



Santa Monica Daily Press

TRAILING AWAY
SEE PAGE 3

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE UP, UP AND AWAY ISSUE



TORN AWAY

The war in Iraq and how it's touched the lives of local soldiers

STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 14

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Calendar

2

WEEKEND EDITION, MAY 12-13, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Topanga Children's Festival

1419 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga, 11 a.m. — 4 p.m.
The Will Geer Theatrical Botanicum will be the setting for a children's festival that will include music, dance and theater performances along with kid's art activities, local vendors and unique performers. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased online at www.topangachildrensfestival.com. Funds will benefit Topanga Co-op Preschool.

Spring Glam

Barker Hanger, Santa Monica Airport, 11 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Fashion Elements is hosting a sample sale featuring fashion, jewelry and accessories for men and women from 70 high-profile and emerging designers. VIP tickets can be purchased for \$15 and include the VIP lounge, a runway show and VIP-only shopping. General admission tickets are available for \$5. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.gotofem.com. On-site parking will be \$3.

Monthly Movie Musical:

'A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Bing Crosby and Rhonda Fleming star in this musical adaptation of Mark Twain's classic time travel novel. All ages are welcome to this free screening. Seating is first come, first served in the Main Library's Auditorium.

Indie music showcase

4437 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City, 8 p.m. — 11 p.m.
See Pet Buffalo live at Synergy Cafe. There is no cover charge. For more information, visit www.synergycafelounge.com.

'YO! WHAT HAPPENED TO PEACE?' signing

110 Winston St., L.A., 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
The Downtown L.A. art gallery, Crewest Gallery, is having a release party and book signing for 'YO! WHAT HAPPENED TO PEACE?' As part of the event, Gustavo Alberto Garcia Vaca will do live painting with graffiti artist MAN ONE and Overton Loyd, the visual artist from P-Funk. For more info, visit the gallery's Web site at www.crewest.com or call (213) 627-8272.

Sunday, May 13, 2007

Arianna Huffington 'On Becoming Fearless'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
The Santa Monica Public Library and Arianna Huffington celebrate Mother's Day with a discussion and signing of her book, "On Becoming Fearless," which Arianna wrote to encourage her own daughters and young women everywhere to become fearless in everything they do. All ages are welcome to this free program. Seating is limited and no reservations are allowed. Tickets for auditorium seating will be released one hour prior to program.

Free Ferris Wheel rides for moms

380 Santa Monica Pier, 11 a.m. — 9 p.m.
Pacific Park, at the pier, will provide all moms with a free ride on the Pacific Wheel Ferris wheel on Mother's Day, from 11 a.m. — 9 p.m. To ride, mothers need to visit the wheel entrance and notify the attraction's operator and Pacific Park will provide a complimentary ride for the guest. For more information, call (310) 260-8744 or visit www.pacpark.com.

'What's the Story?' workshop

3116 Second St., 2 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
'What's the Story?' is an ongoing solo performance workshop taught weekly by Stacie Chaiken in which writer/performers develop solo performance work in a group process. One Monday evening each month, workshop participants have the opportunity to work in front of a friendly, invited audience as part of The Powerhouse Theatre's "New Works in Progress" series. For more information, call (310) 396-3680.

Citywide Reads book discussion

602 Santa Monica Blvd., 4 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
Join others in reading and discussing the Santa Monica Citywide Reads 2007 featured book, "The Time Traveler's Wife."

Jazz Vespers

1343 Ocean Park Blvd., 5 p.m. — 6:20 p.m.
Jazz pianist Gary Fukushima will be performing with his trio at the monthly Jazz Vespers series at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church. Admission is free.

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.



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GIDDY UP: Santa Monica Police Department officers Phillbo Rubish (left) and Rick Verbeck, of the Mounted Police Unit, give their trusted steeds “Bert” and “Barney” a break while working out their equine partners at Will Rogers State Park this week.

Police in hoof pursuit

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

WILL ROGERS STATE PARK Nestled at the top of a canyon overlooking the city below is a dusty practice ring where Officers Phillbo Rubish and Rick Verbeck train with their four-legged partners, Bert and Barney, two relatively new members to the Santa Monica Mounted Police Unit.

Verbeck, a rookie himself, is trying to perfect his gallop and control over Barney, ordering him to stop quickly and change direction, a tactic needed to keep control over a large crowd of protesters.

“Nice job, Ricky,” shouted Rubish, the agent in charge of the unit, sporting a cowboy hat, blue-jeans and a shiny silver-and-

gold belt buckle featuring a badge and a horse. “Remember to ride with the saddle ... That’s it!”

It’s around 8:30 in the morning and Verbeck is running on roughly three hours of sleep, the consequences of working the night shift and being a member of the unit, which is comprised of four horses and eight officers who pull double duty, holding down a regular shift while putting in extra work to train with the horses, clean them, feed them and take them on patrol, as they did earlier this month for the opening of the new Airport Park.

Being in the mounted unit is special, officers said, not only because of the role it plays in protecting the public, but also because it is funded almost entirely by the public through donations following budget cuts



PRIDE: Belt buckles bearing images of the SMPD badge and a horse are trademarks.

made during the 2001-02 recession.

Without the support of the public, the unit could fold.

SEE MOUNTED PAGE 12

Trails empty during heat of summer

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS A sweltering day on a dusty trail spent swatting gnats and mosquitos — there’s a reason why hiking isn’t a popular summer activity in Los Angeles.

As the days start getting hotter, the trails in the Santa Monica Mountains grow increasingly lonesome, as the hikers that once traversed these parts often swap their hiking boots for summer thongs and head to the beaches.

“During the summer, we see our visitation shift a little,” said Charles Taylor, spokesman for the National Park Service covering the Santa Monica Mountains. “Beach visitation goes way up.”

The Santa Monica Mountains welcomes its largest contingent of outdoor enthusiasts in the fall and spring, when cooler temperatures foster a favorable hiking climate, rain is nowhere to be seen and the vegetation is as beautiful as it can get.

There’s also fewer bugs.

“If it’s a mild spring or a great fall, we tend to see a lot of people out in the trails,” Taylor said. “(In the summer), look at what it’s like in Burbank and add four degrees.”

While the hot summer days won’t scare the hardcore hikers away, the casual outdoorsman can still enjoy the occasional trip out into LA’s version of the wilderness. The Santa Monica Mountains offer several scenic and well-shaded trails to drag even the biggest beach bum into the woods.

Almost any of the trails along the west side of the mountains will benefit from the breezy ocean air and be a few temperatures cooler than inland routes. Located around the midpoint of the Santa Monica Mountains — between Point Dume and the Malibu Lagoon State Beach — sits Solstice Canyon. With ocean views, a waterfall and one of the few perennial creeks around, Solstice Canyon, whose trail is almost entirely shaded, remains popular year round.

“(Anywhere) west of Topanga Canyon is just fine,” said Hal Margolis, whose book, “100 Mile Route,” was released on May 1.

