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MAY 8-9, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 153



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

CHECK OUT THE MOST POPULAR BABY NAMES
SEE PAGE 11

THE HELP OUT A TOURIST ISSUE

Chamber seeks more leeway for developers

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM CHAMBER Despite seven years of work on City Hall's general plan update and a summertime deadline to approve a final version of the document, some of the toughest decisions remain to be made.

As the Chamber of Commerce's latest comments on the Land Use and Circulation Element make clear, despite many compromises, there's still a disagreement between business interests and those less friendly to commercial growth when it comes to rules about residential versus office construction.

While those on both sides of the discus-

SEE LUCE PAGE 8

Judge rules for City Hall in $4 million Big Blue suit

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE In a win for City Hall, a judge this week denied a motion for a new trial in the case of an 83-year-old woman who sought $4 million after she fell while riding a Big Blue Bus and was left partially paralyzed.

A jury in February determined City Hall was not liable for Beatrice Kaufman's injuries, deciding the bus driver had allowed her sufficient time to be seated.

Arguing the verdict should be thrown out because of insufficient evidence and jury misconduct, her attorneys with Santa Monica-based firm Greene, Broillet & Wheeler asked for a new trial May 6 but were denied by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Norman P. Tarle.

Lawyers handling the case in the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office said a video of the 2008 accident from the BBB's onboard camera showed Kaufman remained standing, holding onto a support beam as the bus began moving. They said only after the bus

SEE SUIT PAGE 8



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

WELCOME: **Tourists Uif Gardenier and his wife Sabine from Dusseldorf, Germany walk to the beach on Friday afternoon. A report by the Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau found that the number of international visitors are down but they still spent more than domestic.**

Tourism on the rebound after rough '09

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

OCEAN AVE After an inhospitable year in which tourism spending dropped by 5.6 percent and City Hall saw a serious dip in hotel tax revenue because of the great recession, experts in the hospitality industry on Friday said conditions are improving and they expect tourism to rebound later this year.

That prediction was welcomed by City Hall officials and business leaders who attended the first annual Santa Monica Travel and Tourism Summit produced by the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) at the Loews Hotel.

"While the signals are still mixed for 2010 it seems that we are on the slow road to recovery," said Caroline Beteta, president and CEO of the California Travel & Tourism Commission and the lead spokesperson for the state's $97.6 billion tourism industry.

Tourism is a significant contributor to the local economy, funneling more than $1 billion into Santa Monica while supporting nearly 12,000 jobs, according to a report released Friday by the CVB. It is also a major revenue stream for City Hall, generating roughly $34.4 million in tax revenue in 2009, helping to pay for police and fire, libraries, street cleaning and other essential services for residents and local merchants.

While Santa Monica's tourism industry is strong, the recession of 2008-09 did have a negative impact on several areas. Annual visitor volume did reach a record high of 6.3 million visitors in '09, a 13.5 percent leap from 2006-07 (the last time the CVB paid for a comprehensive, independent report), but the total amount of money spent dipped by 5.6 percent for a total of $1.115 billion. Per-capita daily visitor spending also dropped by 22.4 percent to $118, with hotels, retail and spas taking the biggest hits.

"It was probably one of the worst tourism years I have seen in my life," said Lauren Schlau, a consultant hired by the CVB to conduct the report. "The good news is that Santa Monica did much better than other destinations we looked at."

Schlau's team conducted over 620 interviews with tourists from outside Los Angeles County and called 300 residents to find out how many people they hosted over the last year as part of the research needed for the report. Local hotels were also surveyed to get a clearer picture of occupancy and room rates, key indicators of demand.

SEE TOURISM PAGE 9

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS CALLING FOR BIDS
DISTRICT: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named California Community College District, acting by and through its Board of Trustees, hereinafter "the District" will receive up to, but not later than the stated date and time, sealed Bid Proposals for the Contract for the Work of the Project generally described as: **DIGITAL LEARNING STUDIO**. This project will consist of the repair, refinishing and upgrading of approximately 1,500 SF of classroom space consisting mainly of patching and painting, flooring, windows and electrical. Work will include minor demolition of existing fixtures.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: 2:00 PM May 21, 2010
LOCATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BID PROPOSALS: SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, FACILITIES OFFICE, 2121 16TH STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405
PLACE FOR OBTAINING BID AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS: ONE COPY PER BIDDER WILL BE PROVIDED AT MANDATORY JOB WALK

1. **Contractors License Classification.** In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §3300, the District requires that Bidders possess the following classification(s) of California Contractors License A or B. Any Bidder not so duly and properly licensed shall be subject to all penalties imposed by law.

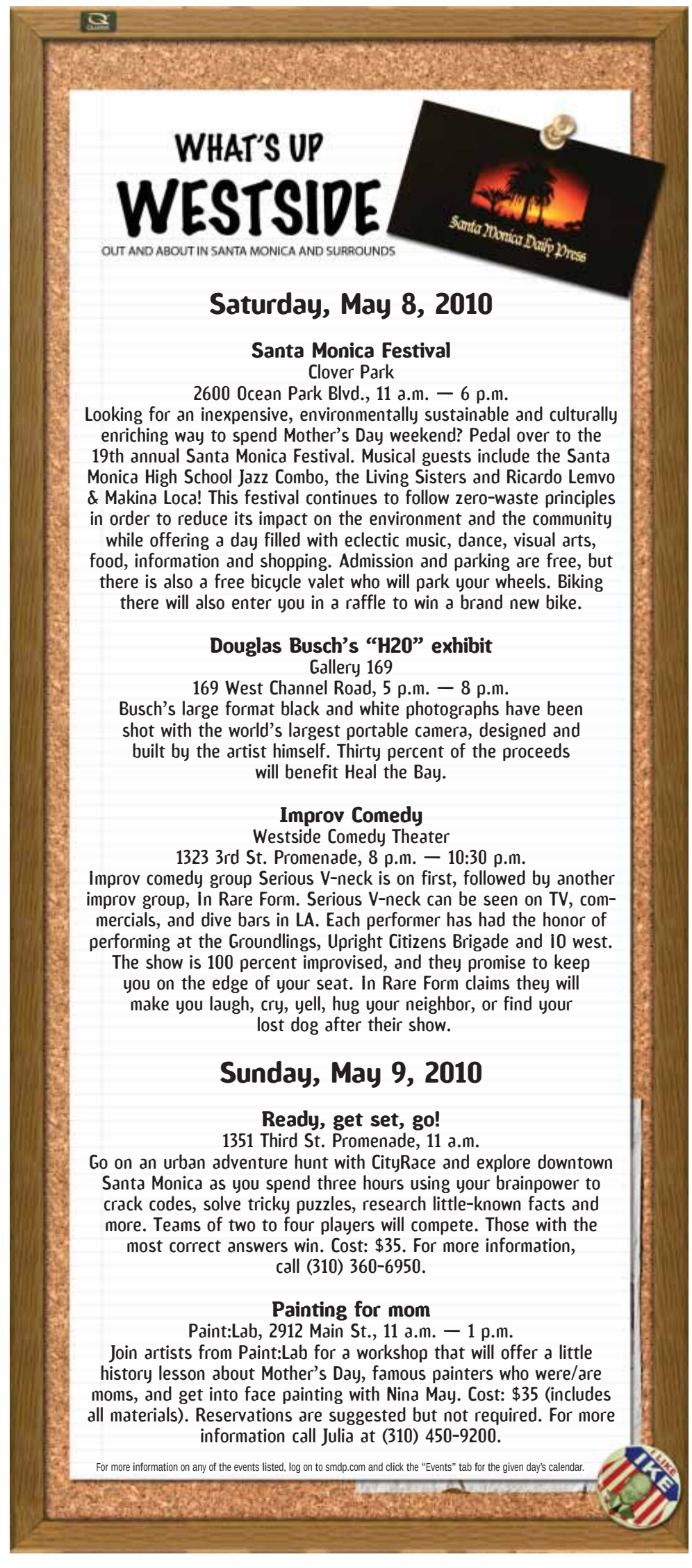
2. **Labor Compliance Program (AB 1506).** The District has established a Labor Compliance Program ('LCP") pursuant to Labor Code 1771.5. The Contractor awarded the Contract for the Work shall comply with the LCP and provisions of the Contract Documents relating to implementation, compliance with, and enforcement of the LCP.

3. **No Withdrawal of Bid Proposals.** Bid Proposals shall not be withdrawn by any Bidder for a period of sixty (60) days after the opening of Bid Proposals. During this time, all Bidders shall guarantee prices quoted in their respective Bid Proposals.

4. **Job-Walk.** The District will conduct a **Mandatory Job Walk on Tuesday, May 11, 2010, beginning at 11:30 am. Bidder's attendance the Job Walk mandatory.** Bidders are to meet at **Letters & Science Building Room 152, Santa Monica College, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA, 90405** for conduct of the Job Walk. The Bid Proposal submitted by a Bidder whose representative(s) did not attend the entirety of the Mandatory Job Walk will be rejected by the District as being non-responsive.

5. **Substitute Security.** In accordance with the provisions of California Public Contract Code §22300, substitution of eligible and equivalent securities for any monies withheld by the District to ensure the Contractor's performance under the Contract will be permitted at the request and expense of the Contractor and in conformity with California Public Contract Code §22300. The foregoing notwithstanding, the Bidder to whom the Contract is awarded shall submit its written request to the District to permit the substitution of securities for retention under California Public Contract Code §22300 prior to submission of its first Application for Progress Payment. The failure of such Bidder to make such written request to the District prior to submission of the first Application for Progress Payment shall be deemed a waiver of the Bidder's rights under California Public Contract Code §22300.

6. **Award of Contract.** The Contract for the Work, if awarded, will be by action of the District's Board of Trustees to the responsible Bidder submitting the lowest priced responsive Bid Proposal. If Alternate Bid Items are included in the bidding, the lowest priced Bid Proposal will be determined on the basis of the Base Bid Proposal or on the Base Bid Proposal and the combination of Alternate Bid Items selected in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Instructions for Bidders.



WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Saturday, May 8, 2010

Santa Monica Festival
Clover Park
2600 Ocean Park Blvd., 11 a.m. — 6 p.m.
Looking for an inexpensive, environmentally sustainable and culturally enriching way to spend Mother's Day weekend? Pedal over to the 19th annual Santa Monica Festival. Musical guests include the Santa Monica High School Jazz Combo, the Living Sisters and Ricardo Lemvo & Makina Loca! This festival continues to follow zero-waste principles in order to reduce its impact on the environment and the community while offering a day filled with eclectic music, dance, visual arts, food, information and shopping. Admission and parking are free, but there is also a free bicycle valet who will park your wheels. Biking there will also enter you in a raffle to win a brand new bike.

Douglas Busch's "H2O" exhibit
Gallery 169
169 West Channel Road, 5 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Busch's large format black and white photographs have been shot with the world's largest portable camera, designed and built by the artist himself. Thirty percent of the proceeds will benefit Heal the Bay.

