by director Bill Johnson, in a great cafe that offers delicious coffee, food, drinks and comfortable couches. What sets this improv group apart is their personal connection with the audience and community, so their best material comes directly from the people around them. For information, call (310) 559-8868.

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.



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

TIME FOR SAFETY: **Police officers during the month of May will be on the lookout for people who fail to wear their seat belts. The heightened enforcement is part of the state's 'Click It or Ticket' campaign, encouraging people to buckle up or face stiff penalties including hefty fines.**

Buckle up or get busted

Police step up enforcement during 'Click It or Ticket' campaign

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

CITYWIDE Police officers will be paying close attention to drivers and their passengers during the month of May as they look to step up enforcement of the state's seat belt law.

The Santa Monica Police Department will be joining more than 280 law enforcement agencies statewide in this year's "Click It or Ticket" awareness campaign, taking place May 12 through June 1.

The campaign relies on heavy enforcement and public education as a means to help California achieve the highest seat belt use rate in the nation. California currently has the nation's fourth highest seat belt use rate at 94.6 percent, according to law enforcement authorities.

"WE WILL NOT ACCEPT EXCUSES OR GIVE WARNINGS. IT'S CLICK IT OR TICKET."

Timothy Jackman,
SMPD Chief

"We want to make sure that all drivers and passengers buckle up on every ride, day and night," said SMPD Chief Timothy Jackman. "Our officers will be on the lookout for those who are not buckled up and for teens and children not riding properly restrained. We will not accept excuses or give warnings. It's click it or ticket."

Santa Monica has a fairly high buckle up rate, around the low 90s, said SMPD Sgt. Larry Horn, who has heard all kinds of excuses for why people aren't wearing their safety belts during his days as a motorcycle officer.

"We hear things like it's broken, or it's not my car, or I just took it off for a moment," Horn said. "Regularly we get people who as soon as they see you, they put it on, and by then, it's too late … Some have argued with me, 'Well what if I fall into the water and can't get out of my car?' Yeah, what if, what if."

SEE **TICKET** PAGE 12

Dietitian hired to arrest police obesity rates

BY SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Rana Parker tells pudgy police they have the right to remain chubby, but it can and will be used against them on the streets of Los Angeles.

The dietitian lays down the law for recruits, veterans and top brass, letting them know that eating right can help them do a better job and could even save their lives.

"I joke with them that I'm not the food police, that I'm just here to give them information, education and hopefully give them motivation to help themselves," she said.

While overweight officers aren't unique to Los Angeles, the police department believes it's the first to hire a full-time diet coach. Parker joined in July, leaving behind decidedly less macho clients at Head Start, the federal aid program for children.

Faced with a need for more officers in recent years, the LAPD briefly relaxed body fat limits from a maximum of 22 percent for men and 30 percent for women, drawing recruits who mirrored a plumper American public.

By targeting recruits, Parker is trying to instill good eating habits before the rigors of the field make it difficult to find time for balanced meals. She's provided one-on-one counseling to about 90 recruits, taught a nutrition course to about 500 others and made presentations to more than 400 officers.

Though Parker's met some resistance to her belt-tightening measures, she's also found followers.

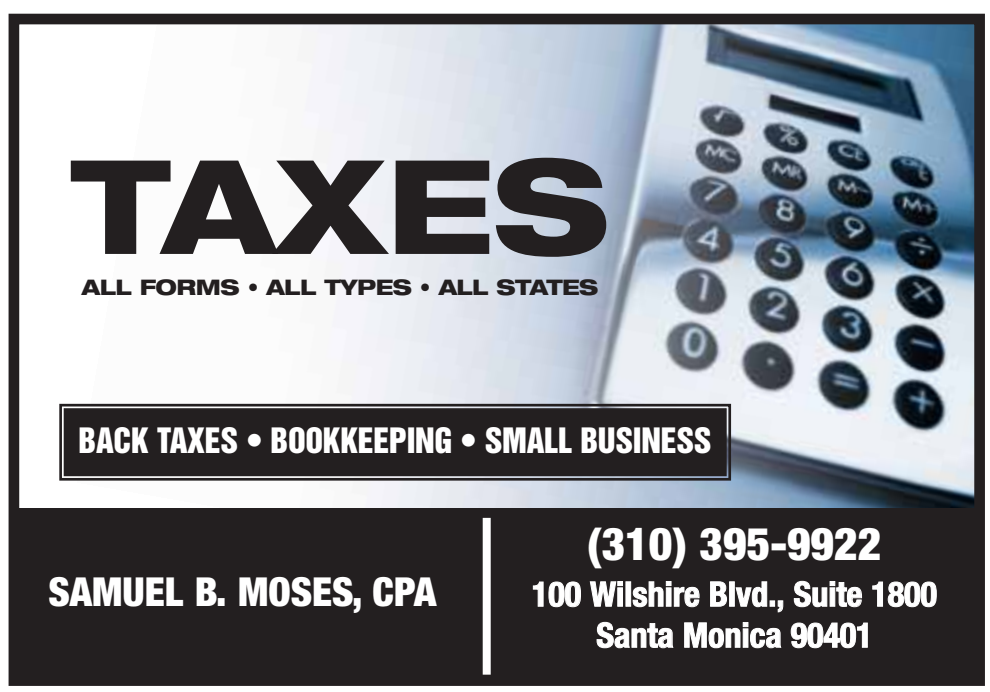
Recruit Ashley Goodroe has dropped four dress sizes since they started working together in September. Goodroe said the lessons she's learned include giving up sugary fruit punch and regularly eating breakfast. The hardest part was cutting back on the fat-laden weekly meal that takes her home to Georgia: fried pork chops, collard greens and corn bread.

"I feel skinny," Goodroe, 23, said with a laugh. "I actually had to get my uniforms fitted again."

Doughnuts may be the punch line for many cop jokes, but they're not the problem, Parker said. Long hours and the on-

SEE **COPS** PAGE 12





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Me, me, me

Editor:

I see that I have started a trend for husbands taking the sur-name of their wives, and the sur-name that was changed was Bijon. Hmmmm. Now, when I did it back in 2002, a certain journalist who works in this city tried to imply that I had something to hide because I was running for city council, under a different name. She was a women, and most women applauded the symbolism of what I was doing, while some men assumed I was whipped. I am pleased to see that now I have at least one man who is emulating my example.

Jon Mann (nee Stevens)
Santa Monica

Get your priorities straight

Editor:

Headlines on page 3 [on Tuesday, May 6] made a values statement or, maybe, a statement about the editor's perception of community values. In very large letters it was announced that the high school baseball team was one game away from winning a regional conference title. Next to this story, with a much smaller headline, was the outstanding news that the high school science team was number one nationally.

What message does this send to our children? Obviously, the more important achievement would get the bigger headline spread three quarters of the way across the page. Wouldn't any reasonable person think so?

I don't know if I am angry or sad or insulted at this perception of our values. I do hope that in other venues and other ways these outstanding science students get the recognition they deserve. They surely have my respect and admiration.

Joanne Leavitt
Santa Monica

Kenny Mack critique

Editor:

In his column in [the] SMDP of April, 30, 2008, Kenny Mack tells us that:

1. Bill Clinton is a joke.
2. He hates both Bill and Hillary Clinton.
3. Jeremiah Wright is a nobody, disloyal and stupid.
4. Some white people over 50, who didn't go to college, are racist and clueless and out of touch with today's world.
5. Each day they stay alive they forsake America's future.
6. Senator McCain is a geezer (an odd or eccentric man).
7. He would like to be rid of Republicans.
8. People who vote Republican are bad voters.
9. He likes Barack Obama.

Mr. Mack's column was headed: "Obama still has a lot to overcome."

I can see what he means.