The book details and maps a 103.3-mile hike that Margolis undertook across the Santa Monica Mountains. Part of the

SEE TRAILS PAGE 17

Grand Opening

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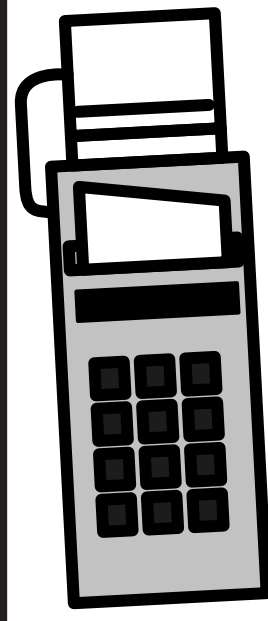
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dissing Rosendahl was distasteful
Editor:

I was so sickened by what I read in your May 10 edition (“Someone should stick a muzzle on Rosendahl,” page 4) I wanted to vomit!

Why are you dissing (LA City Councilman Bill) Rosendahl? He is a great leader and fighter for people’s rights and dogs. He has done a lot to stop big business and unfair practices. Yes, the dog park is a joke – considering within the 10-mile radius of the park are mostly dogs in L.A. County.

In addition, I couldn’t believe when I read Melody Hanatani’s article on the park and airport pollution (“Making a stink about nothing,” page 8) Yes, there is a big problem with the airport – the toxic fumes that we inhale and loud jets that hinder conversations. The park should never have been built. It is just another tool Santa Monica is using to pretend that all is well – and the airport is even safe for children.

Maybe (the Daily Press) should set up some tents and try living under the runway. Now there is some journalism.

Sam Spade
Santa Monica

Not every dog gets its day

Editor:

Our city manager said it so well, so did the editorial (“Someone should stick a muzzle on Rosendahl,” May 10, page 4). And Seth Barnes too (“Let’s do away with doggie democracy,” May 10).

All I can add is – SM to LA: Drop dead!

Caroline Jacobs
Santa Monica

Mum’s the word in secretive district
Editor:

I write this letter in response to your story (“Gag reflex: Former CFO can speak,” May 10). I support those City Council members who believe that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District should conduct its business with transparency and accountability and who have called for the lifting of a gag order that was imposed on the district’s former chief financial officer, Winston Braham.

As a longtime supporter of schools and an active member of the school community, the aspect of this issue that concerns me most is the school district’s increased use of gag orders, which appear to go beyond the customary disparagement clauses.

Gag orders abound in the school district. Parents are being required to sign gag orders in order to secure educational services for their children with special needs. These gag orders preclude them from revealing or discussing the particulars and the cost of services provided. As a result, parents not only live in fear of losing services for their children through an inadvertent slip of the tongue, but we as a community also have no access to the financial records and no idea how many dollars are being spent as result of these agreements.

Last year, the Special Education District Advisory Committee asked the Board to investigate this practice. While the Board offered no response, a staff report appeared designed to cow the committee by referring to their reasonable request for public information as “derogatory and inflammatory.” The message seems to be “Concerned citizens go away. We don’t want your input or oversight.”

In light of this move toward insularity and secrecy, it is entirely appropriate for City Council members to be concerned about the school district’s financial practices and to require open access to what should be public information as a condition for increased city funding.

I very much want the district to receive this additional funding and it is my sincere hope that they will do everything they possibly can to create a more open and transparent environment, and thereby, earn the ongoing support and confidence of the council and the community at-large.

Tricia Crane
Former chair, Special Education District Advisory Committee



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Why all this fuss
for the irrelevant?

Now that Queen Elizabeth has concluded her visit to the United States, it’s obvious that Americans have a huge affection for the British monarchy. Look around Santa Monica, and it’s obvious it’s a Britain-firendly city. But we also have conflicted feelings about the monarchy. Some Americans view England’s monarchy as antiquated, shockingly costly, silly, or, at best, quaint. We know that Queen Elizabeth doesn’t really “rule” Britain, and many see her as just a figurehead. But thousands of Americans lined up just to get a glimpse of the queen wherever she went. On TV, there were more shots of her at the Kentucky Derby than of the horses, and President and Mrs. Bush threw a white tie and tails state dinner for her.

If she’s just an irrelevant figurehead, why all the fuss?

Americans are fascinated by the British monarchy. Queen Elizabeth has a higher approval rating among Americans than President Bush. Some Americans know the British order of succession better than they know our own. They can tell you the names of the six wives of Henry VIII but can’t name our last six presidents. Magazines chronicle every move by the queen’s children and grandchildren. And don’t say this is just because England is our closest ally. How many of you care about Prime Minister Tony Blair’s personal life?

We seem to be attracted to the elaborate trappings of a monarchy, so long as we don’t have to have one here. We live in an informal country in an informal era. We don’t have a hundreds-year-old tradition of royalty, so in some ways, we enjoy borrowing England’s.

Because President Bush is an informal guy, his hosting the very formal dinner at the White House piqued my interest — 134 people were invited. Surprise, surprise, I didn’t make the cut. But I wasn’t insulted. After all, I hadn’t invited the president to my house the other night to watch the Mayweather-De La Hoya fight.

However, President Bush’s mother and father weren’t invited to the state dinner, either. (How would you have liked to have made that phone call to Barbara Bush?).

Since it was such an exclusive affair, we can only imagine what went on there, just as we can only imagine what goes on inside Buckingham Palace.

Here are my musings on the state dinner: I’ll bet none of the waiters called out, “OK, who ordered the kosher meal?”

If I had been there, I might have heard the following exchanges:

QUESTION: “Who’s that sad-looking woman sitting way over there with the waiters?”

ANSWER: “Nancy Pelosi.”

QUESTION: “No disrespect, but isn’t it strange in this day and age for you to have a position that you think is ordained by

God to give you power over your subjects?”

ANSWER: “It might be strange, but I love it,” the president may have answered.

Maybe I would have overheard the queen say, “I can get some more emeralds for my crown now. When the prince wasn’t looking, I put a few quid on the 7-8-2 trifecta.”

Finally, I’m pretty sure nobody at the dinner said, “Believe it or not, I found this dress at Target.”

THE QUEEN’S
GRANDSON, HARRY,
COULD BE IN HARM’S
WAY ANY DAY. SHOULD
SHE BE EATING A FIVE-
COURSE MEAL IN THE
WHITE HOUSE WHILE
HER ‘SUBJECTS’ EAT
DRY RATIONS IN THE
DESERT OF IRAQ?

Some people probably feel it was inappropriate to have such an elaborate dinner during wartime. Should the president even spend one minute worrying about how his fancy pants fit while Americans and others are dying in Iraq? The queen’s grandson, Harry, could be in harm’s way any day. Should she be eating a five-course meal in the White House while her “subjects” eat dry rations in the desert of Iraq?

Maybe I shouldn’t be such a “party pooper.” Having this dinner probably wasn’t such a bad thing.