Improv Comedy
Westside Comedy Theater
1323 3rd St. Promenade, 8 p.m. — 10:30 p.m.
Improv comedy group Serious V-neck is on first, followed by another improv group, In Rare Form. Serious V-neck can be seen on TV, commercials, and dive bars in LA. Each performer has had the honor of performing at the Groundlings, Upright Citizens Brigade and 10 west. The show is 100 percent improvised, and they promise to keep you on the edge of your seat. In Rare Form claims they will make you laugh, cry, yell, hug your neighbor, or find your lost dog after their show.

Sunday, May 9, 2010

Ready, get set, go!
1351 Third St. Promenade, 11 a.m.
Go on an urban adventure hunt with CityRace and explore downtown Santa Monica as you spend three hours using your brainpower to crack codes, solve tricky puzzles, research little-known facts and more. Teams of two to four players will compete. Those with the most correct answers win. Cost: $35. For more information, call (310) 360-6950.

Painting for mom
Paint:Lab, 2912 Main St., 11 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Join artists from Paint:Lab for a workshop that will offer a little history lesson about Mother's Day, famous painters who were/are moms, and get into face painting with Nina May. Cost: $35 (includes all materials). Reservations are suggested but not required. For more information call Julia at (310) 450-9200.

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.



CLOSE CALL!

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Adrian Villasenor (left) of the St. Monica's varsity baseball team dives but fails to tag Larry Brown from Serra after Michael Redondo (right) threw a wild pitch at Marine Park on Friday. St. Monica's hosted Serra in an El Camino Real League Varsity baseball game and won 7-6 in nine innings.

Woman pleads guilty to HUD fraud

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

LOS ANGELES The former president of a Huntington Beach company that held federal grant and loan money in escrow on behalf of local governments, including Santa Monica, agreed Friday to plead guilty to embezzling millions of dollars that belonged to more than 20 cities in the Southland and elsewhere.

In a plea agreement filed in U.S. District Court in downtown Los Angeles, Belinda Exon, 55, who now lives in Phoenix, Ariz., admitted she embezzled $3.9 million that was being held in escrow by her former company, Rehab Financial Services Inc., according to Thom Mrozek of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The now-defunct escrow and loan servicing agent administered grants and loans for California municipalities. The money entrusted to Rehab Financial included funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to local governments for rehabilitation programs designed to address health and safety hazards in low-income housing.

Exon took money that was being held in escrow, using it to purchase properties and vacant land in Arizona, as well as to finance two companies that she owned, Mrozek said.

According to the plea agreement, Santa Monica sustained $26,029 in losses. San Francisco fared the worse with over $1 million in losses.

"It is all the more important in today's trying economic environment that the federal government remain vigilant in its efforts against those who would siphon limited resources," said HUD Inspector General Kenneth M. Donohue Sr.

"The Office of the Inspector General is committed to overseeing that such valuable funding goes to those truly in need and to bringing to justice, together with our law enforcement partners, those who seek personal gain at the expense of our American citizenry," he said.

Exon agreed to plead guilty to one count of embezzling money from organizations that receive federal funds, a felony offense that carries a statutory maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison, Mrozek said.

She is scheduled to make her initial appearance in Los Angeles federal court on June 7.

The plea agreement filed today suggests a sentence of up to 46 months in federal prison and would require Exon to forfeit the properties she purchased with the embezzled funds and to make full restitution to the victimized cities, Mrozek said.

news@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SM PIER

Free rides for moms

Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier will treat all moms to a free Ferris wheel ride on the Pacific Wheel on Mother's Day this Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

To enjoy the free ride, a mother simply needs to go to the Pacific Wheel entrance and notify the attraction's operator and Pacific Park will provide a complimentary ride for the guest.

"This is a very special day as families all across the country honor their moms," says Jeff Klocke, director of marketing at Pacific Park. "And it's very special for Pacific Park too because we have the chance to pay tribute to all Southern California moms with a free Ferris wheel ride. It's also a great opportunity for family and friends to have fun at the beach, the Santa Monica Pier and Pacific Park."

The Pacific Wheel is the world's only solar-powered Ferris wheel featuring 160,000 energy-efficient LED lights that provide dynamic, computer-generated lighting entertainment each evening. The enhanced LED lighting also provides 75 percent greater energy savings than the previous incandescent bulbs, which were replaced in May 2008 with the all-new $1.5 million Ferris wheel. The Pacific Wheel Ferris wheel first debuted in May 1996 with the opening of Pacific Park and was adapted as the world's first solar-powered Ferris wheel in November 1998.

DAILY PRESS

CITYWIDE

Open house

In celebration of Fire Service Day, the Santa Monica Fire Department will be hosting open houses from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at its stations. Fire station 1, 1444 7th St.; station 2, 222 Hollister Ave.; station 3, 1302 19th St.; station 5, 2450 Ashland Ave.

The department also recently launched a new website at www.santamonicafire.org. The new site is designed to provide an easy, accessible, and customer-friendly resource that reflects what the SMFD does and the many services it provides. For example, the new site includes "I've got 7" information on preparing for earthquakes and other disasters, fire prevention tips and permitting procedures.

The new and improved site is part of an ongoing citywide project in which all departments within City Hall will eventually launch newly designed websites. The fire department site joins the Department of Public Works, City Council, City Attorney, Office of Sustainability, city manager, police department, Rent Control Board and other redesigned sites and pages that have launched since the project began.

Like the other new city sites, the SMFD site has a fresh photographic look that highlights the many facets of the department. Much of the photography featured on the site was taken by Chief Walter Shirk.

All the information presented has been organized to be more accessible to the public. In addition, new features have been incorporated, including easy access to forms and contact information, firefighter recruitment, and programs offered by the department. More department websites are set to launch over the next few months.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Doing a disservice

Editor:

I am continually amazed at how your staff reporters are allowed to present factually biased and inaccurate SMO airport noise, pollution and safety complaints as "news." No attempt whatsoever is made to point out that these complaints continually come only from a small group of airport haters who, although they portray themselves as simply interested neighbors, are actually officers of community groups whose agenda includes shutting down the airport.

Lori Nafshun is (according to Ocean Park Association's website) vice president/special events and "... one of the founding members of OPA." Zina Josephs is president of Friends of Sunset Park and has been president or on the board almost since its inception. As such, neither is simply a neighbor living near the airport. Both obviously have an ax to grind. Zina Josephs has often publicly spoken and written about her desire to have the airport closed down.

Apparently unhappy with only getting 250 complaints in March, with the help of money given to each community association by the city of Santa Monica, they have deliberately attempted to engineer a fake airport noise crisis. Nafshun and Josephs managed to boost the number of complaints to 750 in April by having over 10,000 flyers hand delivered to neighbors. Each flyer described in detail how to call and complain about the maximum of 16 small plane flights per day that were somehow endangering the peace and quiet of the neighborhoods.

No analysis has been released that shows exactly how many individuals called in. Were there 250 people who each called three times, 150 who called five times each, or maybe just two people who wore their fingers to the bone hitting their redial buttons all day?

The FAA's experiment intended to test whether altering some flight paths of small piston planes (a whole 16 per day – wow that's "heavy traffic") would lessen takeoff delays and decrease pollution. You would think that the experiment's result of an 85 percent reduction in delay minutes and the concurrent reduction in pollution in the surrounding areas would be viewed as a step in the right direction.

According to Nafshun and Josephs, you'd be wrong. Nafshun complains that in addition to the noise, "... you can see the underbellies of the planes and you can read the numbers on them." News flash Lori, the "underbelly" is the favored part of the plane to see from the ground – it means it is right side up. The numbers are a specific size for easy identification from a distance (like the ground). Nothing unusual there, just try and relax.

Josephs rejects the huge reduction in pollution saying that the "maddening impacts on residents aren't worth the possible benefits." To Josephs, an 85 percent reduction in pollution is a bad thing and certainly not a fair trade off for changing the takeoff path of 16 flights per day. I guess she prefers that the airport neighbors keep the same (admittedly small) levels of pollution and confine the takeoff noise to its usual path over Venice.

Obviously these two don't care about anything or anyone but themselves and their airport closing agenda. Neither has any positive suggestions to make and instead concentrate on stirring up their neighbors about what are essentially non-issues. The Daily Press would do the community a service by encouraging their reporters to write articles that factually present all sides of these issues and correctly identify those who they choose to quote. Continually being the unwitting dupe of those who hate the airport does a disservice to your paper and to your readers.

John Noot
Venice

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A child is calling for help.



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Targeting the wrong illegal immigrants

THOSE WHO KNOW ME MAY BE SURPRISED, and you can call me whatever you want: a racist, a bigot, or even a right wing wacko. However, someone of my ilk has to step forward and say that immigration has gotten out of hand. I know they are our "next-door neighbors," but that doesn't mean they can crash into "our house" whenever they want. These people have a different culture, and I don't think we should weaken our culture by having so many of them around. That's why I feel we definitely have to address the situation of Canadian immigrants.

I'm not talking about profiling. I'm not suggesting that border guards be guided by skin color. People should not automatically be considered to be Canadians just because they look like they've never been in the sun. A law enforcement official should not just walk up to somebody and ask, "Are you from Canada?" They have to be more sensitive. For example, the official can walk up to a man and say, "May I help you, sir?" If the guy answers, "I'm just going to be hanging oot here for aboot five more minutes, eh?" the cop is within his rights to ask for the Canadian's papers.

There is probably nothing as controversial as the problem of children who were born in this country to immigrant parents. It's a tough question. Take the actor, Brendan Fraser. His story is typical. He was born in this country, but both of his parents are Canadian. In other words, they obviously came into this country so their unborn child could be an American citizen and then could star in some really goofy movies.

This year might be remembered as the "Year of Health Care." The Canadians can mess things up there, too. If you travel around Canada, you won't hear people complaining about their health care like we do here. Canadians are happy with their system. Disgusting. If more and more Canadians move to this country and start talking to their new U.S. neighbors about how health care works in Canada, more Americans are going to want the same kind of health care set up here. Think of what that's going to do to our poor drug and insurance companies.

Don't even get me started on Canadian football, which will probably be invading us soon. It's just what you want your kids to be exposed to: a 110-yard field and three, not four, downs per series. You might as well just show them pornography.

Here's why we should be upset in a nutshell: A Canadian invented instant mashed potatoes. Why would anyone want dehydrated potato flakes instead of good-old American mashed potatoes?

There are few things more insidious than the way Canadians have infiltrated our culture though the toothless sport of hockey. You don't have to drive very far from Santa Monica to see an NHL game, and you can probably hear screaming kids playing on some rink no matter where you live. When I was a boy, there were only four National Hockey League teams in the United States. Today, there are 24 U.S. cities that host NHL teams. That's a 600 percent increase of this Canadian sport, gaining a foothold in American life all over our country. At that rate, the next generation of Americans will be hosting 144 hockey teams and the one after that, 864, and the one after that? 5,184. And after that, there will be 31,104 hockey teams in America — 31,104.

THERE IS PROBABLY NOTHING AS CONTROVERSIAL AS THE PROBLEM OF CHILDREN WHO WERE BORN IN THIS COUNTRY TO IMMIGRANT PARENTS. IT'S A TOUGH QUESTION.