Neil Macaulay
Santa Monica

Political Playhouse

Nick Mockiavelli — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Recession obsession

THESE ARE CHALLENGING TIMES. Recession. Slow growth. An economic hiccup. Hard Times. A downturn in the economy. The Great Depression (Millennium Edition). Squeeze on the American pocketbook. Housing crisis. Rich dads now poor. Credit crunch. Financial setback. Period where money evaporates for no reason. Living lean. Deteriorating market conditions. Tightening budgets.

No matter how you phrase it, the economy is looking a little iffy these days. And luckily, you can always get an update on the situation with round-the-clock cable news, broadband Internet, mobile connections and those offensively intrusive screens that assault you with Headline News when you're just trying to pump gas or buy a quart of milk at the grocery store.

A recession is specifically defined as a decline in GDP for two or more consecutive quarters, but rather than wait for that to actually happen, the modern way of dealing with this is TO FREAK OUT ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON WITH OUR MONEY!!!! (even if none of us actually understand how macroeconomics work). And since many have already lost their jobs, homes and general financial stability, it's fair to say we're anxious for our elected officials to do something about the mess.

Accordingly, the presidential campaign has taken on the economic downturn as the number one issue on the campaign trail. While the candidates have proposed various measures to stimulate the economy (in recessions, politicians spend their time on "stimulus" … imagine a sanitation worker holding his nose and prodding a hunk of spoiled meat with a stick with the faint hope that the slab of beef comes back to life, and you get the picture) and boost productivity, I thought it might be worth examining the various solutions available to the candidates.

Pay Citizens Hush Money — Otherwise known as "the IRS economic stimulus tax rebate," this strategy effectively pays taxpayers some of their own money so they shut up, stopping crying/asking tricky questions and head out for spa treatments and iPod Nanos on Uncle Sam.

For couples receiving the full $1,200 rebate, an evening of stuffed shrimp and Mango Madness margaritas at The Cheesecake Factory await

Politicians Are Just Like You! — Even if Bill and Hillary Clinton pocketed $109 million in the last few years and Barack Obama is a telegenic, once-in-a-generation speaker who regularly fills sports arenas for a 15 minute stump speech, politicians like to mix it up with regular folks on the campaign trail. In wearing goofy hats, bowling a string or two, and knocking back light beers, they're proving they're just like you. And you ain't so bad!

Blame The Oil Companies — Oil companies are big, shifty, faceless enterprises that apparently do nothing other than corral mounds of $100 bills with lawn rakes (probably gold-plated lawn rakes at that!) and fill out an almost infinite number of zeros in the "net income" section of their quarterly reports.

Basically, while those of us in goofy hats who swig light beer at the bowling alley don't have any idea how crude is extracted from the earth and processed, we don't think anyone who has such knowledge should profit from it.

Blame The Lame Duck — Let's just say that George W. Bush won't go down as the Tiger Woods of U.S. presidents. As he moves into official lame duck status, he's an easy target for both Democrats and Republicans. As Bush himself joked the other day when talking about daughter Jenna's upcoming nuptials, "Jenna's moving out too." Everyone's hating on W because it works.

Nondescript Job Creation — Jobs. Good quality, living wage jobs. We all want 'em and we all need 'em. I don't think anyone really knows how jobs are created or taken away, but you won't meet anybody running for president who won't promise a boatload of 'em just for the heck of it. It's one of the top plays in the recession playbook!

School Daze — In general, our schools could always use improving. Will this ever not be the case? Will there ever be a time where parents, teacher and students alike all turn to each other and say, "Hey, our schools aren't so bad! Every one is safe, happy and learning lots and lots." This better not happen, or it will cut down the ways politicians can slice and dice their campaign trail promises.

NICK MOCKIAVELLI can be reached at info@mockiavelli.com. Read more of his satire at Mockiavelli.com



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Meredith Pro Tem

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

White walls never looked so appealing

IT WAS DETERMINED IN A STUDY YEARS ago that women have a broader color vocabulary than men. I determined last month that the color lexicon of the people who make paint and nail polish trumps all. It's as if they all got their advanced degrees in a Crayola factory rife with steroids.

While choosing new paint for my bedroom and bathroom, I found the selection at a few different paint stores to be overwhelming. What was staggering wasn't the actual colors (although you have to wonder where, exactly, one would apply paint with a mucus-like tint), but their names. I tried hard to ignore them and just focus on picking the colors I liked best, but ultimately it was impossible not to be swayed by the images conjured up by their titles.

There was one shade of blue under consideration called Walden Pond. While it's actually a lovely hue, I feared having it cover my bedroom walls would make me feel a little pretentious. After all, I've never read any Thoreau. It seemed akin to wearing a Grateful Dead T-shirt if I had never been to one of their shows. Or donning a hat from a race I hadn't run. Just considering the color reminded me of how I felt when I sported a single Michael Jackson-esque jeweled glove in 1985. Needless to say, Walden Pond didn't even make it into the Round of 16.

Now if the color had been called River Avon I might have felt more entitled since I've read lots of Shakespeare. Or if it was named after the Hudson River I'd likely be more comfortable choosing it since I lived so close to that particular body of water for most of my life. On the other hand, who really wants to wake up in a room named after a river best known for its pollution.

Other blues that didn't make the cut include Abyss (because it's just not the last thing I want to think about when the lights go out at night), Overcast (I don't like the days, why use it to coat my walls?), Blueberry Bush or Blueberry Popover (gross). Aqua Chiffon makes me think of prom dresses gone bad. Caruso Blue reminds me of the guy with the flaming red hair who left "NYPD Blue" when it was still a hit and went on to make a bunch of bad movies. Cosmic Dust would probably have been a neat color for the scientist who discovered LSD to have on his lab walls while he was tripping, but he passed away last week. Teal Zeal? See Aqua Chiffon.

There was also Viva La Bleu, Hush-A-Bye, Flemish Blue (in case I was curious about the color of a sad Dutchman, I suppose), Blue Paisley, Port Au Prince, Blue Plax (a new brand of mouthwash?), Kiss Me Kate (which was suspiciously white for what was supposed to be a shade of blue), Glassine (which I always thought was defined as transparent), Star Spangled and Gossamer Wings.

The names for the green paints I looked at for the master bathroom weren't much more palatable. After encountering Lime Taffy (seriously), Mint Wafer, Moss Ring (which may as well be called Fungus), Moss Point Green (no doubt a close cousin to "Grosse Point Blank") and Globe Artichoke (huh?) I figured it was time to find a brand that uses numbers instead of names for its colors if I ever actually wanted to get the rooms painted.

Which is also what I think I'll need to do the next time I want a pedicure. I got one recently and it took more time to choose the nail polish than it did for the actual pedicure because the names were so distracting. There was Sensuous Spice, Manic Panic Claw, So Blushious, Guilty Pleasures, After Sex, Thigh High, Starter Wife, Exotic Liras, Fishnet Stockings and Aphrodite's Pink Nightie. If Pamela Anderson were my style icon or if I decided that being a slut was my calling, any of those would have fit the bill.

My stomach growled while studying some polishes. Like Cherries in Glow, Sheer Watermelon, Grape Shimmer, Strawberry Eclectic and Plummy. And it groaned at others. Rich Raisin seemed vaguely oxymoronic, as I've always considered shriveled grapes to be one of the less fortunate fruits. Toast to Shine amused me, as that particular breakfast carbohydrate has never been one I've associated with having a sheen. Pecan Pleasure simply made me shake my head, as I've yet to encounter one that's brought me anything but a bad taste in my mouth.

When all was said and done I felt strangely hungry and immoral all at once. And white walls and bare toes never seemed quite so appealing.

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

The Q Line

Through the roof

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.