There’s nothing wrong with celebrating our relationship with Great Britain. And it’s not like they would have come up with a Mideast peace plan Monday night if they hadn’t had a party.

But I can’t help thinking about the words of a White House official who described the dinner as “not only the social event of the year, but also of the entire Bush presidency.”

I wish that hadn’t been said with such finality, because there is still a lot of time left in the Bush Administration. And shouldn’t we all be hoping that the “social event of the entire Bush Presidency” will be a party to celebrate the end of the war?

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STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

"There's nothing like it in the world, but sometimes you just want to be able to go to the bathroom by yourself and not have the kids hanging on you."

— Sandy Mar, mother of a 7-week-old and a 3-year-old, who joined other moms for a seminar on mindful mothering at the Early Childhood Parenting Center.

"I think in one or two years we will be able to recruit our own army forces and say goodbye to our friends."

— Iraqi President Jalal Talabani speaking to Cambridge University students, who asked the leader when he thought U.S. and British forces should leave his country

"I understand that desire to not want to be wasteful and to help people too, but leaving it at the park is really not the best way to have food stored safely and distributed to people."

— Julie Rusk, Human Services Manager for Santa Monica, on people who leave food out for the homeless to eat

"I should honestly tell you the things that I can evolve on, and the things that I can't, and then you should decide."

— Rudolph Giuliani speaking to an audience at Houston Baptist College concerning the criticism he's received from fellow Republicans and conservatives on his pro-abortion stance

Quotations captured and compiled with care by CYNTHIA VAZQUEZ.

WE'RE TRYING TO ADD TO THE BEST PARTS WITHOUT CONTRIBUTING TO THE PARTS WE'RE NOT SO FOND OF."

— Nina Fresco, chairwoman of the Landmarks Commission, on plans for future developments in Santa Monica

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The **Q**Line

DOG DAYS OF BUMMER

This past week, Q-line asked:

Should the (Airport Park) dog park be open to all or just to local residents?

Here are your responses:

"SINCE THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE and so many dogs in Santa Monica, the dog parks should be restricted to residents only. Let any nearby communities construct their own dog parks and do the same restricting."

"I DON'T THINK THAT PEOPLE THAT don't have Santa Monica licenses should have their dog there. We are taxpayers who have to pay for that. Perhaps they could have a few permits, and I don't know how they would provide that, so I think it's best to just keep it for Santa Monica."

"I THINK THE DOG PARK SHOULD BE open to all, including L.A. residents ... on a trial basis. Charge them a very nominal fee and if it gets to be more than 45 dogs in at once and no Santa Monica dogs can go in, they should just stop it. It's pretty simple."

"WE ARE PAYING HIGH TAXES AND high dog license fees in Santa Monica to build these dog parks. All of our other dog parks never allowed non-Santa Monica dogs and they can already be overcrowded and dangerous with dog bites. If nearby cities are jealous of our dog park they should just build one of their own."

"THE CITIES OF SANTA MONICA AND Los Angeles should both sell monthly or annual dog park passes. All dog park users would have to purchase a dog pass from Santa Monica and Los Angeles if they meant to use both parks. No one escapes purchasing a pass. The passes should be moderately priced and all proceeds should go to the upkeep and maintenance of the dog park to keep these parks in fashionable condition."

"IF NEARBY L.A. RESIDENTS CAN'T USE the dog park then all the people using the dog park shouldn't be allowed to park in their neighborhood. Those people should all have restricted parking spaces, so then all the people who want to go to the dog park would have to walk 20 or 30 blocks to get to it. They are so selfish, that would teach them a lesson."

"WE WORKED HARD TO GET IT, IT'S our tax money, it was our project. Mar Vista, get your own stinking dog park! There is only so much room. If you want a dog park, Mar Vista, then get your act together and do it yourself. Quit griping. Dog owners are some of the most rabid, emotional, stubborn people in the world. I know, I don't own a dog."

"I THINK IT SHOULD BE OPEN. WE should do a trade with L.A. We take some of their dogs and they take some of our homeless people."

"AIRPORT PARK SHOULD BE OPEN TO all dogs provided that they don't have to be driven to the park for a walk. That makes no sense at all and causes extra traffic and pollution."

"THE DOG PARK SHOULD BE OPEN TO all dogs. My two granddogs live in West L.A. but come for daycare at my house in Santa Monica. As a Santa Monica resident, should I be allowed to bring my granddogs to play there?"

"WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED, CHILDREN?" First, no good deed goes unpunished. Second, real leadership foresees a small problem before it becomes a mess. Why didn't the City Council negotiate a companion fee with Los Angeles when buying the Airport Park property? I've seen the dog park, it's very small. Why not take the adult soccer field, which nobody from Santa Monica will use – it is for L.A. residents – and use it for a dog park? (Lots of room for Fido to run around in.) Also, why is the soccer field planted with AstroTurf? I thought Santa Monica was green?"

"THE NEW AIRPORT PARK IS A GREAT idea and it is now open. There is no reason that Santa Monica should discriminate against the neighbors' dogs. Maybe Santa Monica could create a pooping fee. Santa Monica has gotten good at charging its residents' fees. Why not gouge the neighbors?"

"IF WE ARE GOING TO REQUIRE THAT dogs have Santa Monica licenses to use our parks, could we require the bums and transients to also have licenses to use our parks."

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Helicopters play critical role in fire

BY JEREMIAH MARQUEZ
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The four firefighters had dug in beneath a pedestrian bridge and trained their hoses on a wildfire chewing through canyon brush when the winds picked up and the fire suddenly roared closer.

Seconds after the crew disappeared in a sea of red, a Bell 412 helicopter swooped in seemingly out of nowhere and immediately extinguished a potentially deadly threat with a 300-gallon water drop.

The scene, broadcast repeatedly on TV newscasts this week, showed dramatically the key role the Los Angeles Fire Department's helicopter unit plays battling wildfires, in this case one that charred Griffith Park and forced the evacuation of hundreds of nearby residents.

Hundreds of missions flown by 15 pilots in the agency's Air Operations group helped stop the fire's spread, saving homes and property and protecting firefighters on the ground. Also contributing to the air campaign were Los Angeles County crews piloting Firehawk helicopters that can carry 1,000 gallons.

The fire was 75 percent contained late Thursday afternoon after blackening 817 acres.

Fighting it was a difficult, dangerous job for the pilots who swooped in low over the park's many hills and canyons.

Pilots, who fly solo, must evade power lines, mountainous peaks and trees. Often, they do it while navigating through blinding smoke and darkness. At night, they rely on little more than a search light and their familiarity with the terrain for guidance.

Fly too low and helicopter rotor blades will fan the flames upward toward the aircraft; fly too high and the water atomizes before it ever hits the ground, rendering the drop useless. Then there's wind and turbulence.

"When you're fighting a battle, you have some pretty tense moments," said Paul Shakstad, the city Fire Department's chief pilot.