It's a slippery slope. You let a few teams into the country, then they tell other teams back in Canada how great things are here, and before you know it, there are 31,000 of them in our country. Where are we going to put all of them? Who's going to pay the medical bills when some goon smacks another player on the head? At the very least, are we going to insist that they speak American English?

There are fathers and grandfathers of today's U.S. children who never thought they'd say the words, "Even Phoenix has a hockey team." Phoenix! They're playing a sport on ice in Phoenix, a city who was used to only seeing ice when it was in a cocktail. That's right. A cold weather, winter Canadian sport is being played in the middle of the desert. No wonder all those people in Arizona are upset about immigrants.

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his website at lloydgarver.com and his podcasts on iTunes.

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

On the Beat

Officer Richard Carranza

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Getting ready for summer means more than buying a bathing suit

Q: I'VE HEARD THAT SANTA MONICA MADE it illegal to smoke on the beach and the Santa Monica Pier. Is this true?

A: Yes, it is against the law to smoke on the Santa Monica Pier and on its beaches. Although anyone over the age of 18 has the right to smoke, for reasons of public health, mutual respect and care of the environment, smoking is prohibited by law (4.44.020 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code) on the Santa Monica Beach and the Santa Monica Pier (except in designated areas). Most smokers are conscientious of where they discard their cigarette butts, but I'm sure we've all seen them strewn along the sidewalk, flicked-out from moving vehicles, and on the beach. And, from a fire safety perspective, Santa Monica Harbor Service officers and/or Santa Monica Fire Department respond to an average of 20 smoking material related fires on the pier per month. Many of these are extinguished in the smoldering stage, but others require the need to cut away or pull-up pier decking to reach the flames and ensure the fire is out. The pier does have clearly marked designated smoking areas along the rail.

Smoking is also not allowed in public parks, Farmers' Markets, bus stops, outdoor dining areas, on the Third Street Promenade, the public libraries, and in or immediately near the entrance to any public building.

That being said, the Santa Monica Pier Twilight Dance Series Concerts will begin this summer and you will be amongst smokers who may not be aware it is illegal. Because most people, if aware, would not smoke where prohibited, police officers usually do not have to issue a citation. Most people, once advised of the municipal code violation and where you can smoke, will gladly extinguish their cigarette and smoke where allowed. For more information regarding where you can and cannot smoke, visit www.SmokingDoesntBelongHere.com.

Q: Am I allowed to take glass bottle on the beach?

A: No, it is illegal. Although the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches has strategically placed trash cans throughout the beach, trash, and broken glass is discarded on the beach all the time. Trash makes the beach unattractive and unsanitary, and the broken glass is very dangerous for the usually bare-footed beachgoers. During peak summer months, the Los Angeles County lifeguards respond to lacerations from sharp objects buried in the sand several times a week. Although most small and medium-sized objects are picked up by the beach sweeping tractor, smaller objects are not. Items such as glass bottles, glass jars, plastic utensils, and other breakable items can be broken by maintenance and safety vehicles. If you have items which are packaged in glass, transfer them to safer, non-breakable containers before bringing them to the sand.

It is also illegal to bring any glass bottle or container to the pier, the beach parking lots, on the bikepath, or any picnic or playground area adjacent to the beach (4.08.210 SMMC).

Other commonly asked questions by patrons of the beautiful Santa Monica beaches are whether or not alcoholic beverages, fires, and BBQs are allowed on the beach. They too are not allowed. If you would like more information regarding the rules and regulations of the Santa Monica Beach, visit: www01.smgov.net/osm/beach_info.htm. Lifeguards are there to answer your questions, but their primary duty is to keep an eye on swimmers and watch for water hazards. So, please try to refer to the website for all of your beach needs before you head down to enjoy the sand and surf. Once again, if you are attending the Twilight Dance Series Concerts please refrain from bringing alcohol, glass bottles, and smoking on the beach.

PREVENTING CAR THEFTS AND BURGLARIES

The last thing you need is to find your vehicle's window broken and items missing, or your car not parked where you left it. We suggest you take these simple but important steps to prevent your vehicle from being stolen or becoming a burglar's next target:

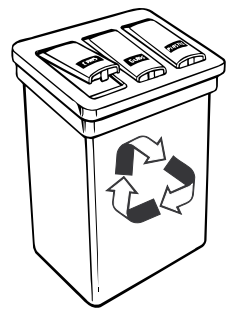
- Place items out of sight before reaching your destination or move them inconspicuously. This includes purses, packages, gym bags, shopping bags, etc.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Lock all doors, even if you plan to be gone for only a brief time.
- Set any alarm or anti-theft device.
- Never leave your car unattended with the engine running, even if only for a moment.
- Never leave your checkbook, or important documents in the car.
- Never, ever leave your car keys in the vehicle! Even if parked in your driveway, or carport.

If you see suspicious activity, report it to the police department by calling (310) 458-8491, or 911 if it is an emergency. Do not confront individuals! Instead, be a good witness and be aware. Remember, your life is precious, materials can be replaced.

This column was prepared by Neighborhood Resource Officer **RICHARD CARRANZA** (Beat 1: coastal, beach and pier areas). He can be reached at (424) 200-0681 or via e-mail at richard.carranza@smgov.net.

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites General Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

Tenant Improvements for the Big Blue Bus Administration Building Project (SP2133)

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, June 1, 2010**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

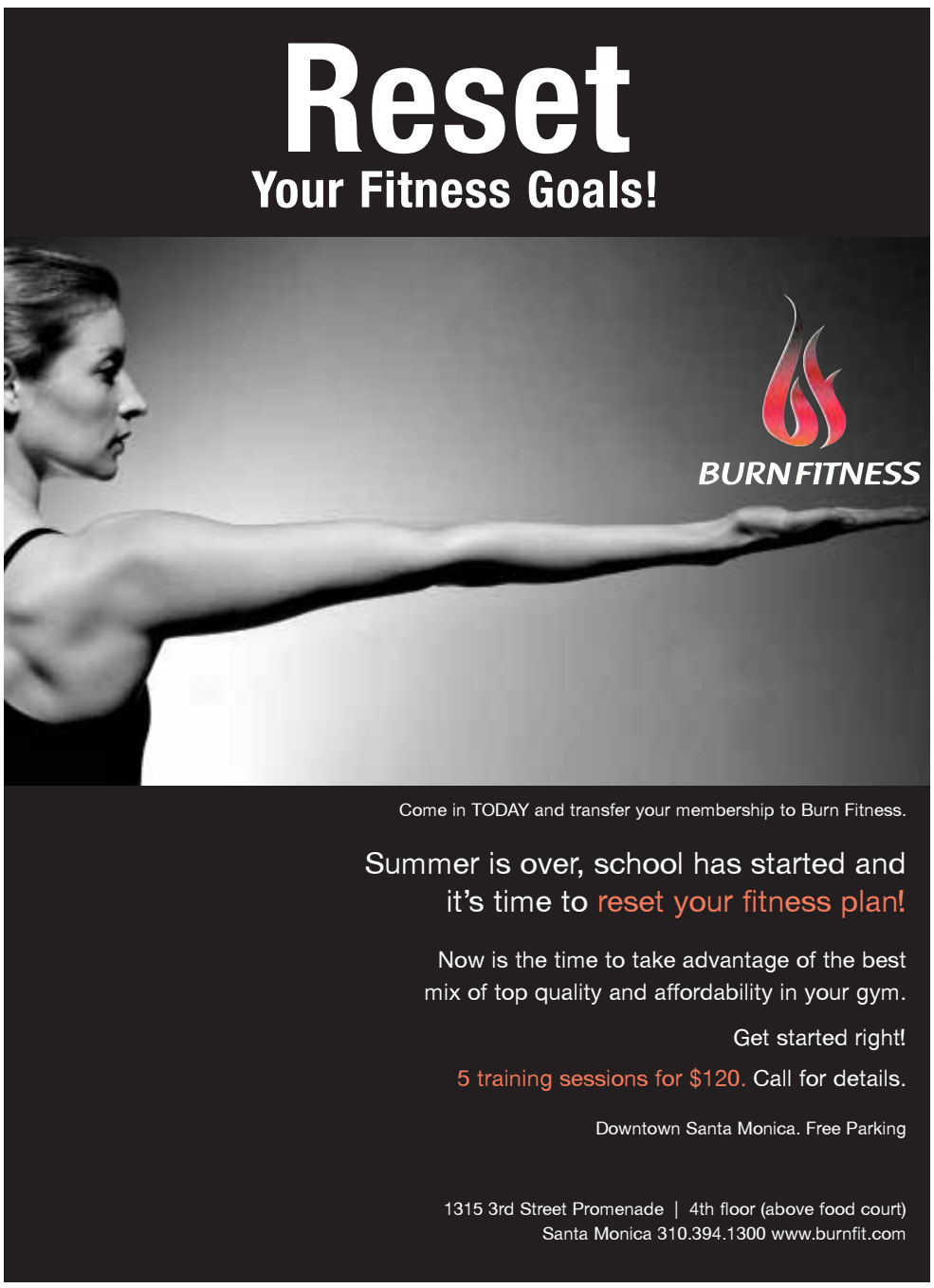
PRE-BID MEETING OR JOB WALK: Monday, May 10, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.
BBB Campus, 1660 7th Street, Santa Monica

All site tour attendees must sign in before entrance is permitted to the BBB Campus. Participation in the tour is not mandatory but it is highly recommended. Interested parties should be punctual, meeting at the Gate Entrance closest to Olympic Blvd. on 7th Street.

ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE: $3,200,000 - $3,800,000
CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS: 180
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,000 Per Day
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $600 Per Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's Finance website at: http://www01.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/. The Contractor is required to have a **Class B** license at the time of bid submission. General Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids ("RFB").

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the General Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.



The Q Line

CITY FOR RENT

This past week, Q-line asked:
A recent Daily Press article discovered that, although illegal, vacation rentals of residences are not actively enforced. So this week, Q-Line asked what do you think city officials should do to curtail this activity?
Here are your responses:

"KEEP THEIR GREEDY HANDS OFF IT."

"NOW THAT SUMMER IS UPON US, illegal residential rentals will flourish. Now is the time for Santa Monica's City Attorney's Office to have the worst offenders arrested for this ongoing, illegal practice of renting. The arrest should make headlines to send a hard message to those who intend to engage in this illegal practice this summer."

"THE COMMUNIST PARTY, ALSO CALLED Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, do not believe in property rights. The only reason they are squawking about this now is because of their ridiculous social programs. We are broke. If these rentals were legal then they could collect their exorbitant hotel taxes and other fees. If the owner is reporting this as rental income on their taxes and there isn't any noise or other problems from these temporary tenants, I do not think there is anything wrong with renting on a temporary basis."