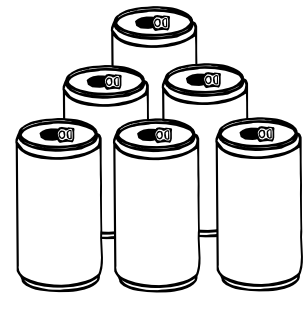
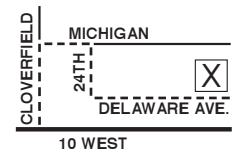

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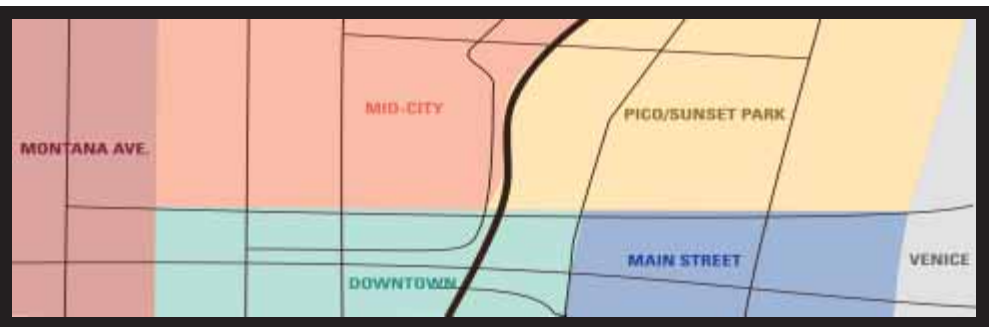
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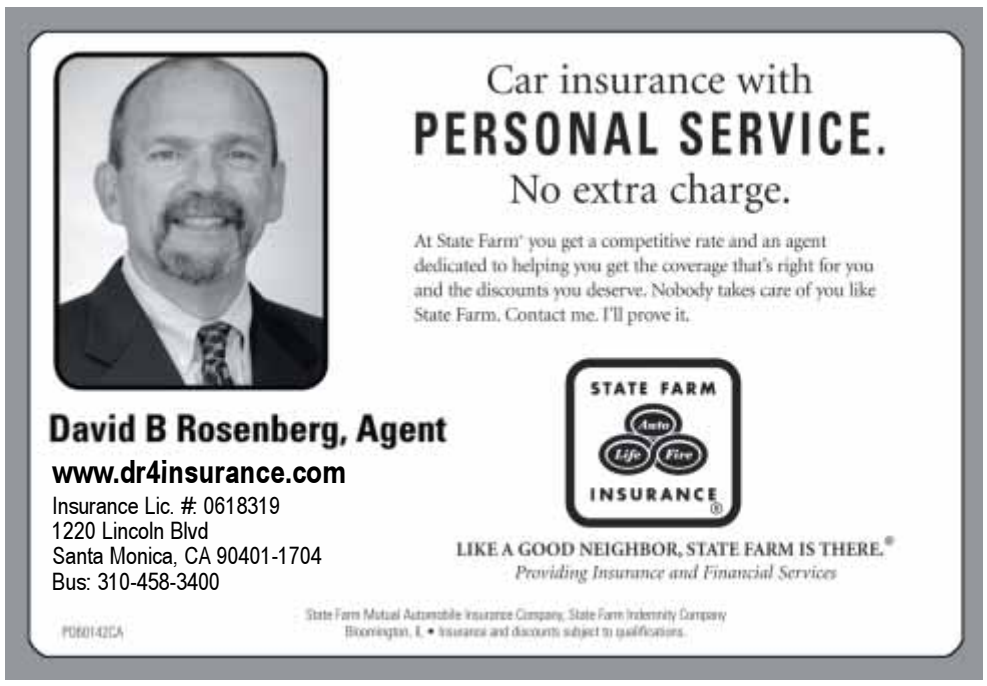












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Real Simple Food

Amanda Cushman — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It's strawberry time

ON A RECENT ROAD TRIP TO PASO ROBLES to sample wines from the central coast, I noticed that strawberries are in season, big time. All the local farms along the road side had pickers loading up their boxes with beautiful large berries.

I bought a flat on the trip home and realized I may have gone a little overboard. What to do with all these beauties before they go bad?

Well one of the first things to enjoy is a simple washed berry dipped in sugar with a touch of fresh lemon juice, or try the classic Italian dessert of strawberries tossed in sugar and balsamic vinegar. The combination of sweet and acid is perfect as the berries sit and absorb the delicious syrup.

Another wonderful dessert is strawberry sorbet — easy enough to make with an ice cream machine and tastes wonderful served with a cookie.

But even after all these desserts are made, you still end up with a few pints left over. What I recommend is to hull and rinse the berries and store them in the freezer in an airtight container or bag.

That way whenever you want to make a smoothie, delicious frozen drink or sorbet you have fresh seasonal berries for a few recipes.

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

SIMPLE STRAWBERRY RECIPES

Balsamic Strawberries
Serves 6
Ingredients
3 pints strawberries, hulled, halved, rinsed
1/3 cup sugar
4 Tb. balsamic vinegar

Crème fraiche
Procedure
1. Combine the berries, sugar and balsamic in a medium serving bowl and toss gently. Refrigerate for at least an hour before serving. Serve with crème fraiche if desired.

Strawberry Sorbet
Makes 2 pints
Ingredients
3 pints strawberries washed, hulled
1/4 cup lemon juice
1/2 cup sugar
1/3 cup water
1/4 cup vodka or Framboise

Procedure
1. Puree the berries in a processor and strain out the seeds. Add lemon juice and set aside.
2. Combine the sugar and water in a small saucepan and cook until sugar dissolves over medium heat. Cool, add liquor.
3. Freeze in an ice cream machine.
4. Or pour into an oblong baking pan and freeze for 4 hours. Before serving break up sorbet and transfer to the food processor in batches to create a fluffy texture.

The great barbecue debate: It's all about the right sauce

BY JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press Writer

Coke vs. Pepsi bubbles on. Papa John's, Pizza Hut and Domino's still fling sauce whenever they can. And there is no truce in sight in the burger wars.

But when it comes to real food feuds, nothing touches the heated — or rather, slow-cooked — debate over barbecue sauce. Simmering across regions and generations, this squabble is like vinegar and, er, ketchup.

"You can carry that metaphor a little too far because it's not as important as religion, but there are these sects and cults," says John Shelton Reed, co-author of "Holy Smoke: The Big Book of North Carolina Barbecue" with his wife, Dale.

The core of the barbecue sauce debate is simple: vinegar-based vs. tomato-based.

It's strictly a Southern squabble, the battle line starting with the vinegar crowd in eastern North Carolina. As you move west, tomatoes take over. And the closer you get to Texas, the sweeter and darker red the sauces get.

But for non-Southerners, it's hard to understand the fuss over a sticky substance spread over a chunk of meat.

It has to do with roots.

With origins in colonial times, American barbecue became ingrained in Southern culture in the wake of the Civil War as black pitmasters honed a craft learned during the days of slavery. They became experts at cooking pigs, tweaking the standard vinegar and tomato-based varieties to create region-defining styles.

Uniquely Southern as moonshine, barbecue has become a badge of identity, your sauce preference saying as much about where you're from as your palette.

"The basis of barbecue is smoke from wood fire, and that seems almost elemental, that it's God-given," says Southern food historian John T. Edge. "It's the trademark sauce or lack of sauce that a pitmaster adds that becomes their stamp, their place, their tradition, their family. That lends itself to provincial arguments."

The Santa Monica Municipal Employees Association would like to celebrate Marva Cobb, Sheila Terry, Miguel Flores and Jose Ramirez who train motor coach operators to drive the Big Blue Bus.



Marva Cobb



Sheila Terry



Miguel Flores



Jose Ramirez

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Teacher was instructed not to touch students

FROM **TEACHER** PAGE 1

charged and arraigned at the Airport Courthouse on Tuesday on 14 counts of molestation, including eight counts of a lewd act on a child, three counts of continuous sexual abuse and three counts of sexual penetration with a foreign object on a child under 14. He is being held on $3.3 million bail.

Detectives had interviewed five girls at the time of Beltran's arraignment and more charges are possible as the case is still under investigation. Authorities believe at least one of the girls was molested for more than a year.