Shakstad was one of the pilots who made drops near a golf course Tuesday night to halt flames endangering multimillion-dollar homes in the city's Los Feliz neighborhood. The hardest part: navigating through trees and smoke while planning an escape route after releasing his payload.

"We had some anxious moments there," said the 28-year unit veteran. "This was a really difficult fire to put out."

Just getting into the elite firefighting unit is no easy job.

Unlike most fire agencies, aspiring fire pilots must have four years experience as ground firefighters before even applying. After interviews and a screening process, recruits undergo a two-year, 200-hour training program.

Fire bosses saw a pressing need for air power after a 1961 blaze that destroyed or damaged hundreds of homes in and around the city's posh Bel-Air section.

But the department's first choppers — Bell 47s deployed in the 1960s — could drop only about 90 gallons of water. It wasn't until the technology improved in the 1970s that helicopters became a major focal point of firefighting efforts.

In the Griffith Park wildfire, the helicopters were essential in preventing the 817-acre blaze from spreading further and damaging such landmarks as the world-famous Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles Zoo and other attractions.

After the blaze started Tuesday afternoon, pilot Phil Clark was flying as part of a squad of three helicopters bombarding the fire's northeastern flank.

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**
Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Outsourcing the news all the way to the far east

BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Associated Press Writer

PASADENA The job posting was a headscratcher: "We seek a newspaper journalist based in India to report on the city government and political scene of Pasadena, California, USA."

A reporter half a world away covering local street light contracts and sewer repairs? A reporter who's never gotten closer to Pasadena than the telecast of the Rose Bowl parade?

Outsourcing first claimed manufacturing jobs, then hit services from airline reservations to tax preparation. Now comes the next frontier: A cost-saving gamble to separate work built on shaking hands, walking the streets and knowing local subtleties — on being there — from the place where it all happens.

With video of weekly City Council meetings streaming online, why not, says the editor-publisher of the 2-year-old Web site pasadenanow.com.

James Macpherson acknowledges the irony of covering this wealthy city just east of Los Angeles from India, but says it makes business sense.

"I think it could be a significant way to increase the quality of journalism on the

local level without the expense that is a major problem for local publications," Macpherson said. "Whether you're at a desk in Pasadena or a desk in Mumbai, you're still just a phone call or e-mail away from the interview."

The first articles, some of which will carry bylines, are slated to appear Friday.

While Macpherson brims with breezy optimism, his plan has doubters.

"Nobody in their right mind would trust the reporting of people who not only don't know the institutions but aren't even there to witness the events and nuances," said Bryce Nelson, a University of Southern California journalism professor and Pasadena resident. "This is a truly sad picture of what American journalism could become."

It could be a shaky business proposition as well, said Uday Karmarkar, a UCLA professor of technology and strategy who himself sends copy editing and graphics work to Indian firms. If the goal is nuanced reporting, he said, Macpherson could spend more time editing than the labor discount is worth.

Macpherson posted the help wanted ad Monday on the Indian edition of craigslist.org. Within days, he said, he'd hired two qualified Indian reporters.

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General testifies in case of Iraqi deaths

BY THOMAS WATKINS
Associated Press Writer

CAMP PENDLETON A Marine general testified Thursday that he initially saw no reason to investigate the killing of women and children by troops in the Iraqi town of Haditha, and said he didn't learn about allegations that civilians were intentionally targeted until three months later.

Maj. Gen. Richard A. Huck was the top general in charge of Marines in Iraq's Al Anbar province when 24 civilians were killed in Haditha on Nov. 19, 2005. He testified that he knew about the deaths that day but considered them simply a "truly unfortunate" consequence of war at the time.

"I had no information that a law of armed conflict violation had been committed," Huck said.

The two-star general spoke by video link from the Pentagon at a preliminary hearing for Capt. Randy W. Stone, one of four officers

charged with dereliction of duty for failing to investigate the killings. Three enlisted Marines are charged with murder in the case.

Huck, who has not been charged, said he learned Feb. 12, 2006 in an e-mail from his boss, Lt. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, that a Time magazine reporter asked about several allegations that challenged the official U.S. account, including one that "four young men were herded into a closet and sprayed with bullets."

"I support our account and do not see a necessity for further investigation," Huck replied.

On Feb. 13, Chiarelli called for an investigation.

Huck testified he was "highly irritated" to discover the reporter's questions circulated among his legal team for at least two weeks before he learned of them. He said the allegations surprised him because local Iraqi leaders never questioned him about the attack in his frequent meetings with them.

The attack occurred after a roadside

bomb struck a Humvee convoy, killing one Marine and injuring two others. In the aftermath, Marines shot five Iraqis by a car and went house to house looking for insurgents, using grenades and machine guns to clear houses.

Huck, who now works in the Pentagon as assistant deputy commander of plans, policies and operations, was commander of the 2nd Marine Division at the time of the killings. The 36-year Marine veteran hoped to retire last year but has been kept on active duty until the criminal case is over.

Stone's attorney, Charles Gittins, called Huck to testify in an attempt to show Stone did nothing wrong because Marines throughout the command chain knew about the killings but agreed not to order an investigation because the deaths were deemed to have been lawful.

Court documents show that Huck was briefed about the killings soon after they occurred and they did not seem suspicious

to him. Huck told investigators that "no bells and whistles went off."

"It was just here is something that happened, and it was onto the next thing," Huck told investigators.

Also Thursday, the executive officer who was in the same company as the Marines involved in the killings testified he did not think the Time magazine reporter's questions merited an investigation.

1st Lt. Adam Mathes said he felt at the time that the questions reflected an agenda to discredit the Marine Corps and President Bush.

"It sounded like very negative spin," Mathes testified from a secret location by video link. "This guy's looking for blood and blood leads headlines."

Thursday was the third day of Stone's hearing. On Wednesday, a Marine sergeant testified that his squad leader shot five Iraqi men as they stood with their hands in the air and then told comrades to lie about it.

Prosecutors painted picture of engineer as an agent

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

SANTA ANA Friends and colleagues knew Chi Mak as an unassuming, brilliant man who worked 12-hour days as an engineer for a defense contractor, rarely went out and scrimped to pay off his 700-square-foot suburban home.

Federal prosecutors painted a much different picture of Mak as a polished agent for the Chinese who used his low-key lifestyle and good reputation as a cover for his real work — conspiring to pass U.S. secrets for more than two decades.

A federal jury agreed with the government. After a six-

week trial and 2 1/2 days of deliberations, jurors convicted Mak on Thursday of conspiring to export U.S. defense technology to China, acting as an unregistered foreign agent, attempting to violate export control laws and making false statements to the FBI.

Prosecutors had dropped a charge of the actual export of defense articles.

Mak stared straight ahead and seemed to hold back tears as the verdict was read. One of his attorneys gently rubbed his back.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Staples said Mak faces up to 45 years in prison when he is sentenced Sept. 10.

"We were confident from the start and we're very happy with

the verdict," Staples said.