"REGARDING ILLEGAL, MEANING 30 DAYS or less, short-term vacation rentals in the city of Santa Monica, I believe that if the residence is the primary, full-time home of that particular person, and they neither own or rent anywhere else, whether out of state or in, an exception should be made. Occasionally someone needs to go home for some reason, to their parents' home to take care of them or go somewhere for a month, and they cannot afford the rent, this one-time exception should be granted. However, if the person owns multiple homes, or more than one unit or rents more than one unit and has any other property, if this is not their full-time residence, absolutely not. If they have more than one home in or out of state, absolutely not. I live next door to such a vacation rental, it is noisy, it is very hard to live, they don't want to develop long-term relationships because they're there to have fun. They don't care about you or the neighborhood."

"I DEFINITELY THINK BOTH SIDES, THE person renting it out and the person who is renting, they should let them be aware of it and if they still do it, both sides should be fined. Now you're saying if it is over 30 days it's no problem, but yes it is a problem. I know people who have lost their jobs or have had to take a job in another state for six months or what have you and they sublease their house or their apartment. That should be a no-no. Most subleases in Santa Monica, the owner is not aware you are subleasing it. And they wouldn't allow it. I think that should be addressed."

"THANK YOU FOR WRITING THE ARTICLE about the rental problem. I think the people who are breaking the law should have much stiffer fines. They are not fined enough and therefore keep doing it because in the end they make more money by just paying the fine and continue to rent. There should be more people on the job to monitor it and definitely stronger, stricter fines."

"THEY SHOULD JUST LIMIT THE RENTALS to the same number of people who normally live there. Otherwise it would be too much of an impact on the neighbors. But if it's the same number of people renting it out big deal, they have a car, they have people just like the neighbors. It might be better because some neighbors are jerks and you are stuck with them forever. If these renters are jerks, they will be gone pretty soon."

"VACATION RENTALS ARE NONE OF THE city's business and so what if they miss out on some hotel taxes. Boo hoo."

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY




War on invasive moth in nation's grape capital

EVELYN NIEVES
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO As if the recession and the drought weren't enough of a problem in the nation's No. 1 agricultural region. Now growers in the San Joaquin Valley, the heart of California's farm country, are waging war on an insect with a devastating appetite for grapes.

The European grapevine moth, unknown to the United States until late last year, has found its way to Fresno County, where grapes are a $725 million-a-year industry and the valley's top crop.

So far, only three moths have been trapped in the area, but agricultural officials say the pest has the potential to become a serious threat, with global implications.

Although the Napa-Sonoma wine region grows the state's most expensive grapes, the San Joaquin Valley — and Fresno County in particular — is the nation's largest producer of the fruit, including table grapes, juice grapes and raisins, said Les Wright, deputy agricultural commissioner for Fresno County. Fully 80 percent of the raisins consumed all over the world come from Fresno, he added.

Since the discovery of the moths over the last week, local, state and federal agriculture officials have mounted an aggressive campaign to stop the invader from multiplying.

More than 80 square miles around the area where the moths were found are under quarantine, meaning growers face heavy regulations on how to handle their crops and equipment. Chemical treatment is slated to begin next week.

An ounce of prevention could save their farms, though not without hassles and costs.

"We didn't need this," said Manuel Cunha, Jr., president of the Nissei Farmers League, a farmers' advocacy group. "And once this quarantine gets bigger, you've got real problems.

"The farmers work all year for this crop and now you can't harvest the crop. Or you can harvest, but the buyers don't want it. How do they pay their loans, how do they pay the bank — all of these things become a huge burden on the farmers," he said.

Even the limited quarantine means extra layers of work, in an already labor-intensive business.

A quarantine means trapping truckloads of the fruit, washing tractors, mechanical harvesters and fruit bins before transport and submitting to inspections of fields, packing houses and processing plants. Even the seeds and skins left after grapes are crushed have to be disposed of at a proper facility.

And spraying comes at the growers' cost. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture this week committed $1 million to the effort, on top of $1.7 million already allocated to fight the moth in California — but those funds mostly are going toward trapping the moths.

"It's a huge problem even at the level that we've found it," Wright said. "We're still working out the details of the boundaries of the quarantine zone and what encompasses the procedure of moving the farm products out of that region. We don't have all the answers yet. And we can't even begin to estimate the costs until we have more answers."

San Joaquin Valley farmers are already contending with major pests, including the Mediterranean fruit fly, the light brown apple moth and the Asian citrus psyllid.

The good news for the valley's grape growers is that with over 5,000 traps set across the county, officials have yet to find any more grapevine moths. In Napa County, the nation's storied wine country, 50,000 grapevine moths have been trapped.

"We have a chance of stopping this before it becomes another Napa," said Wright.

The European grapevine moth, about a quarter of an inch in size, is native to Europe, but is also found in southern Asia, North Africa, South America and the Middle East. It was first discovered in the United States in Napa County last fall. It destroyed the crop of an entire vineyard at peak harvest time before anyone had recognized it as a new invader.

The moth has since traveled to neighboring Sonoma, Solano and Mendocino, though the greatest number, by far, have been caught in Napa.

How it made its way to Fresno, 200 miles from Napa, remains a mystery.

The European grapevine moth, while favoring grapes, also will eat its way through a long list of tree fruits, including peaches, plums, nectarines, pomegranates, kiwi and persimmons. It is especially dangerous to grapes because it feeds on grapes in both the moth and the larvae stage — the larva feed on grape flowers and developing fruit. Second and third generations of the moth cause the most damage — directly by feeding on mature grape berries and, indirectly, by predisposing the crop to gray mold, a fungal infection.

The moths lay eggs in April and start their first round of feeding at the flowering stage.

In Napa, agricultural officials have quarantined about 332 square miles across wine country after discovering the moth in at least 32 sites, said Elizabeth Emmett, a county spokeswoman.

Barry Bedwell, president of the California Grape and Tree Fruit League, said growers are cautiously optimistic that the early detection of the moth in Fresno will mean it can be stopped before most grapes are in season. Grapes are not harvested until late summer.

"Our confidence level is high that we'll be able to catch this on the onset," Bedwell said. He didn't even want to contemplate what could happen if the moth becomes a major pest. Even if it didn't ruin crops and bankrupt farms, he said, the moth could devastate grape country by freezing the export trade.

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CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

BID #2987 – PROVIDE CUSTODIAL SERVICES FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY AS REQUIRED BY THE COMMUNITY MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT, CUSTODIAL SERVICES DIVISION.

- ***A mandatory job walk will be held on May 19, 2010 at 1:30 PM Pacific Time.***
- **Bidders are to meet Joe Mc Grath and Armando Plata outside (near the fountains) of the Public Safety Facility, 333 Olympic Drive, Santa Monica, CA 90401.**

BID #3007 – FURNISH AND DELIVER POOL CHEMICALS AS REQUIRED BY THE SANTA MONICA SWIM CENTER.

- ***A mandatory job walk will be held on May 13, 2010 at 10:00 AM Pacific Time.***
- **Bidders are to meet Amy Thomas at the Santa Monica Swim Center (turn around area) located at 2225 16th Street, Santa Monica, CA.**

- ***Please refer to the bid packets for further details.***
- **The bid packets are available at: http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm**
- **Submission deadline FOR BOTH BIDS is JUNE 15, 2010 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-2211, or by e-mailing your request to kimberlie.nimori@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/.

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Chamber pushing for greater building height

FROM LUCE PAGE 1

sion emphasize there's much in the sprawling LUCE they agree on, key details that will affect the balance between housing and jobs in Santa Monica remain undecided as the Planning Commission begins a final series of discussions about the document. Following the commission's meetings, the LUCE will be before the City Council for approval in June.

In a letter to the Planning Commission this week on behalf of the chamber, attorney Chris Harding argued "the LUCE should clearly state that commercial uses are allowed above the first floor" in mixed-use projects, a position contrary to the stance adopted by the influential local political party Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights last month.

In a meeting to update its platform April 25, SMRR asserted that in order to protect existing residential neighborhoods while increasing the city's housing stock, only residential space should be allowed in mixed-use projects above ground-level retail.

SMRR chairperson Patricia Hoffman put it bluntly: "We're for housing. They're for jobs."

Others strike a more conciliatory tone, but it's clear that finalizing the LUCE will involve a lot more than simply applying a rubber stamp.

"I think on the whole, all parties involved think that the LUCE is a great step forward, but there are substantial differences of opinion around several critical issues," said Planning Commissioner Ted Winterer.

"Balancing jobs and housing in the LUCE is going to be one of the most important issues that we're discussing," added Planning Commissioner Jason Parry.

The commission held its first of four meetings on the LUCE Thursday night.

For his part, Harding portrayed the chamber's comments on the LUCE as uncontroversial and focusing on the "finer points" of the document.

As to SMRR's recently adopted position in favor of banning commercial space above the first floor on mixed-use projects, Harding said "we don't think the people who have proposed that have thought it through."

Such a prohibition, he said, would mean small professional firms would be "effectively zoned out of the city."

A centerpiece of the LUCE for many neighborhood preservationists is the idea of encouraging residential growth along the major boulevards to add to the housing stock while limiting redevelopment in existing residential zones.

In general, Harding said the chamber supports that goal.

"I'm not expecting a fight with SMRR at all," he said.

While a majority of SMRR's most devoted members appear to favor the strict upper-level ban on commercial space, there's no consensus on the idea.

Mayor Pro Tem O'Connor, for one, a SMRR-backed council member, said on Friday she believes allowing office space above the ground floor could be compatible with the overall vision contained in the LUCE.

She criticized SMRR's recently adopted platform for straying from general principles to contain "prescriptive implementations," like support for the upper-level commercial space ban.

The chamber is also pushing for more lenient height limitations on new projects.

In his letter, Harding called the draft LUCE's height limits "not technically sound" and in need of revision "to accommodate reasonable floor-to-floor heights, especially at the ground floor."

Instead of a 75-foot height limit for projects in the Bergamot Transit Village, the chamber proposes a limit of 86 feet. For mixed-use buildings on major boulevards, it says the height limit should be 65 feet instead of the 55-foot limit proposed in the draft LUCE.

nickt@smdp.com



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Video was linchpin in City Hall's case

FROM SUIT PAGE 1

had left the curb did she attempt to find a seat. She broke her hip in the accident and sustained other injuries that have left her paralyzed below the waist.

In his ruling, Tarle said the video tape disproved the plaintiff's claim of insufficient evidence.

"The undeniable fact is that the plaintiff had in fact grasped a safety pole before the bus started moving, and fell after the bus started moving because [she] let go of the safety pole and attempted to maneuver to another place on the bus," he wrote.

Kaufman's attorneys also argued the jurors had rendered an illegitimate verdict by pre-judging the case and by failing to properly deliberate — claims Tarle dismissed.

Debra Kanoff, one of City Hall's attorneys on the case, said the judge made the right decision by focusing on the videotape evidence.

"The tape is worth its weight in gold," she said.

City Hall had proposed offering Kaufman a settlement of $25,000 before the case proceeded to trial. Kaufman's attorney had asked for $3.95 million, Kanoff said.

"THE TAPE IS WORTH ITS WEIGHT IN GOLD."

Debra Kanoff,
Santa Monica City Attorney's Office

In an e-mail on Friday, one of Kaufman's attorneys, Geoff Wells, said he was "very disappointed that the judge did not focus on the conduct of the driver but only on the conduct of the 83-year-old passenger" in the ruling.