During the arraignment, the prosecution said it has videotape evidence of one of the alleged instances of molestation.

"AT THE TIME THE CASE WAS PRESENTED THERE WAS INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE FOR FILING."

Sandi Gibbons,
Spokeswoman, L.A. District Attorney's Office

Beltran is scheduled to appear back in court on June 6 for a preliminary hearing.

melodyh@smdp.com

New law would authorize cities to offer loans for solar panels

FROM **LOANS** PAGE 1

that assists residents and businesses through the photovoltaic panel installation process, from choosing a contractor to applying for permits. Since the program launched in 2007, approximately 350 kilowatts worth of energy-generating panels have been installed.

"The primary advantage is they would need no money up front," Susan Munves, the Energy and Green Building Program administrator for City Hall, said.

Payments would be made back to City Hall over a 20-year period and if the property transfers hands within that time, the balance of the loan would get passed on to the new owner.

The bill comes several years after the passage of SB 1, which established the California Solar Initiative (CSI), a program that aims to install 3,000 megawatts of solar electricity by 2017 with a budget of roughly $3.3 billion. The program provides financial incentives for property owners to install photovoltaic panels, all with the goal of eventually creating a solid solar industry in California by the end of the initiative, making solar panels far more affordable.

While the program makes solar panels more affordable, they are still cost prohibitive for many homeowners considering that CSI only covers a portion of the upfront costs, Levine said during an interview on Wednesday.

Solar panels run about $20,000 for the average single-family home and the investment is slowly paid back over the years through energy savings.

"A lot of people don't have $20,000 laying around to pay for solar panels," Levine, who is running to replace Santa Monica state Senator Sheila Kuehl, said.

The bill was drafted as a supplement to SB 1, further assisting with the progress of the California Solar Initiative.

While green building materials have become more affordable with the increase in demand, solar panels have remained unaffordable for many property owners, according to Ruben Aronin, the director of communications for Global Green USA, which runs the Green Building Resource Center on Main Street.

That wasn't the case just 10 years ago where green building products weren't mass produced and the cost per unit was much higher, Aronin said.

"We're seeing a growth trend in our Green Building Resource Center, in traffic and in consumer demand for products," Aronin said on Wednesday.

Mary Luevano, the policy and legislative affairs director for Global Green USA, said consumers shouldn't lose sight of the fact that the solar panels do reap savings in the long term, which can come in handy during times when energy prices are uncertain.

"You buy a system that you know is guaranteed to last for 20 years at least and the pay back ranges from seven to 10 years and then you're home free," Luevano said. "If energy prices are spiking because natural gas is scarce and global warming considerations are causing us to use less in fossil fuels consumption, the solar owner is going to be in a very good spot."

The bill is currently sitting in the Senate Local Government Committee and is scheduled to be heard on June 4. Santa Monica city officials hope the law goes into effect by this summer.

"It will provide people who are interested with the opportunity to get solar without having to lay out that investment," Munves said. "That might make all the difference between just wanting them and actually doing it."

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YOU'RE OUT!

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Santa Monica High School's catcher Alex Kovacs gets down to tag-out Lanny Ross of Culver City High School at Samohi on Tuesday. The Vikings won, 2-1, and clinched the Ocean League title.

Producers, actors at odds over use of Internet clips

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A new battle front over use of movie and TV clips on the Internet emerged Wednesday in angry contract talks between actors and Hollywood studios, as talks with one union broke off and another began.

The studios, represented by the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, accused the Screen Actors Guild of misrepresenting its position on commercial use of actors' clips online.

The producers said they sought to pay actors a fixed fee for use of the clips.

On Tuesday, guild executive director Doug Allen told The Associated Press the producers sought to "evaporate" actors' rights to control use of their images.

"They want us to give up the 50-year-old right actors have to give consent or not when someone wants to use a clip of their work," Allen said.

The producers blasted the guild in a new statement Wednesday as they started talks with a smaller union, the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

The alliance said its offer would streamline the process of using the clips.

"Will we be required to compete against agile opponents in the Internet age while constrained by 50-year-old rules, or can we collectively find ways to take advantage of fresh market opportunities?" it said.

On Tuesday the producers temporarily broke off talks with SAG after 18 days of negotiating. The producers offered to reopen talks with SAG at a later date.

The guild did not respond immediately to a request for comment Wednesday.

The sides have said they were divided over residual payments for DVD sales and terms covering other Internet content.

Three-year contracts with SAG and AFTRA covering theatrical movies and prime-time TV shows expire June 30.

AFTRA said it will impose a press blackout on details of its negotiations, which cover actors on prime-time TV shows such as "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

AFTRA announced last week that its members ratified a separate deal with producers on shows such as "Oprah" and "American Idol" with a 93 percent approval vote.

In a letter Wednesday to AFTRA members, union President Roberta Reardon cautioned that the federation expected "challenging negotiations" in the talks on the remainder of its TV shows.

AFTRA decided in March to negotiate with studios separately from SAG for the first time in about 30 years. It postponed its talks twice to allow SAG more time to reach a deal.

AFTRA said SAG made another request for more time and to negotiate together Wednesday, but declined.

"We believe it is in the best interests of our members, and our legal obligation, to proceed with our independent negotiations," it said in a statement.

Both actors unions and the alliance have said they want to avoid a rerun of the 100-day Writers Guild of America strike that shut down scripted TV production before it ended in February and cost the Los Angeles-area economy an estimated $2.5 billion.

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Police warn drivers to observe seat belt laws

FROM **TICKET** PAGE 3

California has a primary seat belt law which requires that every person in the car wear a seat belt at all times.

If stopped and found to be in violation, officers will issue citations without warning. Tickets for first seat belt violations range from $80 to $91 for adults and $330 to $401 for children under the age of 16, depending on the county.

Additionally, children age 12 and under are required to ride properly restrained in the back seat to protect them in case an airbag is deployed.

"We're doing well with nearly 95 percent buckling up, fourth highest in the nation," said Christopher J. Murphy, director of the California Office of Traffic Safety. "That's 1.5 million more people protected from death and injury by using seat belts since the Click It or Ticket campaign started in 2005. But we can do better yet. I urge everyone to always buckle up."

While the buckle up rate for adults has continued to climb in recent years, California's teen seat belt use rate lags behind the general population. In 2007, California's teen seat belt use rate was 88.9 percent, well below the state rate of 94.6 percent for the same year.

Agencies are encouraged to conduct nighttime patrols in an effort to boost compliance after dark.

Funding for officer overtime to support California's Click It or Ticket campaign was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

news@smdp.com

Cops hope to get into shape

FROM **COPS** PAGE 3

the-go nature of police work make it hard to find time to eat well and stay in shape, she said.

"They may be sitting in their car and all of a sudden they need to go for a sprint, which might end in a fight as well," Parker said. "They need to be in good shape so their body can handle that kind of stress."

But officers who don't plan their meals are reduced to nutritional bottom-feeding: drive-thru burgers, microwave burritos and greasy slices of pizza.

Parker believes officers can better take a bite out of crime if they aren't hungry on their shifts. She encourages stashing energy bars, fruit and peanut butter sandwiches in squad cars and desks, to stave off hunger when getting a full meal is hard.

Fit officers are more confident, project strength and give the department a good image, she added. A suspect may think twice about trying to outrun a physically fit officer.

Kevin Sommers, national chairman of safety and technology for the Fraternal Order of Police, applauded the LAPD for recognizing diet as an important issue.

"For the longest time in law enforcement we trained our people in policing, but we didn't teach our people about how to maintain their mental and physical well-being," he said.

Francisco Rubio Jr., a 30-year-old recruit, said diabetes and high cholesterol run in his family.

But it was the recent death of a 40-year-old friend, an officer who had a heart attack on the job, that really drove home the need to get fit.