The government accused Mak, a naturalized U.S. citizen, of taking thousands of pages of documents from his defense contractor employer, Power Paragon of Anaheim, and giving them to his brother, who passed them along to Chinese authorities over a number of years.

Mak was arrested in 2005 in Los Angeles after FBI agents stopped his brother and sister-in-law as they boarded a flight to Hong Kong.

Investigators said they found three encrypted CDs in their luggage that contained documents on a submarine propulsion system, a solid-state power switch for ships and a Power Point presentation on the future of power electronics.



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STATE BRIEFS

FONTANA

Pit bulls killed by police after attacking four people

Police shot two pit bulls that attacked four people, injuring an elderly man.

The male and female dogs got loose Wednesday and went after four people on Pine Avenue, leading neighbors to call officers who arrived and shot them, said Ken Childress, director of San Bernardino County Animal Control.

Herman Witt, 87, underwent surgery after he was bitten on the hand and broke his hip when he fell during the attack, said his daughter, Janice Galt.

The dogs had been impounded on April 29 from a breeder because they were roaming.

Stephanie Alva paid nearly \$500 in fees to get them back on May 1, Childress said.

Galt said her family is considering legal action against the owner.

"We feel this was preventable," she said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

VENTURA

County avocado farmer wants \$9.5 million for orchard fire

An avocado farmer wants Ventura County to pay him \$9.5 million because his orchard was destroyed in a fire.

A fire caused by a power line burned more than 13,600 acres of vegetation and destroyed seven homes and commercial buildings near Moorpark in December.

Mike Plater contends that the fire was nearly contained when dried flowers, oils and cardboard at a decoration factory caught fire and flaming debris burned up his neighboring 50-acre ranch.

Plater has filed a damage claim with the county – the first step toward a lawsuit – for allowing MGR Design International to operate in an agricultural zone for three years after the county revoked its permit.

"The county planning department allowed a business to operate out of zone, out of code for way too many years," Plater said Thursday.

The factory owners had reapplied for a permit and the company was still in the application process at the time of the fire. The factory has since reopened in an Oxnard industrial area.

A county review found that agencies acted appropriately in allowing the factory to continue operations, county Executive Officer Johnny Johnston said.

"Businesses and individuals are entitled to due process when applying for permits or responding to inspections," Johnston said. "You don't just shut a business down unless there is a question of public safety."

AP

IRVINE

287 patients' files vanish from UCI storage

Medical files containing the names, Social Security numbers and other personal information of 287 patients have vanished from the University of California, Irvine, Medical Center.

The information was contained in about 1,600 boxes of files that have disappeared from an offsite storage warehouse. The files were only discovered to be missing in the past two months.

"We have no indication that the information has been exposed or released to anyone and is being used," hospital spokeswoman Kim Pine said.

Police were investigating and letters were sent Monday notifying patients of the missing files, authorities said.

AP

TORRANCE

ExxonMobil paying \$250,000 for refinery release

ExxonMobil is paying \$250,000 to the South Coast Air Quality Management District for a toxic gas release at its oil refinery.

Nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides and hydrogen sulfide were emitted into the atmosphere during a March 22 failure of the Torrance refinery's sulfur recovery unit.

The gas level at the ground did not pose a health hazard, refinery spokeswoman Melba Duarte said. However, students at nearby schools were kept indoors as a precaution for about three hours.

The penalty stemming from the release and another covering 23 previous violations were made public this week in a quarterly report the company filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

ExxonMobil will also be required to spend up to \$2 million on supplemental environmental projects to make up for the March incident, which also included the release of particulate matter and excess carbon dioxide, the report said.

District deputy prosecutor Joe Panasiti said the goal is to get ExxonMobil to spend money to reduce those emissions.

ExxonMobil spokeswoman Carolin Keith said tests taken during the March release showed emissions didn't reach ground levels.

AP

LOS ANGELES

River master plan for recreation areas approved by council

A Los Angeles River master plan designed to clean up water, spur development and add recreation areas along 32 miles from the west San Fernando Valley to East Los Angeles was approved by the City Council.

"With this master plan, we're giving the city a full face-lift with improved natural habitat, water quality, recreation and economic development," Councilman Ed Reyes said after Wednesday's vote.

The 25- to 50-year blueprint – called the L.A. River Revitalization Master Plan – could cost \$2 billion to complete. It spans the river from suburban Canoga Park to Boyle Heights.

"All those communities that historically have been neglected will have an opportunity to be rejuvenated," said Reyes, head of the council's Los Angeles River Ad Hoc Committee who led the effort to develop a master plan.

Planners will hold public workshops starting this summer to create a new district along the river that would require new residential and commercial projects to incorporate the river and public walkways into their plans.

AP



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Hundreds flee Catalina wildfire

BY ANDREW GLAZER
Associated Press Writer

AVALON Firefighters working through the night turned back flames that threatened Santa Catalina Island's main city and forced hundreds of people to evacuate amid falling ashes. The wildfire was 4,000 acres, or more than 6 square miles, and was only 10 percent contained early Friday. But worries were eased by the day's favorable weather forecast and the arrival of a massive force of fire trucks and water-dropping aircraft on the narrow, mountainous island 30 miles off Los Angeles. Flames that had menaced the city the night before were no longer visible from Avalon on Friday. A puff of smoke rose from a hillside overlooking the crescent harbor and a layer of

ash were reminders of a harrowing night. "The risk has been reduced significantly," Fire Chief Steven Hoefs said. "Most of the structures have been protected." The blaze broke out Thursday afternoon, feeding on dry brush and being fanned by a steady wind into the night. One home and a few small businesses in the canyons outside the city burned. About 1,200 homes were under voluntary or mandatory evacuation orders, and hundreds of residents and tourists lined up at the harbor Thursday night to board ferries to the mainland. Many covered their faces with towels and bandanas to ward off ashes. Resident Kathy Troeger fled with her three children and a friend's daughter, while her husband, a fire captain, stayed behind to fight the blaze.

"It was like a nightmare when we left," she said after arriving at the mainland port of Long Beach. "You couldn't breathe, and ash was falling like snow." Dozens of fire engines arrived through the night from as far away as Fresno, carried by giant military hovercraft from the Marine Corps' Camp Pendleton. Friday's forecast promised better fire-fighting conditions. Wind that reached 20 mph Thursday were expected to calm to 10 mph and were blowing the fire westward, away from Avalon and toward the island's sparsely populated center. Despite being well offshore, Catalina has been left parched by the lack of rainfall that has made the rest of Southern California particularly susceptible to wildfires like the one in Los Angeles' Griffith Park this week.

Firefighters were still working Friday to surround what remained of that fire, which briefly chased people from homes and threatened the park's landmark observatory and zoo. Firefighters battled the second Georgia wildfire to burn more than 100,000 acres as gusty wind spread the fast-moving blaze further into northern Florida and toward the tiny town of Fargo west of the Okefenokee Swamp. Officials said the wildfire, ignited Saturday by lightning, had grown so rapidly that after six days it already rivaled a fire that has scorched 116,480 acres, or 182 square miles, of southeastern Georgia forest and swampland since April 16. About 570 homes in northern Columbia County, Fla., were evacuated overnight, and heavy smoke blanketed the area.