Kaufman's lawyers had argued the bus driver's statements after the fall expressing surprise that Kaufman had not been seated revealed the driver's negligence.

Wells said no decision about whether to file an appeal in the case has been made. But he said: "We must accept the judge and jury's decision. I respect our jury system and we must move on."

nickt@smdp.com



Tourism experts optimistic

FROM **TOURISM** PAGE 1

Schlau found that the number of international visitors, who tend to stay longer in Santa Monica and spend more money, dropped while the number of U.S. visitors increased by more than 10 percent. California continued to be the largest market, followed by visitors from New York, Arizona and Michigan. Internationally, the United Kingdom was on top, followed by Germany, Australia and Canada.

Also among the findings was that the average length of stay for all visitors increased by 6.2 percent, and among the top visitor spending categories were lodging, meals, beverages, and shopping, comprising over 80 percent of the total spending in Santa Monica.

Santa Monica has faired better than other destinations because of its diverse tourism base, with about one-third of visitors coming for your typical leisure vacation, another third for business and another third for group trips, said Jeff Lugosi, senior vice president of PKF Consulting. Lugosi is an expert on real estate, with a special focus on the value of lodging and recreation properties.

"While the numbers may have been bleak for Santa Monica, in comparison to other markets, you have been fortunate," Lugosi said.

Room rates have not dropped off at the same level as other destinations, and occupancy rates in Santa Monica have not dropped below 75 percent, whereas in West Hollywood the number of rooms occupied fell to 66.9 percent in 2009 and 64 percent in Beverly Hills.

Lugosi said 2010 offers some good news. He expects the occupancy rate in Santa Monica to jump to 78 percent while the rest of Los Angeles County will hover around 66 percent. He anticipates room rates to drop by 2 percent but start to climb in 2011, meaning more revenue for City Hall, which in turn means less money residents have to pay in taxes for the services they receive.

"Our recovery depends on every single person, from the hotel staff to the resident who is nice and helpful, getting visitors to their destination," said Misti Kerns, president & CEO of the CVB.

While there is a temptation for local governments to pull back because of a decline in revenues, experts said it is more important now than ever before to remain aggressive and continue to promote Santa Monica as a premiere destination.

Beteta called on those in the industry to reach out to elected officials and help them understand how important tourism is to local economies. She pointed to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, which has hoteliers and tourism chiefs in the south on edge.

One factor that could help boost tourism in the coming years is the Transportation Promotions Act, signed by President Obama in earlier this year. The act will generate millions of dollars annually by charging international visitors who come from countries that do not pay for a visa a $10 fee every two years, money which will be used to pay for billboards, television and radio commercials and other promotions to attract foreign travelers. The public-private partnership has a goal of raising $200 million each year.

Despite a weak dollar, international travel still fell by 10 percent in the first quarter of 2009, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. The U.S. welcomed 633,000 fewer overseas visitors in 2008 than in 2000, remaining below pre-9/11 levels. Overseas visitors spend an average of $4,500 per person, per trip to the U.S.

At the summit, the CVB unveiled new efforts to enhance awareness of Santa Monica. In addition to the "I Love Santa Monica Blog," the CVB is partnering with the state Travel & Tourism Commission on the "SpendTom!" program, which aims to track $2 bills from their city of origin throughout the world as they are spent, to show the scope and economic impact of tourism. Over $4,000 in two-dollar bills will be distributed as change by participating local businesses in Santa Monica alone. Those who receive a two-dollar bill as change are invited to go to SpendTom.com and register their bill, telling California where they received the bill and how they spent it.

CVB also launched the "Santa Monica Snapshots Photo Contest," encouraging people from around the world to submit original photographs of their favorite Santa Monica location in the beachside city. The winner will be announced by May 24, and will win a two-night stay at the Holiday Inn Santa Monica Beach hotel. More information on the contest can be found at Facebook.com/VisitSantaMonica.

kevinh@smdp.com



STATE BRIEFS

SAN DIEGO

20 charged after monthlong SoCal child porn sting

Prosecutors say a monthlong operation targeting online child pornography has resulted in felony charges against 20 people in San Diego federal court.

U.S. Attorney Karen Hewitt said Friday the charges are for the possession, distribution or downloading of child pornography or enticement of children.

Images that have been seized during "Operation Artemis" included an infant and toddlers being sexually abused. The operation involved authorities in Imperial and San Diego counties.

Joe Garcia of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement says the defendants include a registered sex offender, a grocery store clerk, real estate manager and sales consultant.

They face anywhere from three to 15 years in prison if convicted.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Reggie the gator gets new mate at LA Zoo

Reggie the celebrity alligator is getting some female companionship at the Los Angeles Zoo.

The 7 1/2-foot gator, who became famous after his owner dumped him in a lake several years ago, is now sharing a space with Cajun Kate.

The female gator moved in with Reggie after Methuselah, the zoo's oldest animal, died in March at 70-plus.

Before arriving at the zoo, Reggie was illegally raised as a pet, then was dumped in Harbor City's Machado Lake several years ago when he got too big.

He drew large crowds, found himself in songs and on T-shirts. Los Angeles County spent thousands of dollars staffing the lake to warn people.

He eluded trappers for two years before wranglers caught him in 2007 and brought him to the zoo. He escaped once.

AP

LOS ANGELES

LA council agrees to draft partial rent hike ban

The Los Angeles City Council has approved a plan to draft a four-month ban on rent increases for hundreds of thousands of apartments.

The council on Friday approved the move 8-6, but at the last minute exempted apartments with four units or less.

It was not immediately clear how many of the city's 630,000 rent-controlled apartments would be affected. Housing officials say well over half the city's 118,000 rent-controlled buildings have fewer than four units.

Councilman Richard Alarcon voted for the plan, but objected to the exemptions. He said he would try to remove them before the ordinance comes up for a final vote in two weeks.

The council members who voted against the move said they worried about "mom and pop" landlords who are struggling in the poor economy.

AP

CLOVERDALE, Calif.

Sonoma authorities seize $21M in marijuana plants

Sonoma County authorities say they have seized more than 10,000 marijuana plants valued at $21 million.

The pot was taken from a garden west of Lake Sonoma on Thursday.

Sonoma County Sheriff's Sgt. Chris Bertoli says a hunter alerted authorities to the plants. Investigators found a hillside that had been stripped of its vegetation so marijuana could be planted. A spring was also diverted for irrigation.

Bertoli said a campsite close to the grow was vacant. The raid opened the narcotic unit's marijuana eradication season. It was also the county's second pot bust this week.

AP

Family of woman slain in Mexico criticize inquiry

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES The family of a former "Survivor" producer's wife who was found slain in Mexico blasted investigators on Friday, saying it was taking too long to make an arrest.

The criticism came nearly a month after the body of Monica Beresford-Redman was discovered in a sewer in a resort in Cancun.

"I'm a mother, I'm a lawyer, and I don't understand the justice in Mexico," Ely Burgos said in Portuguese with her daughter Jeane Burgos interpreting. "But I really want to know what's happening."

The Burgos family criticized Mexican authorities for not arresting TV producer Bruce Beresford-Redman, who has not been charged but was barred from leaving Mexico after his wife was found dead.

Attorney Eutiquio Salas, who represents Bruce Beresford-Redman, did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

Mexican authorities said they were awaiting the results of forensics tests and wouldn't be swayed by the family's remarks.

Francisco Alor, attorney general for Quintana Roo state, where Cancun is located, said he understood the family's pain and frustration but stressed the investigation was sensitive and could not be conducted under outside pressure.

"It's a family who has been hurt by the death of their sister and of course we respect their attitude," Alor said. "We have to act carefully to avoid making mistakes and have all the necessary elements to make a decision."

Wearing T-shirts saying "Justice for Monica," the Burgos family spoke at a Los Angeles restaurant owned by Monica Beresford-Redman.

They said they were concerned that Bruce Beresford-Redman might flee Mexico or the case could fall apart because so much time had passed. Mexican investigators should also accept help from U.S. authorities, they said.

Their attorney Alison Triessl said investigators have told the family little about the investigation. She said the family was considering paying for a second autopsy to glean more answers and evidence.

Carla Burgos, another sister, said investigators told her on a recent trip to Cancun that they had enough evidence but weren't focusing then on a motive.

Triessl said motive was important and should be taken into account.

In an interview with The Associated Press last month, Carla Burgos and her sister Jeane said Bruce Beresford-Redman had been having a long-term affair.

He and his wife traveled to Mexico to try to repair their marriage, the sisters said at the time.

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Update: BBB Fare Proposal

On Tuesday night, BBB staff presented the proposal for fare restructuring that was shared at this year's Community Meetings to Santa Monica's City Council. The Council said it needed more information before making a decision and instructed staff to return in two weeks for a study session. Currently the plan is to present information at the City Council meeting on 5/11 and continue to public hearing following the study session. Questions? Please send them to Bus-Info@SMGov.net for the most current information.

Santa Monica Festival 5/8

Come celebrate our community along with BBB. Line 8 will take you to the event. Once there, make sure to stop by BBB's booth for free maps and schedules.

Train Now, Ride 5/20

It's almost Bike to Work Day, so start warming up those quads and learn how to bring your bike along on BBB. Our racks are easy to use: just click on the "Bike Racks" button on our homepage for a quick lesson.

For more information call 310.451.5444 or visit BigBlueBus.com

City of Santa Monica

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No time to do laundry? We'll take care of it. Convenient, Fast, and Careful. All customer orders are washed individually; competitive prices and quick turnaround. Give our coupon a try.
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next day service
Same day service available if dropped before 10 am
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10%OFF COUPON
Minimum 10 Lbs. (exp.5/31/10)
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All New Energy Efficient Equipment; Environmentally Friendly Detergents Available
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30 Lb Large Washers
Mid Week Special $1.00
Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday (For a Limited time)
2 Load Front Washers, 3:00pm to 6:00pm
(310) 314-5555
1865 Lincoln Blvd., Santa Monica, CA (Corner Pico Blvd.)

Largest hiring burst in years, but jobless rate up

JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The economy got what it needed in April: A burst of hiring that added a net 290,000 jobs, the biggest monthly total in four years.

The improving picture caused so many more people to pour into the labor force in search of employment that the jobless rate rose from 9.7 percent to 9.9 percent.

The hiring last month of 66,000 temporary government workers to conduct the census added to overall job creation. But private employers — the backbone of the economy — contributed the most: A surprisingly strong 231,000 jobs, the most since March 2006, the Labor Department said Friday.

The new jobs, generated by sectors across the economy, are the first sign that the recovery is adding significant numbers of new positions — even if not enough to absorb the influx of jobseekers. That's why the unemployment rate rose.

The encouraging message in Friday's report, though, is that employers are finally hiring again.

"Companies have a newfound confidence in the future of the economic recovery and on the part of their own business prospects," said Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors. "The broad-based job gains are an indication that businesses are feeling more comfortable about expanding their work forces," he said.