With Parker's guidance and a regimen that replaces sweets with fresh oranges and strawberries, Rubio has dropped from 195 to 175 pounds. He vows to be wary of the fatty food that lurks around every corner.

"What catches our eyes unless we discipline ourselves is pizza, hamburgers — all the food that's out there that's easy-access," Rubio said. "Now I tend to look at it as a heart attack waiting to happen."

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Republican candidates clash over credentials

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The campaign for the GOP nomination to replace retiring Republican Congressman John Doolittle of Northern California is a classic showdown between the conservative and liberal wings of the Republican Party.

At least that's how the self-proclaimed conservative in the race, state Sen. Tom McClintock, wants the contest depicted.

"Will we return to the days of Ronald Reagan, when Republicans acted like Republicans? Or will we slowly morph into a second-rate reflection of the Democrats?" McClintock, who represents Ventura County in Southern California, demanded to know at a recent forum with his lead rival, former Congressman Doug Ose of Sacramento.

Ose is more moderate on issues such as abortion and the role of government, and his approach is more laid-back than that of McClintock, known in the state Legislature for oratory that often borders on the indignant. Ose is trying to convince voters in the 4th Congressional District that they have an entirely different decision to make.

"You'll need to make a choice between somebody who makes stuff happen, who was born and raised in this area, and someone who has spent 22 years representing Southern California," Ose said during the forum in a Sacramento suburb. "(It's) a choice between a businessman who believes he can serve his country and someone who's built a career out of running for office."

Whichever vision of the race prevails could determine the outcome of the June 3 GOP primary in the immense district, which stretches from Sacramento north to Oregon and east to Nevada. Campaigning is heaviest in the district's population center, the upper middle class suburbs immediately east of the state capital.

It's California's most fiercely contested primary race, and the winner will be the favorite to prevail in November over presumptive Democratic nominee Charlie Brown. Republicans outnumber Democrats 47 percent to 31 percent among district voters.

"McClintock's whole strategy has been to make this a typical Republican primary with a conservative and a non-conservative battling it out, and in those cases conservatives usually win," said Dave Gilliard, a local GOP strategist. "Ose's strategy has been to paint McClintock as an outsider and try to be a local boy."

Neither candidate lives within the boundaries of the 4th Congressional District, although McClintock's claim to it is the bigger stretch.

Ose lives in Sacramento, just outside the district's borders, but has rented a guest house at a home in Granite Bay, an affluent suburb east of the capital.

McClintock lives year-round in Elk Grove, a suburb south of Sacramento, even though his state Senate district is in Ventura County, roughly 400 miles south.

He claims the Thousand Oaks home where his mother lives as his legal residence because serving in the state Senate requires him to maintain a residence in his Southern California district.

The question of who lives where has taken center stage in the race. Ose, who is personally wealthy, has spent more than $800,000 of his own money to paint McClintock as a carpetbagger shopping for a district because term limits are forcing him from the state Senate.

Ose also questions McClintock's acceptance of a tax-free per diem meant for state legislators who live far from Sacramento, even though McClintock lives year-round within a quick commute of the capital.

In 2007, McClintock took in $36,319 in per diem payments, on top of his lawmaker's salary of $116,000.

"McClintock has been supping at the public trough since he got out of college. That's not the conservative way," Ose said in an interview.

McClintock said his acceptance of the per diem pay is legal and accused Ose of trying to buy his way into Congress. He also defended his own political career, which began when he won a state Assembly seat in 1982, when he was 26.

"I've dedicated my life to reducing the size and the burdens and the costs of government. I make no apologies for that," McClintock said in an interview.

House members make $169,300. During his stint in Congress, Ose accepted the salary but refused the increases regularly approved by lawmakers, donating the difference to charity. He would take the same approach if returned to Congress, spokesman Doug Elmets said.

There also are two lesser-known Republican candidates in the race, Suzanne Jones and Theodore Terbolizard.

Open congressional seats are so rare in California that a fierce contest took shape from the moment Doolittle announced his retirement in January.

Doolittle, who is under federal investigation in a lobbying scandal, came close to losing to Brown in 2006. Fellow Republicans feared he would not survive again.

The race drew interest from a number of locally known Republicans. But when McClintock announced his candidacy in March, all but Ose cleared out. Local voters have been barraged by mailers and TV and radio ads ever since.

McClintock, 51, is a conservative standard-bearer known for his staunch opposition to tax or spending increases. He has high name recognition from a series of statewide campaigns — all failed — that include a run for Congress in 1992, two attempts at state controller and, in 2006, for lieutenant governor.

He gained a platform during the 2003 gubernatorial recall won by Arnold Schwarzenegger, coming across as a frugal straight-arrow during debates. He finished third.

He has been in the state Senate since 2000 and will be termed out at the end of the year.

Ose, 52, represented the neighboring 3rd Congressional District for three terms until retiring in 2003 on a term-limits pledge.

He is a partner with his family's Sacramento real estate development firm. In 2006, his net taxable income was $1.1 million, according to his campaign.

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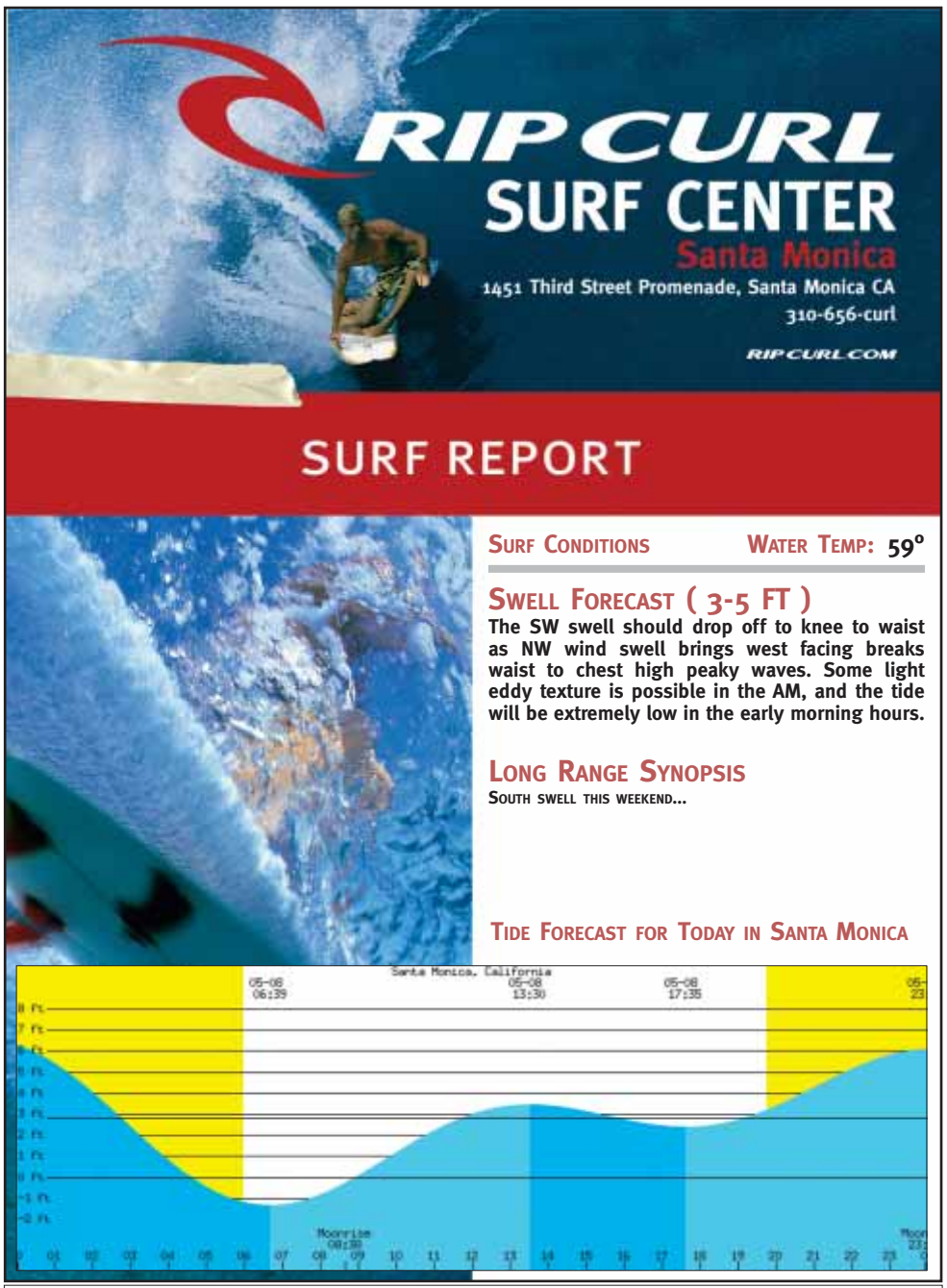
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QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 3
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 27 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 9 / ns