Island is longtime tourist destination, Hollywood location

By the Associated Press

AVALON Once owned by chewing gum magnate William Wrigley Jr., Santa Catalina Island has long attracted tourists anxious for weekend fun and Hollywood filmmakers in search of exotic locations. Just 20 miles from Los Angeles across San Pedro Channel, the island offers the promise of sunny days lounging on the beach, playing golf or cruising in a glass-bottom boat watching flying fish. Baby boomers were captivated by the popular 1958 song, "26 Miles (Santa Catalina)" by the Four Preps. Its lyrics promised, "A tropical heaven out in the ocean. Covered with trees and girls."

Avalon is the biggest enclave on the island, with 3,500 permanent residents. It measures just one square mile and features shops, restaurants and dwellings with 1940s charm. There are no traffic signals in Avalon. Most residents use golf carts and bicycles to get around. About 10,000 tourists visit Avalon every day. It's a regular stop for luxury cruise ships, with many passengers taking inland motor tours to see wild buffaloes, boars and horses. The buffaloes were brought to the island for filming by Hollywood crews then left to roam after their footage was in the can. About 300 movies have been shot on the island or in nearby waters, including "Mutiny on the Bounty,"

"Chinatown," "Jaws" and "Apollo 13." Natalie Wood drowned there in 1981. Spanish explorer Sebastian Vizcaino landed on the island in 1602 and renamed it Santa Catalina to honor the feast day of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Over the centuries, it was used by Russian otter hunters, Spanish smugglers and Chinese pirates. Franciscan monks tried to build a mission but there wasn't enough water. A brief gold rush in the 1860s didn't pan out. The sons of Phineas Banning bought the island and developed it as a resort, but they were forced to sell when fire destroyed half of Avalon's structures, including six hotels, in 1915.

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Romantic town spared from fire

Historically significant Avalon luckily avoids being victim of blaze

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

AVALON Firefighters who halted soaring flames at this island town's edge saved a throwback resort of cobblestone walkways and brightly painted homes ringing a palm-fringed crescent harbor.

With nearly 4,000 people evacuated, Santa Catalina Island hasn't been jolted by fire like this in a long time — but this bone-dry year already is shaping up as a frightful wildfire season in Southern California.

Only one home and several outbuildings burned and no one had been seriously injured by Friday, giving firefighters their latest in a string of dramatic victories. About 50 miles away on the mainland, crews just days before beat back flames in Los Angeles' sprawling Griffith Park that singed a neighborhood of multimillion-dollar homes.

That was the third menacing fire in the Hollywood Hills this spring — and wildfire season here isn't supposed to heat up until the fall.

This has been one of the driest rainy seasons on record: Just 2 inches have fallen on Catalina this year. Notices in hotel bathrooms warn of drought. "Please turn off water while shaving & brushing teeth," they urge.

As flames bore down from the mountains northwest of Avalon on Thursday, the Catalina fire rained ash and chaos on a picturesque town where most people get around on foot, bike or golf cart.

Those who were forced to flee after nightfall clambered onto ferries that passed U.S. Navy hovercraft packed with fire trucks from the mainland, more than 20 miles away. Many were workers who cook and clean for vacationers. Others were at vacation homes as the summer tourist season geared up.

"It's like a war zone. The skies turned completely gray with orange streaks. The helicopters were flying all over the place," said Anita Bussing, a therapist whose other home is in Long Beach. "People were freaking out, children were crying."

By Friday afternoon, one ferry full of residents headed back to the island on an hour-plus voyage from Long Beach. Sheriff's deputies were stationed on the island dock to make sure only residents came ashore.

Flames were no longer visible from Avalon, though a layer of ash recalled a harrowing night and water-dropping helicopters and planes crisscrossed the clear sky. Boats bobbed in the harbor where on a normal day tourists would be entertained by the antics of flying fish or mesmerized by the sparkling sea. Those who stayed behind when others evacuated stopped to get coffee and chat in the few open cafes along the main promenade.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said about 3,800 people were evacuated. More than 4,000 acres — the equivalent of about six square miles on the 76-square-mile island — had burned. The cause of the fire, which erupted Thursday after-

noon in the island's rugged interior, had not yet been determined.

About 500 firefighters worked the fire, aided by weather much improved from Thursday's gusty, dry conditions.

The island's romantic vibe was memorialized in the 1958 hit "26 Miles (Santa Catalina)." Before private jets and third homes became standard fare for the rich and really famous, Santa Catalina was a celebrity haunt.

John Wayne trolled its shores in a converted minesweeper. The Tuna Club, which claims to be the oldest fishing club in the U.S., boasts past members including Theodore Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Cecil B. DeMille.



**THE SKIES
TURNED
COMPLETELY GRAY WITH
ORANGE STREAKS."**

Anita Bussing
Avalon homeowner

A pre-Hollywood-and-White-House Ronald Reagan broadcast Chicago Cubs' spring training games in 1937 from the island, which at the time was owned by chewing gum magnate William Wrigley Jr. Hundreds of films have been filmed on the island or in its waters, according to the island's Chamber of commerce.

One relic of that era are bison that were brought over for filming in the 1920s and later released.

Environmentalists said it was too early to tell how the blaze affected the island's overall ecosystem, home to some rare animal and plant life, including the Catalina Island fox.

One thing was sure: Four bald eaglets that hatched earlier this year without human help were unharmed, according to Bob Rhein, a spokesman for the Catalina Island Conservancy which owns most of the island. Scientists have been slowly reintroducing eagles, which were wiped out decades ago by chemical contamination.

The island's relative isolation has proven a liability before. A 1915 fire that started in a hotel burned half the town's buildings.

Avalon Mayor Robert Kennedy credited the success of this week's firefighting to quick-arriving reinforcements from the mainland and training that included dry runs with the Navy hovercraft and helicopter drops.

"We were overrun," said Kennedy, who as one of about 30 volunteer firefighters helping the island's 13 full-time staff was part of the initial team that confronted flames chewing through brush on the hills outside town.

Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters flew in firefighters 32 at a time.

"Thank goodness the firefighters did get here because that made the difference," said Martha Ashleigh, 61, who has lived on Catalina on and off for years. "We were watching from our balcony and we could just see truck after truck go up there. They were just fabulous."

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2007-08 ACTION PLAN ALLOCATING FEDERAL CDBG AND HOME FUNDS

The City Council of the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing to receive public comment on the Amendment to the FY 2007-08 One-Year Action Plan. The One-Year Action Plan, which is a component of the Consolidated Plan, is submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It delineates the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of CDBG and HOME funds in order to meet the City's overall housing and community development needs as specified in the Consolidated Plan (FY 2005-10) adopted by City Council and submitted to HUD in June 2005. Copies of the Proposed FY 2007-08 One-Year Action Plan are now available to the public for a 30-day community review period ending June 12, 2007. Copies are available at City Hall, the Santa Monica Public Library (main and branch libraries), and on the web at smgov.net, or you may contact the Human Services Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, telephone (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458-8696. Please send your written comments to the above address by June 12, 2007, or you may present your comments verbally at the City Council public hearing on that date.