President Barack Obama called the addition of 290,000 jobs in April "very encouraging news." But he said much remains to be done to get Americans back to work.

"This week's jobs numbers comes as a relief to Americans who found a job," Obama said. "But it offers obviously little comfort to those who are still out of work."

The unemployment rate rose in April, mainly because a flood of 805,000 jobseekers — perhaps feeling better about their prospects — resumed their searches for work.

Many economists have predicted the unemployment rate would rise as people come back into the labor force. The jobless rate hit 10.1 percent in October, a 26-year high. The rate could climb back up to the 10 percent range in the months ahead, Naroff said.

In a separate report Friday, the Federal Reserve said consumer borrowing rose $1.95 billion in March, an unexpected increase and only the second gain in the last 14 months. That was better than the $3.8 billion drop economists expected.

The two reports sketched out a picture of a healing jobs market, growing consumer confidence and an economy picking up momentum in the early spring.

Wall Street appeared to look past the more positive U.S. jobs report and instead focused on Europe's spreading debt crisis. The trouble overseas sent the Dow Jones industrial average plunging nearly 1,000 points Thursday before recovering most of its losses. Stock prices on Friday were fluctuating sharply, as they often do the day after a big slide. By late afternoon, the Dow Jones industrial average was down more than 170 points.

The surprisingly high number of jobs added in April offered the latest evidence that businesses are feeling more confident in the recovery. Consumers increased their spending in March by the largest amount in five months. Factory production grew in April at the fastest pace in nearly six years and demand grew briskly for a variety of services in that same month.

Job gains in April were widespread. Manufacturers, construction companies, retailers, professional and business services, education and health services, leisure and hospitality, and government all showed gains. Among the weak spots: transportation and warehousing, and information companies, which all cut jobs last month.

Also encouraging: The employment picture in both February and March turned out to be stronger than previously thought. Payrolls grew by 230,000 in March, better than the 162,000 first reported. And, 39,000 jobs were actually added in February, an improvement from the previous estimate of 14,000 losses.

The 290,000 net job gains in April come from a survey of businesses. The government also does a separate survey of households. The household poll found far larger job gains last month: 550,000 more people said they were employed. The household survey is used to calculate the jobless rate.

Many economists are encouraged by the sharp jump in employment in the household survey: It's shown a net 1.6 million jobs created over the past four months. By contrast, the business payroll survey has shown 573,000 jobs added in the same period.

The difference is encouraging because the household survey often detects employment trends earlier than the payroll survey in an economic recovery. Some economists say that's because the household survey can better pick up hiring trends at small and start-up companies. After the 2001 recession, for example, the household survey showed job gains before the payroll survey did.

The household poll is also more inclusive. It covers agricultural workers, the self-employed, domestic employees and people who work in family businesses without pay — none of whom are included in the payroll survey.

Friday's report showed that all told, 15.3 million people were out of work in April.

Counting people who have given up looking for work and part-timers who would prefer to be working full time, the so-called underemployment rate rose to 17.1 in April. That's close to the record high of 17.4 percent in October and shows just how difficult it is for jobseekers to find work.

Another grim statistic: The number of people out of work six months or longer reached 6.7 million in April, a new high. These people made up 45.9 percent of all unemployed people, also a record high.

Hiring isn't expected to be robust enough anytime soon to lower the unemployment rate much. Economists think it will remain above 9 percent by the November midterm elections. That could make Democratic and Republican incumbents in Congress vulnerable.

Just 21 percent of Americans consider the economy in good condition, according to an Associated Press-GfK Poll conducted April 7-12.

Nationwide, average hourly earnings edged up to $22.47 in April, from $22.46. Lackluster wage gains are a big reason consumers are still hesitant to spend lavishly, making for a more subdued economic recovery.

For employers to boost hiring significantly, the economy would need to grow at an annual rate of 6 percent to 8 percent a quarter, rather than the 3.2 percent pace logged in the first three months of this year, economists say. Such growth would mean shoppers were spending much more freely. That would give companies confidence that sales gains would last.

That scenario isn't likely.

High unemployment and sluggish wage gains are likely to prevent consumers from going on spending sprees any time soon. Small businesses, which usually help drive job creation during recoveries, are having trouble getting loans. That tight credit is crimping their ability to expand operations and hire.

Europe's debt crisis will probably dampen demand for U.S. exports. And the debt crisis may continue to weigh on markets. Thursday's stock market plunge — the Dow Jones industrial average dropped nearly 1,000 points before recovering two-thirds of its losses — introduced fresh uncertainties.

Many economists think it will take until at least the middle of the decade to lower the unemployment rate to a more normal 5.5 percent to 6 percent.

Name that baby: Mom & Dad choose Isabella, Jacob

STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Mom and Dad may be looking to popular vampire books and the first family for baby names: Cullen is on the rise for boys and Malia for girls. But Miley and Jonas are down, proving that acclaim can be fleeting.

Isabella is now the top baby name for girls, Jacob for boys, the Social Security Administration said Friday. Isabella's climb to the top in 2009 ends Emma's one-year reign. Jacob is on an 11-year run at the top.

"Anything can influence baby names, from pop culture to literature to music and celebrities," said Jennifer Moss, author of "The One-in-a-Million Baby Name Book" and founder of Babynames.com.

Barack still didn't crack the top 1,000 for boys, but a version of the president's daughter's name, Malia, was the fastest riser for girls. Maliyah moved up 342 spots, to No. 296, while Malia, which is how Obama's daughter spells it, came in at No. 192, rising 153 spots.

Many of the top names — and the fastest risers — match the popular "Twilight" series of books and movies about teen romance and vampires.

Edward Cullen is one of the lead characters. Edward moved up 11 spots, to No. 137 on the list, and Cullen was the biggest riser among boys' names, up 297 spots to No. 485.

Edward Cullen is, of course, a vampire. His girlfriend? Bella, a common nickname for Isabella.

Jacob is another character in the stories, but Jacob's rule at the top started well before the first "Twilight" book was published in 2005. Isabella has been in the top 10 since 2004.

"People seem to be a little bit more creative, inventive and flexible with their daughters' names," said Social Security Commissioner Michael J. Astrue. "With boys, I think we tend to be a little bit more consistent. The names don't change quite as much."

A little more than 22,000 girls born in 2009 were named Isabella, followed by Emma, Olivia, Sophia and Ava. Nearly 21,000 boys were named Jacob, followed by Ethan, Michael, Alexander and William.

Mia was the only newcomer to the top 10 for girls, rising from 14th to 10th. Among the boys, Jayden moved up from 11th to 8th, and Noah moved up from 15th to 9th.

The Social Security Administration started compiling name lists in 1997. The agency offers lists of baby names dating to 1880.

Miley, as in teen singer Miley Cyrus, soared up the charts in 2008 but slipped last year, dropping 61 spots to No. 189. A different version, Mylee, fell even further, dropping 420 spots to No. 853.

Marely fell the most among girls, dropping 517 spots to No. 851.

Jonas, as in the boy band Jonas Brothers, followed a similar path, peaking in 2008 before falling 105 spots last year, to No. 379. Alvin fell the most among boys, dropping 133 spots to No. 570.

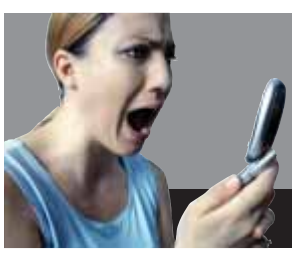
"Make sure the name can grow with your child and make sure they can live with it," Moss said. "Don't make it too cutesy because think, can it work in the board room? Can they be a CEO?"

"Don't make the name a burden on your child," she added.

Some 69 boys born in 2009 were named Barack, making it the 1,993rd most popular name for boys. That's up from No. 2,424 the year before.

Michelle, as in Michelle Obama, dropped a spot, to No. 104. Sasha, the name of Obama's other daughter, moved up 101 spots, to No. 261.

"Before the president came on the scene, Barack was at the absolute bottom of the list, and it does take a while usually to move up," Astrue said. "Most politicians will take an increase however they get it."


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Santa Monica Daily Press
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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 58°

Swell Forecast

Southerly swell should decline to chest high max. Models show wind swell continuing, bringing waist to chest high sets to west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

The southern hemi should back off to waist high. Wind swell is expected to increase to at least chest high for west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **May 4, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 13
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 22
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 24

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation
simplehuman
SIMA

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa and Las Alina creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	B	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	B	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	D
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach.	B	C
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	B	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	D
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	F	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunos County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	C	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	C	B
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	B	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	A+
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	A
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	D
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	A
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	C
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	D
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	F

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.

Feds: Lawrence Taylor admitted paying for sex

TOM HAYS
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Disgraced gridiron great Lawrence Taylor admitted paying for sex at a suburban Holiday Inn where police say he raped a 16-year-old runaway, federal prosecutors said Friday in a criminal complaint against the girl's alleged pimp.

The papers filed in federal court in Manhattan refer to Taylor only as "Client-1."

In the paperwork, authorities claim the Pro Football Hall of Famer told police following his arrest on Thursday that he had taken a car service from Newark International Airport to the hotel north of New York City to meet "Victim-1."

Taylor told investigators that after "engaging in sex acts" with the victim, he paid her $300 in cash, the complaint says. The man charged in the complaint, Rasheed Davis, had told the Giants legend that the girl was 19, the court papers say.

Taylor, 51, was charged Thursday in Suffern, N.Y. with third-degree rape and patronizing a prostitute. His lawyer, Arthur Aidala, has denied the charges.

Davis was to appear in federal court later Friday on a charge of sex trafficking of a minor.

The girl, who was reported missing by her family in March, met Davis at a Bronx bus stop two to three weeks ago. The federal complaint says she told investigators that the 36-year-old parolee offered her a place to live and a way to make money.

She said that Davis gave her Ecstasy and marijuana before causing her "to engage in multiple commercial sex acts" for prices ranging from $80 to $150. He advertised her services by sending cell phone photos of her and posting ads on Web sites, the complaint says.

On Wednesday, Davis sent the girl a text message in which he said he wanted her to have sex with "Client-1" for $300, the complaint says. When she refused, Davis assaulted her, drove her to the hotel against her will and waited outside while she had sex with Taylor, it says.

Late Wednesday and early Thursday, the girl sent text messages to her uncle saying she was in trouble. The uncle called police, who arrested Davis once he returned to the Bronx with the teenager.

Police believe Taylor used a middleman to arrange the liaison, but said Friday they hadn't identified that person.

Davis was sentenced in April 1994 to eight to 25 years in prison for first-degree manslaughter. He was paroled in March 2008.

Taylor anchored the Giants' defense and led them to Super Bowls titles in 1987 and 1991. He was selected to the NFL's 75th Anniversary All-Time Team.

A 10-time Pro Bowler, he was the NFL Most Valuable Player in 1986 and the NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 1981, 1982 and 1986.

The weight-loss company NutriSystem Inc. said Friday it had dropped Taylor as a spokesman because of his arrest.

NBA

Artest won't say whether he wrote critical tweets

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. If Ron Artest criticized Lakers coach Phil Jackson on Twitter, he isn't exactly owning up to his tweets.