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

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

HORSE RACING

Muted crowds return after Derby tragedy

BY WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. Frank Daniels stood outside the paddock at Churchill Downs on Wednesday, thinking about the first race of the day while watching a rebroadcast of the Kentucky Derby on a big screen.

Daniels is a racing fan who's been coming to Churchill Downs for 35 years. His eyes stayed fixed as Big Brown surged to victory. A split second later, filly Eight Belles followed, storming to the finish 4 3/4 lengths behind but well ahead of the remaining 18 colts.

"She didn't look hurt, did she," Daniels said. "That's a strong-looking horse right there."

What the replay didn't show, or anyone could have guessed as she lunged for the wire under jockey Gabriel Saez, is that Eight Belles would be dead a quarter-mile later after breaking both of her front legs as she galloped out.

She was quickly was euthanized on the track, tempering Big Brown's dominant win and raising questions on everything from the safety of the dirt at Churchill Downs to whether Saez abused Eight Belles with his whip in the dash to the wire.

Daniels rolls his eyes at the controversy. He's seen a lot of racing and a handful of injured horses put down on the track. He considers what happened to Eight Belles an accident.

"It was just a freak thing," he said. "When you have people like (veterinarian) Larry Bramlage saying they've never seen anything like that in their career, it just shows you how odd it really is."

While saddened by Eight Belles' tragic end and empathetic for trainer Larry Jones — himself a Kentuckian — many patrons said the furor over her death is overblown.

"It wasn't the track; it wasn't the breeding," Brian Johnston said. "It was a fluke. The people who are talking are people who don't watch it all year. This is a part of racing. If they want to try and make it safer, I'm all for it, but this wasn't anybody's fault."

Though the Kentucky Derby Museum has received a handful of letters and a flower arrangement in support of Eight Belles, there hasn't been the kind of overwhelming response to her death that accompanied 2006 Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro's injury in the Preakness.

> **"IT WAS JUST A FREAK THING. WHEN YOU HAVE PEOPLE LIKE (VETERINARIAN) LARRY BRAMLAGE SAYING THEY'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT IN THEIR CAREER, IT JUST SHOWS YOU HOW ODD IT REALLY IS."**
>
> Frank Daniels,
> Racing fan

The fans at Churchill Downs on Wednesday already appeared to have moved on. There wasn't an Eight Belles hat or pin to be seen in the modest crowd of a few thousand, though there were more than a few Big Brown hats scattered about the grandstand.

Barbaro's remains will be buried outside Gate 1 at Churchill Downs. Plans to honor Eight Belles at the track have not been completed with owner Rick Porter, spokesman Darren Rogers said. The track is forwarding most of its well-wishes to Delaware Park in Wilmington, Del., at Jones' request. The Derby museum is passing along cards to Fox Hill Farms in Lexington, which is owned Porter.

"She really touched a lot of people, I think, because she's a filly," museum spokeswoman Wendy Treinen said. "But with Barbaro, he had eight months after he was hurt where his battle was chronicled. This was just so sudden."

While the questions will linger, the racing will go on.

NFL

Raiders sign linebacker Hartwell

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALAMEDA The Oakland Raiders signed free-agent linebacker Edgerton Hartwell, hoping he can revive a career beset by injuries in recent seasons.

The 30-year-old Hartwell played only 13 games in 2005 and '06 with Atlanta because of injuries to his knee and Achilles' tendon. He was cut by Cincinnati before the start of last season and sat out the entire year.

He signed with Oakland on Tuesday and will have a chance to compete for the starting strong-side linebacker spot alongside Kirk Morrison and Thomas Howard. Robert Thomas and Sam Williams shared those duties last season. The Raiders have been looking to upgrade their run defense after allowing a league-worst 4.8 yards per carry last season.

The Raiders also signed quarterback Brian White of Portland State and defensive end Greyson Gunheim of Washington ahead of the rookie minicamp this weekend.

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MOVIETIMES

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
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Promenade
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Deal (PG-13) 1hr 26min
2:15, 4:35, 6:50, 9:10
Prom Night (PG-13) 1hr 28min
2:30, 4:45, 7:10, 9:20
Nim's Island (PG) 1hr, 35 min
2:05, 4:20, 6:35, 9:00
The Bank Job (R) 1hr 50min
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

21 (PG-13) 2hrs 03min
1, 4, 7:10, 9:55
Deception (R) 1hr 48min
1:30, 4:10, 7, 9:45
Baby Mama (PG-13) 1hr 36min
2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40
Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay (R) 1hr 42min
2:30, 5, 7:30, 10:05
The Forbidden Kingdom (PG-13) 1hr 53min
1:35, 4:10, 7, 9:50
Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) 1hr 51min
2, 4:45, 7:20, 10

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

Then She Found Me (R) 1hr 40min
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55
The Visitor (ZPG-13) 1hr 48min
1:30, 4:20, 7:25, 10
Smart People (R) 1hr 33min
1:55, 4:40, 7:35, 10:00
Young@Heart (PG) 1hr 47min
1:20, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 Third St.
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88 Minutes (R) 1hr 48min
11:50 a.m., 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:20
Iron Man (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
11:00 a.m., Noon, 1, 2, 3, 4:05, 5, 6, 7:10, 8, 9, 10:10
Made of Honor (PG-13) 1hr 41min
11:10 a.m., 12:10, 1:50, 2:50, 4:20, 5:20, 7, 7:50, 9:30, 10:30

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

Catch a flick, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Pressure builds quickly. You cannot seem to juggle all the various interests, no matter how hard you try. Knowing that, choose your priorities. Start at this point, and you might avoid frustration. Tonight: Happy at home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Speak your mind if you want to, but know that there will be ramifications no matter which way you go. Communication will open up the more willing you are to discuss a problem. Clear the air. Romance builds. Tonight: Tell it like it is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Push comes to shove. How will you handle the problem? It is up to you to make the right call. Investigate your options with an eye to growth and change. Investments in property could be slow to come to fruition. Tonight: Easy does it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Don't let someone's determination upset you. Knowing what you want could be important. Avoid a power play no matter what. It is as simple as the word "no." Communication will flourish once you relax. Tonight: Say yes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Step back and think. You don't need to get involved in a brouhaha. Walk away if possible. Your instincts carry you through in a money matter. Listen to news with an eye to positive change. Tonight: Get some extra sleep.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You cannot determine what you want, no matter which way you turn. Investigate without feeling as if you must make a decision. You'll move in the right direction once you ascertain all the information. Focus and priorities carry you through. Tonight: Aim high.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Take a must show and use it to your benefit. You might need more personal time, but right now you cannot get it. Listen to feedback that heads in your direction. Your instincts will lead you once you devour news. Tonight: In the limelight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might want to reverse gears and start down a new path. Your willingness to transform your style might shock some, but it separates you from many. Reach out for someone who has a different attitude. Tonight: Watch a movie.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Work with one person directly. Your ability to read between the lines lets you realize what is happening. Convincing others might depend on one person. Tonight: Team up with someone.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might be much harder or difficult to deal with than others realize. Your ability to get to the bottom of a problem earmarks your behavior. Look to positive change through discussion. Tonight: Sort through suggestions.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Emphasize what you can accomplish. Though you might be involved with mental shenanigans, you would be best off to let go of some of your wilder ideas. Work with someone directly. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Add more creativity and fun into your life. Withdraw from someone who always wants to do something his or her way. Understand what might be happening with this person. A partner has a fun suggestion; go with it. Tonight: Enjoy as if there is no tomorrow.

Happy birthday

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

You communicate often. You might not be responsible for how others hear your words. On the other hand, you will learn and develop new ways of communicating that will allow you to confirm what you have said as well as allow the other person — whomever it might be — to echo what he or she has heard. You will see your relationship evolve to a new plateau if you are willing to listen, share and not always be right. Your creativity will bubble forth, though for some this energy will manifest through a child. If you are single, a very serious romance could enter your life. CANCER loves sharing with you.

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Difficulty
BRONZE

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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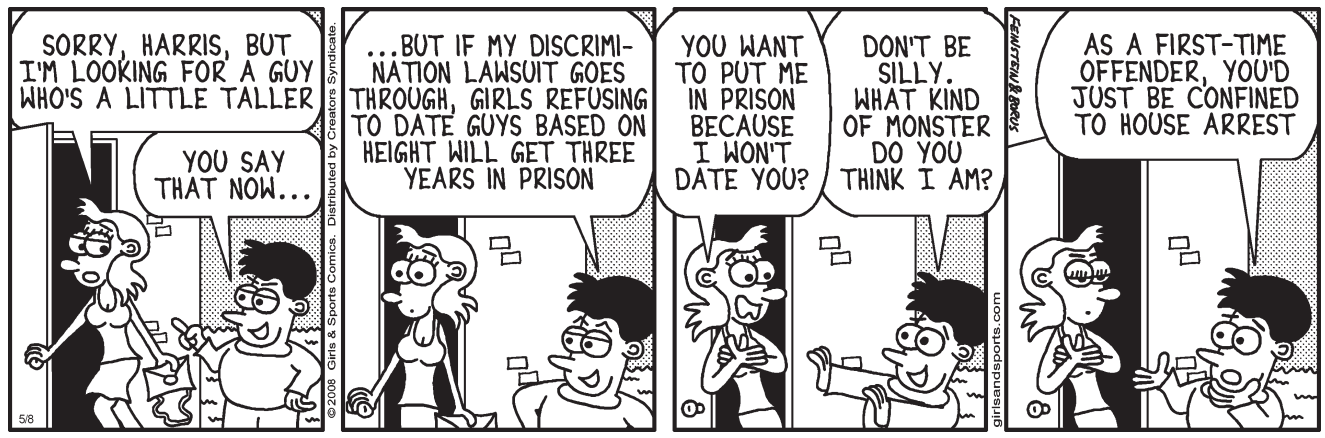
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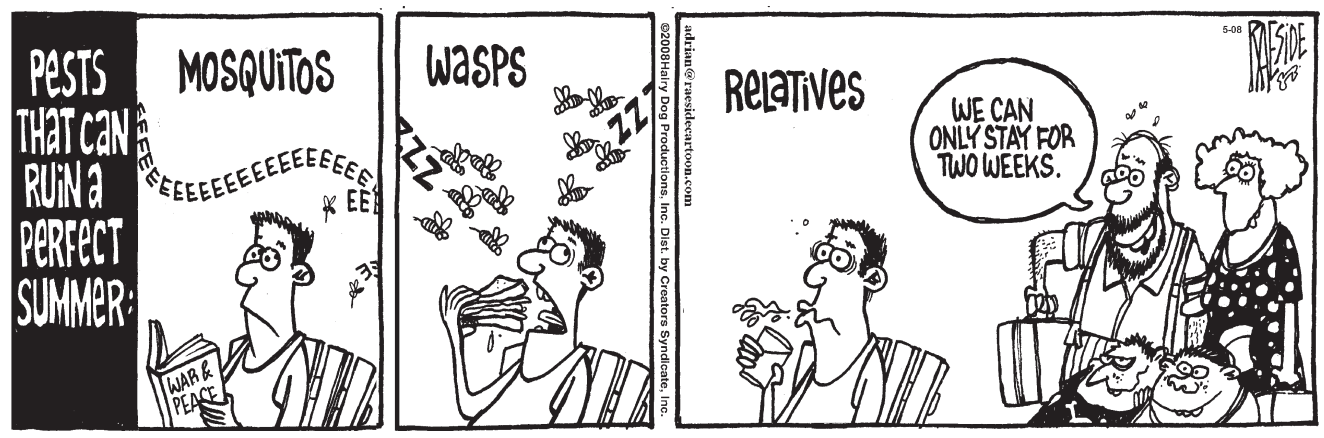
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



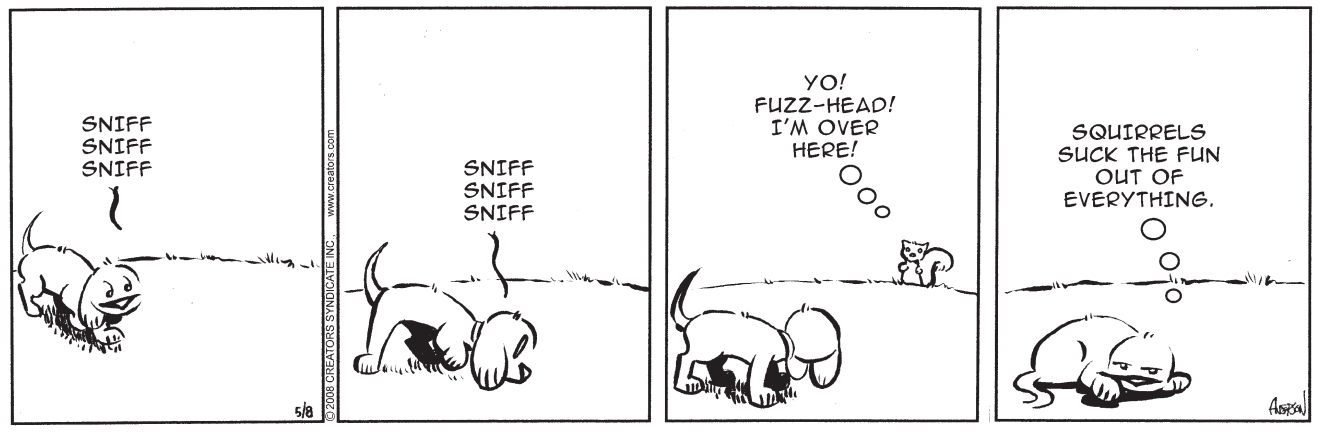
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

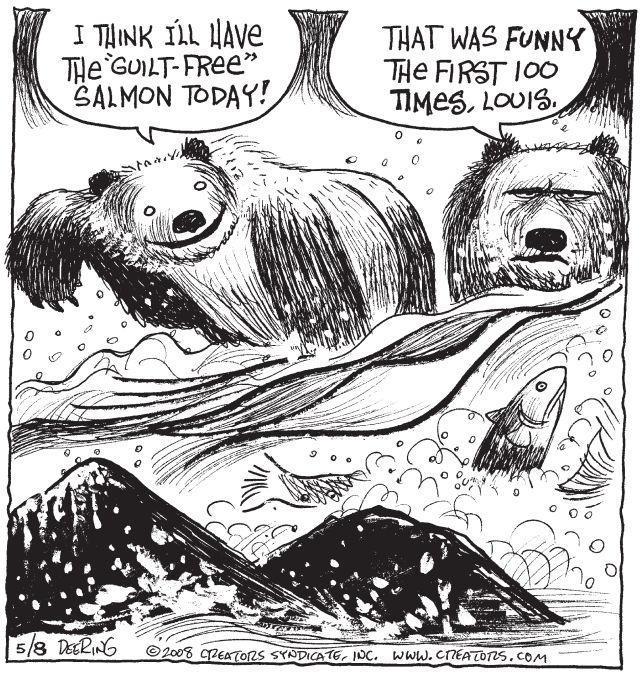


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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Peeling gadget
6 Make sense
11 Visibly shocked
12 Flat paper
13 Scooter's kin
14 Debussy work
15 District
17 Fan's cry
19 Unconscious
20 "— Believer"
23 Verdi output
25 Fight memento
26 Students' cribs
28 Map dot
29 Deceives
30 "— bodkins!"
31 Fly catcher
32 Chick's mom
33 Medicine amount
35 Fragrant wood
38 Moved stealthily
41 Whatsoever
42 Make advances to
43 Howled
44 Miniature map