Five disjointed, grammatically challenged messages appeared on Artest's latest Twitter page late Thursday night, expressing frustration that Jackson had spoken to the media about Artest's play before talking to the veteran forward personally.

But Artest wouldn't say whether he had written the tweets when asked Friday before the Lakers departed for Utah, where they'll play Game 3 of their second-round playoff series with the Jazz on Saturday.

Artest has been in a profound 3-point shooting slump in the postseason, making just 7 of 42 shots. Jackson has praised Artest's defense, but suggested he should cut down on 3-pointers.

For the third straight year, the Lakers lead 2-0 as the Western Conference playoff series comes to Utah for two games that the Jazz know are crucial to any aspirations they have of knocking out the defending champions.

The Lakers would like to avoid a repeat of the first round, when they led Oklahoma City 2-0 before the Thunder tied it with two wins at home.

Ronny Turiaf will graduate Sunday

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPOKANE, Wash. A very familiar graduate will walk across the stage at Gonzaga University's commencement on Sunday. Former Laker Ronny Turiaf will receive his degree in sports management, four years after leaving Gonzaga as one of the best players in its history.

Turiaf, who plays for the Golden State Warriors of the NBA, is one of 48 Gonzaga athletes who will receive diplomas.

Athletic director Mike Roth said Turiaf is a great role model for finishing his degree after he was drafted by the NBA.

Also getting degrees Sunday are men's basketball star Matt Bouldin and women's stars Heather Bowman and Vivian Frieson.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, May 8
Popeye and Betty Boop Cartoons (NA)
3:00

Double Feature
Psycho (NA) 1hr 49min
Spellbound (NA) 1hr 51min
7:30

Sunday, May 9
Double Feature
Shadow of a Doubt (NA) 1hr 48min
Stage Fright (NA) 1hr 50min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Iron Man 2 (PG-13) 2hr 4min
12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15, 12:15am

Babies (PG) 1hr 20min
11:00am, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00, 12:05am

Oceans (G) 1hr 43min
2:15, 7:30

Alice in Wonderland (PG) 1hr 49min
11:30am, 4:45, 9:50

A Nightmare on Elm Street (2010) (R) 1hr 37min
11:35am, 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00am

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

Iron Man 2 (PG-13) 2hr 4min
12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15, 12:15am

Babies (PG) 1hr 20min
11:00am, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00, 12:05am

Oceans (G) 1hr 43min
2:15, 7:30

Alice in Wonderland (PG) 1hr 49min
11:30am, 4:45, 9:50

A Nightmare on Elm Street (2010) (R) 1hr 37min
11:35am, 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00am

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

Iron Man 2 (PG-13) 2hr 4min
12:15, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15, 12:15am

Babies (PG) 1hr 20min
11:00am, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00, 12:05am

Oceans (G) 1hr 43min
2:15, 7:30

Alice in Wonderland (PG) 1hr 49min
11:30am, 4:45, 9:50

A Nightmare on Elm Street (2010) (R) 1hr 37min
11:35am, 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00am

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

Clash of the Titans (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:00, 6:30

Hot Tube Time Machine (R) 1hr 39min
3:40, 9:10

The Lightkeepers (PG) 1hr 40min
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Death at a Funeral (R) 1hr 30min
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

How to Train Your Dragon (PG) 1hr 38min
1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50

How to Train Your Dragon 3D (PG) 1hr 38min
11:50am, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

The Losers (PG-13) 1hr 38min
11:40am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

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

Do what you will, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your fiery style emerges. Find an outlet other than the obvious. Take a walk or get into a demanding project. Confusion surrounds a talk or meeting. Confirm how, what and where. Tonight: Don't fuss.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Keep zeroing in on what you feel is essential. You have pushed and pulled to get someone's time and attention. A conversation might not be easy, but it will be easier after a relaxing meal together. Tonight: You just might have a reason to celebrate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Many people demand a lot of your time and attention. Perhaps you have a project that demands extra attention. Don't forget an older friend or relative who your visits and calls mean the world to. Know that anything can happen if you relax. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Take off for a day trip if you can. Sometimes just going for a drive can refresh your mind and energize your spirit. Opt for change and a different setting. Make today a mini vacation. Tonight: Keep the theme different.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Relate to others on a one-on-one level. Groups simply don't feel right right now. A friend or loved one could be quite taken aback by your opinions. Think before you say something outrageous or for effect. Tonight: Dinner at a romantic spot.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ If you had a fantasy of a calm, quiet day, you can toss it to the wind. Others come toward you. Be careful with some repressed feelings that you have been sitting on. Someone could actually make you blush with a compliment! Tonight: Just don't be alone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Understanding evolves, especially if you don't trigger anymore conversation past the initial one. Sometimes the process or rehashing a talk in your mind can serve you well. Try to walk in another person's footsteps. Tonight: Don't choose anything that would make you stress out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Others enjoy your intensity and emotional dimension. A child loves to be the center of your attention! Another loved one and a friend could desire the same. The key today is to know which side your bread is buttered on. Tonight: Lighten up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Stay close to home if possible. You can decide to throw a party if you're bored, but you also can sit in the garden and read a good book. Allow yourself the luxury of not making plans. An even pace works. Tonight: You don't have to go far!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Communication excels. You might be able to warm up a difficult person with a caring gesture or simply by pitching in in whatever this person is doing. Understand what your focus and goals are. Perhaps saying nothing might be better. Tonight: Invite friends to join you for dinner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Your need to let someone know you care could lead to extravagance, especially if you started with the thought of choosing a token of affection. You also might be unusually vulnerable to purchasing something for yourself, too. Tonight: Curb any wild risks.

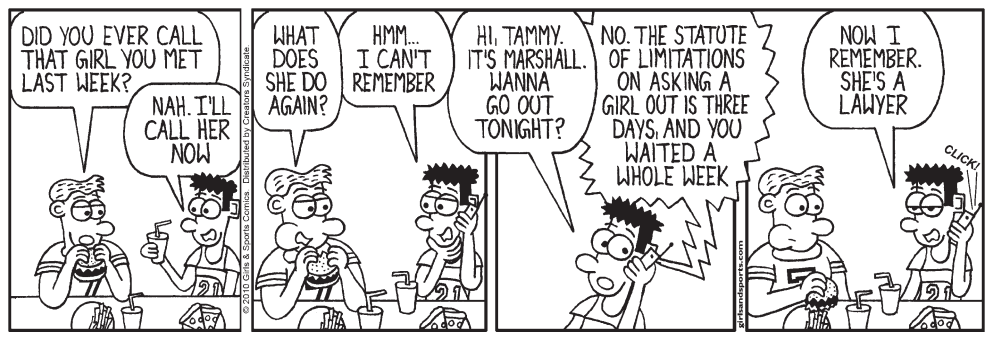
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You certainly feel energized, though distracted. Get your to-do list done ASAP. You will enjoy yourself nearly anywhere, but close to home feels great. You cannot stop someone from acting on his or her feelings. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

Happy birthday

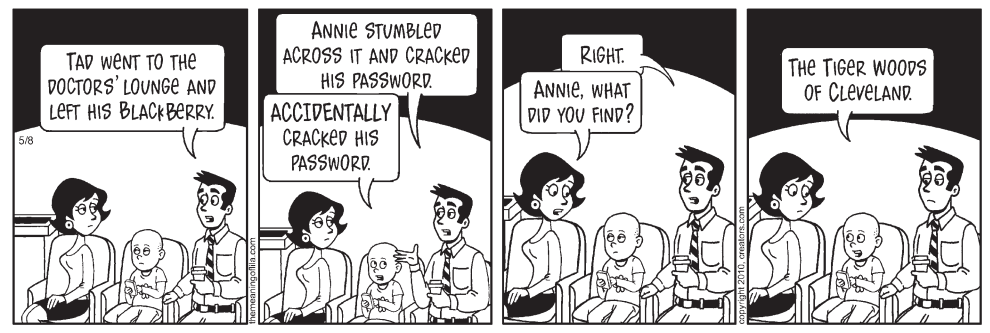
This year, expand your circle of friends. Use the same process with work. You might have been dreaming of a major change in your life. The time has come to act on it rather than wish. The timing will be excellent before and after the summer. If you are single and you are ready for a committed relationship, you might meet someone who could give you what you want. If you are attached, the two of you work as a team, socialize more and simply enjoy your life together. PISCES can be changeable but always remains a friend.

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

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



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



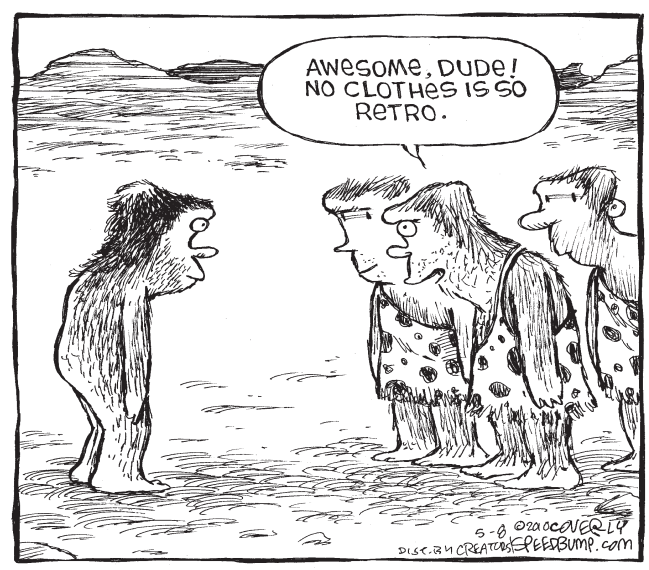
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Takeout can eat up your savings.



Pack your own lunch instead of going out. $6 saved a day x 5 days a week x 10 years x 6% interest = $19,592. That could be money in your pocket. Small changes today. Big bucks tomorrow. Go to feedthepig.org for savings tips.