DOWN

1 Tennis star Shriver
2 Back
3 Criminals' records
4 Fencing weapon
5 Colonist's foe
6 Dole out
7 Cherished
8 River block
9 Apply
10 By the unit
16 Vigorous fights
17 Visconti's "— and His Brothers"
18 Plant pest
20 Polar layers
21 Dull finish
22 Bad lighting?
24 Sunbeam
25 Glimpse
27 Small grill
31 Globe
33 Secluded spot
34 Pleased look
35 Semi part
36 Attic vowel
37 Vampire's rest time
39 "Lenore" author
40 Blasting stuff

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

Yesterday's answer

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

5-8

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Meganumber: 26
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SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 17 26 35 42 45
Meganumber: 4
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FANTASY 5: 9 23 26 27 33

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 0 7 3
EVENING: 4 1 3

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 08 GORGEOUS GEORGE
2nd: 12 LUCKY CHARMS
3rd: 06 WHIRL WIN
RACE TIME: 1.46.78

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Student Vinicios Robacher, 15, said in March he was preparing to file a lawsuit against school officials in Danbury, Conn., over an ear injury. Robacher said that, while he had his head down, sleeping in class, the teacher slapped his desk so hard with her palm, to wake him, that he still has constant pain.

■ Astrid Literski, in prison after pleading guilty to murdering her 4-year-old daughter in 2003, is due in tax court in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in May to argue that she should not have to give back $1,296 (Cdn) in tax benefits she was wrongly paid for the child during 2002. Actually, the girl was living with her father at the time, but Literski says she deserved the tax benefits, anyway, because she provided "emotional" support.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1541 Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto reached the Mississippi River.

1794 Antoine Lavoisier, the father of modern chemistry, was executed on the guillotine during France's Reign of Terror.

1846 the first major battle of the Mexican-American War was fought at Palo Alto, Texas; U.S. forces led by General Zachary Taylor were able to beat back the invading Mexican forces.

1884 the 33rd president of the United States, Harry S. Truman, was born near Lamar, Mo.

1958 Vice President Richard Nixon was shoved, stoned, booed and spat upon by anti-American protesters in Lima, Peru.

1962 the musical comedy "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" opened on Broadway.

1970 antiwar protests took place across the United States and around the world; in New York, construction workers broke up a demonstration on Wall Street.

1973 militant American Indians who'd held the South Dakota hamlet of Wounded Knee for 10 weeks surrendered.

1978 David R. Berkowitz pleaded guilty in a Brooklyn courtroom to murder, attempted murder and assault in connection with one of the "Son of Sam" shootings that had terrified New Yorkers.

WORD UP!

contrite \KON-tryt; kuhn-TRYT\, *adjective*:
1. Deeply affected with grief and regret for having done wrong; penitent; as, "a contrite sinner."

Santa Monica Daily Press

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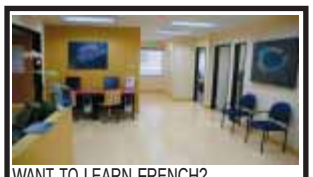
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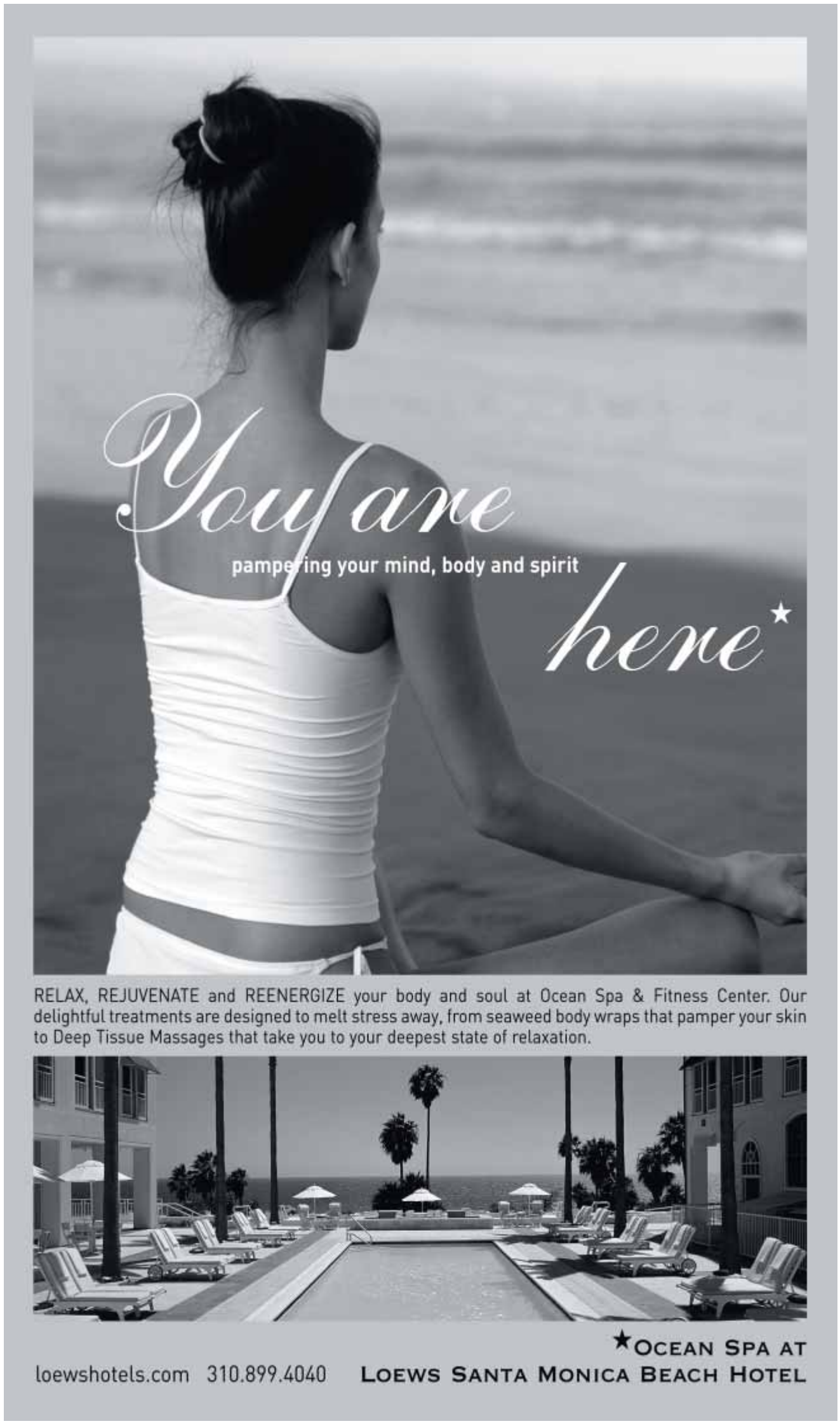


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Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 3,266,100	$ 896,469
South of Wilshire	=	$ 893,724	$ 730,194
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Ocean Park	=	$ 1,732,643	$ 1,327,177

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