AICPA

Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.samhsa.gov

Ad Council



MYSTERY PHOTO

Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Work groups
7 Waterfall output
11 Singer Nelson
12 Painter Dix
13 "Earth in the Balance" author
14 Brewed beverages
15 Abattoir array
16 Office aides
17 Mid-month time
18 Ineffective
19 Mil. sch.
21 Last letter, in London
22 Global strips
25 Dapper fellow
26 Agrippina's son
27 Wields
29 Expense
33 Blends
34 Must
35 Victorious cry
36 Moulin Rouge dance
37 Shaker stuff
38 Geriatrics topic
39 Peepers
40 Less well off

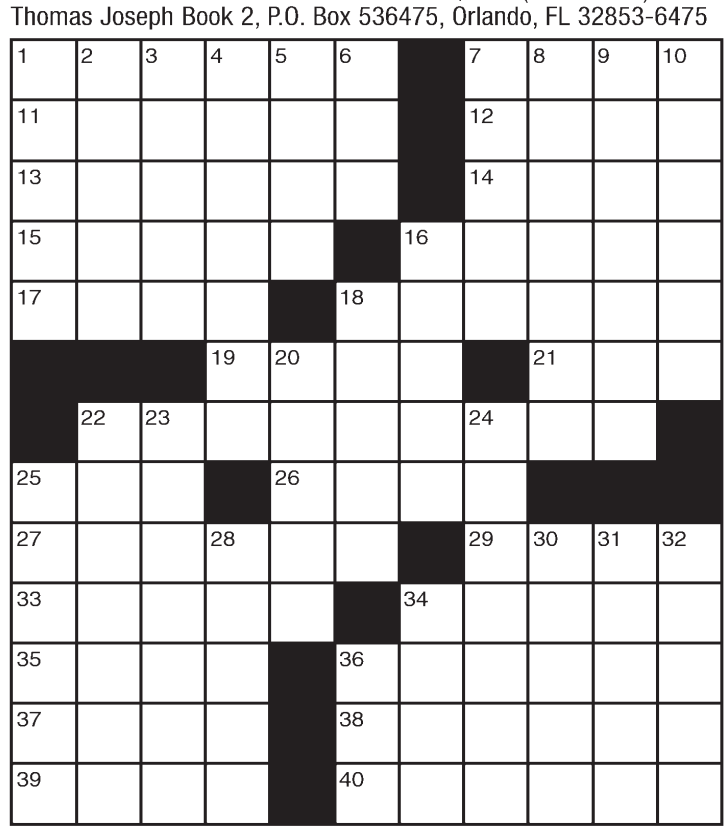
DOWN

1 Wise teacher
2 Like some floors
3 Pond growth
4 Wreckage at sea
5 Yule trees
6 Spot
7 Sacred song
8 Use Schedule A
9 Basic needs
10 Flung
16 Henry VIII's house
18 Discon-certs
20 Mint output
22 Airport feature
23 Banished
24 "I'm unable"
25 Downfall
28 Doesn't own
30 TV grouch
31 Play place
32 Printer need
34 Ring of light
36 Beat walker

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

Yesterday's answer

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



5-8

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 9 21 31 36 43
Meganumber: 8
Jackpot: 12$M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 10 30 31 34 42
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: 10$M

Fantasy 5: 4 7 17 18 34

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 4 0 3
EVENING: 7 1 6

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:47.56

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ When stroke victims recover, they have sometimes acquired bizarre obsessions, like one by David Stopher of North Tynesdale, England, who found himself unable to say no to salespeople. According to a March Daily Mail report, the biggest beneficiary of Stopher's condition has been the wireless telephone network (known as 3), whose marketers had signed Stopher up for six different phones and plans at the same time (and paid all on time until his brothers stepped in to persuade 3 to restructure the account).

■ Heather Has Two Mommies and a Daddy: Scientists at Britain's Newcastle University announced in April that they had grown human embryos free of certain serious genetic diseases by first merging DNA from two fertilized eggs to eliminate the potential deadly marker(s). The resulting child would have over 99 percent of the DNA of the mother and father (i.e., all except the unhealthy markers). One scientist compared the procedure to "changing the battery on a laptop" (which leaves the data files intact).

■ Intelligent Evolution: Researchers from Royal Roads University in Canada reported last year that the large, carnivorous pitcher plants of Borneo prefer to eat insects and spiders, but where those are in short supply, as in the Philippines highlands, the pitchers have grown to a size accommodating an alternative source of the nitrogen they need. The pitchers have "learned" that if they produce copious amounts of nectar, it will attract the tiny-mouse-sized tree shrew to harvest it, and the shrews, trapped inside the plant, will leave droppings directly on the spot most advantageous for the pitcher to consume them. Said professor Charles Clarke, discovery of the arrangement "totally blew us away."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1987 The Loughgall ambush: The SAS kills 8 IRA members and 1 civilian, in Loughgall, Northern Ireland.

1988 A fire at Illinois Bell's Hinsdale Central Office triggers an extended 1AESS network outage once considered the 'worst telecommunications disaster in US telephone industry history' and still the worst to occur on Mother's Day.

WORD UP!

eristic \e-RIS-tik\ , adjective; 1. Pertaining to controversy or disputation; controversial. 2. Of argument for the sole purpose of winning, regardless of the reason.

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UPSCALE ASSISTED living community is looking for caregivers and medication technicians for afternoon shifts on weekdays and morning and afternoon shifts on the weekends. Must have experience, good attitude, and be reliable. To apply please fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405. EOE

UPSCALE RETIREMENT community is looking for a maintenance assistant. Primary responsibilities include painting apartments & completing work orders. Full time & benefits eligible. Schedule is Wed. thru Sun.. Pre-employment drug and criminal background check. If interested, please fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405. EOE

For Sale

SPA/HOT TUB 2010 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth $5950, sell for $1950 (310)479-3054

Yard Sales

MULTI FAMILY SIDEWALK SALE
Software, books, housewares, clothes, desk, shelves, PC, jewelry, nick nacks, pictures. Saturday 9a.m-2p.m No early birds Bicknell St.betweeen 4th and Main.

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OVER 200 pieces vintage jewelry. Fantastic opportunity for dealer. May 8th- 9th 11a.m-4p.m 725 S. Barrington, Suite 36

For Rent

MAR VISTA, 11621 Braddock Dr. unit 10 2bdrm. 1.5 bath, $1225 townhouse style, stove, wood/tile, w/d hookup, patio, gated parking, carpet, intercom entry, no pets.$700 off move-in (310)967-4471 www.jkwproperties.com

12746 Pacific Ave. unit 6 1+1 stove, fridge, dishwasher, wall ac, carpet, blinds, laundry,intercom entry, parking, no pets. $1095.move-in special $700 off (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

3206 BAGLEY AVE. 1+1 upper, stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, dishwasher, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets. $1050 $1000 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

501 N. Venice unit 13 single, $1025/mo $500 off move-in stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

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617 MIDVALE, 2+1.5 Townhouse style. Stove, fridge, dishwasher, microwave, tile countertop, wood and carpet floor. W/D hookups, parking, no pets. $2600/mo. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

9849 TABOR St.Unit 6, Palms, 1bdrm/1bath.$1095/mo Stove, fridge, carpets, wall AC, ceiling fan blinds, balcony, parking, on site laundry no pets. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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10550 Santa Monica Blvd. 2+1, former Art Space gallery $2000

1214 Idaho # 8 2+1.5 Bath $2568 Townhouse, Pet OK

1627 Bundy Dr, #4, 2+1, $1595 Upper, New hardwood floors

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MAR VISTA 12760 Matteson Ave #6 1+1 $995/mo stove, fridge, tile and vinlyn floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets non smoking call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt.only $750 off move-in (310) 439-1928 jkwproperties.com

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MAR VISTA 11924 Courtleigh dr. units 9&10 stove, fridge, blinds, vinyl, utilities included, on-site laundry, parking, no pets, $950 & up/mo $1000 off move-in (310)737-7933 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. 1bdrm/1bath, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $975 & up $1000 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA: 11932 Courtleigh Dr. unit 9, $1025/mo. 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, carpet, utilities include, intercom entry, laundry, gated, parking, no pets. $1000 off move-in (310) 737-7933 jkwproperties.com

WESTCHESTER 6707 W 86th place unit C 2bdrm/1.5 bath, stove, dishwasher, microwave, blinds, carpet, laundry, gated parking, no pets, $1495/mo, $1000 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WLA 2464 Barrington Ave. #7 3+3 large room, furnished kitchen, granite counter, fireplace, gated parking, elevator, on-site laundry, intercom entry. No pets $2295 Open daily walk-in (310)390-9401

PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave #1 stove, blinds, tile flooring, carpets, ceiling fan, laundry,parking, AC, no pets. $1200/mo $1000 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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2+1, st, cpt, lwr, pkg $1600

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11757 Kiowa, #4
2+1.75, st, dw, pkg, ln $1800

MAR VISTA

12754 Pacific, #1
2+1, st, ref, gar, lwr $1350

WEST L.A.

1657 Federal Ave, #1
BACH, st, fr, ln $750

1800 Kelton Ave, #1
TWO WEEKS FREE RENT
1+1, st, fr, cpt, pkg $1000

11321 Massachusetts, #9
ONE MONTH FREE RENT
1+1, st, fr, pkg $1000

2814 Westwood
4+2, st, fr, d/w, cpt, w/d, 2 car garage, fenced bkyd $3000

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st (stove), fr (fridge), cpt (carpet), sgl (single), bach (bachelor), ln (laundry), gar (garage), hdwd (hardwood floors), lwr (lower), upr (upper), htpl (hotplate), pkg (parking), w/d (washer/dryer), hu (hook-up), d/w (dishwasher), c-fn (ceiling fan), fp (fireplace)

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PALMS/BVRLYWD ADJ. $1215.00 2 Bdrm, 1-1/2 Baths, NO PETS, stove, refrg, parking 2009 Preuss Rd., #5. Open daily 8am-7pm .Additional info in Apt

Santa Monica - $795-$895. Prime Santa Monica location, North of Wilshire. Partially Furnished Studio. Close to Beach. Open Sat. and Sun. 10-2. Call: 310-395-1495 or 310-666-8361

SANTA MONICA, 1829 20th Street, Apt A. House 3bd/2ba, $3000/mo. newly remodeled, w, central air and heat, utilities included hardwood floors, Call Bret 213-590-1388 or (213)598-6320

VENICE 14 Outrigger St. unit 2 1+1 $1995. Stove, fridge, blinds, tile , onsite laundry, dishwasher small pet OK w/deposit garage parking no pets (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WLA 1215 Barry Ave. #6 1+1 $1100 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, on-site laundry room, parking, no pets.$1000 off move-in 310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20100415023 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CODEFIDELITY, 1801 W. CHANDELEUR DR, SAN PEDRO, CA 90732; PO BOX 6621, SAN PEDRO, CA 90734. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : JUSTIN L. THAYER, 1801 W. CHANDELEUR DR, SAN PEDRO, CA 90732; ADRIENNE ZARA ZAMORA, 1801 W. CHANDELEUR DR, SAN PEDRO, CA 90732 This Business is being conducted by, co-partners. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)3/10/2005. /s/: JUSTIN L. THAYER
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 3/26/2010. 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 4/24/2010, 5/1/2010, 5/8/2010, 5/15/2010

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20100486130 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as GW-TRUST, 6600 W. SUNSET BLVD., SUITE 100, LOS ANGELES, CA 90028, LA COUNTY . The full name of registrant(s) is/are : GWT LLC, 6600 W. SUNSET BLVD. 160, LOS ANGELES, CA, 90028, CALIFORNIA This Business is being conducted by, a limited liability. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)4/9/2010. /s/: PAUL GOMEZ/GWT LLC; PRESIDENT & CEO
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 4/9/2010. 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 5/8/2010, 5/15/2010, 5/22/2010, 5/29/2010

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Kate Bransfield

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$1,400,000
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Santa Monica Canyon	$2,350,000	$6,125,000
North of Montana	$3,097,500	$1,562,500
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,947,000	$859,000
South of Wilshire	$795,000	$639,000
Sunset Park	$1,099,000	$601,000
Ocean Park	$1,637,500	$849,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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