**The Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2007
at 5:45 p.m. in the City Council Chambers
located at 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica**

The Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible. If you have any special disability-related needs/accommodations, please contact the Human Services Division at (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458-8696.

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Santa Monica cops climb into saddle

FROM MOUNTED PAGE 3

"That's always a possibility, which is why it is so special to be a part of this unit," said Fullove the last remaining member from the original mounted squad that formed in 1988. "It is truly a honor and something that we all really love doing. Working with the animals is so great and the response we get from the public is amazing.

"I used to laugh so hard when people would come up and the first thing they ask is, 'What's your horse's name?' They could care less about you," Fullove said with a smile, nodding towards Mr. Cool (who is known to doze off while on duty) and Spider-man — two veteran horses that were standing next to a white wooden fence, chomping on grass.

When it was created, the mounted unit originally consisted of four full-time officers and four horses. Their primary duty was to patrol Palisades Park after officers noticed an increase in drug activity there. The horses provided the officers with good visibility and, somewhat surprisingly, a means of approaching suspects without attracting too much attention.

"I had one time where these two guys were in the middle of a drug deal ... and for some reason they saw the horse, but it just didn't register that I was a cop until I was right on top of them," Rubish said. "One of the guys had a bunch of drugs in his hand and he looks up at me and says 'Hey, man, can I pet your horse? I was like, 'Yeah, just as soon as you put those drugs down.'"

Rubish said he will be patrolling the streets, looking for those who zoom through stop signs and the drivers will be looking right at the horses and still commit the violation. Rubish will flag them down and before he can ask for their license and registration, the driver will ask about the horse.

"Sometimes, they won't even know what they've signed until after I'm riding away," Rubish said.

Some people are so mesmerized by the horses that it can be dangerous. Rubish and his horse were rear-ended at the corner of Colorado and Ocean avenues by a driver who got distracted checking out the gelding.

WHEN FOUR LEGS EQUAL 20

Using cavalry tactics developed in the military, officers use the horses primarily for crowd control. They have found the animals to be intimidating for some people and more able to control an area and maintain it than if the department just used officers.

"It's said that one horse can equal as many as 10 officers," Fullove said. "People also seem

to have a lot of respect for the animals."

Officers have noticed that people are more likely to respond to requests made by cops on horses than those on foot.



**PEOPLE LOVE
THE HORSES
AND IT REMINDS ME OF
WHY I DO THIS JOB."**

Phillbo Rubish
Santa Monica Mounted Police Unit

"You come off as not such a formidable foe," Rubish said as he stood next to Bert, the alpha male of the bunch, who was pulling carts in Amish country before joining the force. "Most people don't want to do anything to hurt the horses, so they tend to give them more space and respect. I've actually seen a group turn on someone who has tried to hurt the horses."

The animals innately move away from pressure, and therein lies the challenge in training them. Officers have to get the horses to move towards pressure and push crowds back. They also must be used to loud noises, like the sound of gunfire or an ambulance, something which spooks most animals. That is part of the reason why the unit has geldings and not stallions — horses that have not been neutered. Geldings tend to be more calm.

During training, officers use a large red ball and play a game sort of like soccer to get the horses comfortable with pushing things back and forth. Officers blow bubbles, toss baseballs and light fireworks to get the horses used to unfamiliar things they might encounter while on the pier or walking down the promenade.

The training has come in handy in situations like the 2000 Democratic National Convention where there were large crowds in a dense, urban environment, Rubish said.

With a budget close to \$10,000 a year and no source of permanent funding, the unit has survived because of the dedication of the officers, staff with animal control and passionate volunteers like actress June Lockhart ("Lassie," "Lost in Space"), her granddaughter Christianna Triolo, and the Menzies family, who donate time, money and supplies.

The horses are also allowed to stay, rent-free at Will Rogers, which cuts down tremendously on costs.

Lockhart and Triolo can often be seen at the Santa Monica Pier during the Summer Concert Series soliciting donations in



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

ON THE BEAT: SMPD officers Rob Dawson (left) and Phillbo Rubish make their way south along Main Street during their holiday deployment patrol last year.

exchange for a mounted police T-shirt, which they wear with pride.

Triolo, 19, tries to visit the horses as much as possible, finding time in between classes and in the summers to clean and feed the four-legged patrolmen. Triolo and her grandmother also pick up sandwiches and snacks for Rubish and the other officers.

"I've just always loved horses," Triolo said as she combed Spider-man. "I think it's that combination of power and grace. They're tough animals and have to take care of criminals, but they are so kind in nature."

Riding is not as romantic as it may seem, especially when a horse goes to the bathroom.

"There's got to be dozens of pictures of me on the Internet with my shovel picking up horse poop," Rubish said. "For some reason, people get a kick out of watching us."

While the horses are used mostly for crowd control, their biggest contribution to the department is in the area of community relations. Wherever the officers go, their trusty steeds attract a crowd. People come up and ask to pet the animals or have their pictures taken with them and the officers.

"I believe being with the mounted unit is what is keeping me in policing today," Rubish said. "As officers, most of our interaction with the public is on the negative side of things, whether it be giving them a ticket or making an arrest. But being in the mounted unit, I would say 99 percent of my contact with the public is positive. People love the horses and it reminds me of why I do this job. The people really appreciate us."



Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

FEEDING TIME: Veteran actress June Lockhart feeds "Mr. Cool" at Will Rogers State Park on Thursday.

At the opening of the Airport Park, Verbeck rode out with the unit for the first time and had a "blast" with kids who ran up wanting to pet the horses.

"I had a lot of fun," Verbeck said. "I would love it if they made this full time."

This coming from a guy who got bucked off his horse while auditioning for the unit. Not exactly the best first impression, but Verbeck didn't let it deter him. His determination was one of the reasons he was ultimately selected.

"That was my biggest fear, and it happened the first time out," Verbeck said of being tossed. "Well, you know what they say, if you fall off a horse, you've got to get right back on."

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Santa Monicans soldier on

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE It's hardly a Hallmark moment. On Monday, Santa Monica Police Officer Lowell Watson will have scant time to blow out his candles before heading south to Camp Pendleton to begin serving his second tour of duty in Iraq.

"Happy Birthday to me, right?" the morning watch patrolman joked on Wednesday.

A city just 8.3 square miles in size, Santa Monica is filled with its share of Iraq War veterans, each of whom have risked their lives for a cause whose validity is being questioned more and more each day, as more and more American soldiers and Iraqi civilians perish.

The conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have affected the lives of many Santa Monicans, whether it's a young Santa Monica College employee who spent five months overseas, not knowing when he might meet his death, or a local business owner whose brother wasn't as fortunate; a brother shot and killed by an enemy sniper last month.

Each has given a piece of their lives to the country they love.

THE DEPARTING SOLDIER

Joining the Marines eight years ago was a matter of dedication to both his country and family for Watson.

One year after graduating from Santa Monica High School, in 1998, Watson enlisted with the Marines, serving in active duty the first four years.

"To be able to salute the flag and actually wear the Marine Corps uniform is kind of a sense of pride," Watson said, "just like wearing the police uniform and paying service to my community. That is why I wanted to do something in law enforcement.

"Prior to even going into the military, I wanted to serve my community," he added.

Five years after joining the service, Watson was deployed to Iraq, spending just over seven months in Kuwait and Baghdad.

What helped Watson get through the long days and nights in Iraq was the cama-



Photo Courtesy

PROUD SOLDIER: Master Sgt. Tom Carter, an events technician at SMC, poses in from of a Humvee in the desert of Iraq.

raderie with the members of his unit, knowing that all of his brothers in arms — though they came from different walks of life — were now in the same boat and doing their best to keep each other safe.

They worked in a high stress environment, constantly aware of their surroundings, as any small mistake could prove a fatal one. The soldiers were on their toes 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Watson said.

Their primary duties were force protection and collection of information as

well as updating their superiors back home on the situation in Iraq.

More than three years after his return, much has changed in Watson's life. He's now a full-time student at Cal State Northridge, working toward a degree in sociology, as well as a member of the Santa Monica Police Department.

The situation in Iraq has also substantially changed in those short few years.

The so-called weapons of mass destruction that led the country to war were never discovered and support has waned considerably, with the Democrats sweeping into office in the 2006 elections amid low approval ratings for President George W. Bush.

Watson keeps up with the situation in Iraq, watching CNN and other news channels. Though it's difficult at times, he tries not to let politics and the ongoing debate regarding the war sway his decision to serve his country.

"I know I have a job to do," Watson said. "I have Marines that are under me who have been assigned to me who I swore to do my best to bring back home.

"That is higher on my priority list than whether or not I agree with the war."

Watson isn't sure whether this will be his final tour in Iraq. He plans to spend about a year overseas, the bulk of his time in Fallujah. Though his mother isn't pleased that her son has to leave again, she understands his obligation to the country.

His colleagues at the SMPD have also been supportive, Watson said.

"There are people who care about me and support what I do," Watson said.

Military Police Brigade, Carter spent a year in Baghdad training the Iraqi police.

Members of the Iraqi police force welcomed American soldiers and the skills, knowledge and training they had to offer.

"Most of the police officers there had a real interest in trying to make things better," Carter said. "Some needed a job."

Though his unit offered basic marksmanship training and teaching of basic police skills, Carter specifically provided computer training.

As the father of three boys, Carter said thoughts of death occasionally cross his mind. But unlike many other military personnel in Iraq, Carter's unit was not placed in a combat zone where he had to be fearful of roadside bombings or snipers. The unit stayed in one of the larger military bases, called Camp Victory. The unit included a post exchange that included virtually everything a person would need, though it lacked variety, Carter said.

Iraq was much different than how he imagined — a country with an endless sea of sand. There was not only more vegetation than he expected, but Iraq was also pretty well developed.

After spending his first four years in active duty, six subsequent years in the reserves and the last 12 years in the National Guard, Carter was finally able to retire from service on March 14.

When the United States made the decision to go to war, Carter said he wasn't sure whether it was the right choice. One thing he was sure of was if the country did go to war, it would have to go at it 100 percent.

Though progress in Iraq is going slower than most people would prefer, it's actually going at a faster rate than what Carter had anticipated. He had foreseen the troops pulling out around 2010, but now believes the troops can start leaving in 2008.

"I thought we had done a lot of good,"

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Photo courtesy

BROTHERS IN ARMS: Master Sgt. Tom Carter (left) stands with a couple of his buddies from his unit. He's a member of the National Guard's 49th Military Police Brigade.



Photo courtesy

SITTING PRETTY: Master Sgt. Tom Carter takes time to show off in one of Iraq's palaces.

Carter said of his own time in Iraq. "We had made a lot of progress while I was there."

THE GRIZZLED VETERAN

Joining the military was a lifelong goal for Lance Corporal James Escobar, who works in the financial aid office at Santa Monica College, which he briefly attended.

Two months after Escobar graduated from a Los Angeles high school, he enlisted in the Marines, shortly before terrorists steered a pair of jetliners into the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I thought, 'damn, I'm a fool,'" Escobar said. "My mom told me the same thing."

"No one thought there was going to be a war and I don't regret [enlisting]."

Escobar was only 19 when, on Feb. 23, 2003, he was deployed to his tour of duty in Iraq.

The first thing that crossed his mind was "I didn't want to die."

His first impressions of Iraq? It was the hottest place he had ever been. It was a foreign country where nobody spoke English and it lacked the modern day conveniences available in the United States.

Imagine being the most homesick you've ever been and multiply it by 10, he said.

Being in combat was a surreal experience. There was only one incident when Escobar said he was in the line of fire.

"Afterwards, it was like 'wow, that really did happen and I could've been gone,'" he said.

More than three months later, Escobar came home, and on July 17 — more than four years after he first left the country — Escobar will finally complete his time in the service.

"Every day, I felt like this could be my last day," Escobar said.

THE CASUALTY

Sometimes, war ends in heartbreak.

It was on Easter Sunday when Wendy Radwan, who owns Santa Monica-based Taxi! Taxi! with her husband, received the worst news of her life — her younger brother, Staff Sgt. Jesse Williams, was shot and killed by an enemy sniper on April 8.

Williams, who was buried on April 19 in his hometown of Santa Rosa, was 25 years old. He is survived by his wife of two years, Sonya, and their daughter, Amaya, who will celebrate her first birthday on May 22.

A tearful Radwan recalled when she first learned that her brother, who enlisted in the Army before 9/11, would be deployed to Iraq for his first tour during the initial stages of the Iraq War.

That fear stemmed from family history — Radwan's grandfather died as a prisoner of war in World War II on April 8, 1945 — exactly 62 years before Williams died.

"Every time we received an e-mail or phone call, it was a sigh of relief that he was OK," Radwan said.

Though he spent much of his life in Santa Rosa, Williams loved Santa Monica, visiting his sister in the city during his honeymoon a few years ago.

Williams received a Purple Heart during his first tour. About three weeks before his death, Williams was credited with single-handedly saving two of his fellow soldiers when he pulled them out of a burning vehicle, his gloves melting onto his hands in the process, Radwan said.

Radwan remembers her brother often speaking of the one thing he was afraid of — a sniper, because he couldn't see them.

It would be a sniper that would claim his life.

"I am very, very proud of him because he was a very patriotic young man," Radwan said. "All he ever wanted to do was help other people and serve his country and I am so proud of the accomplishments he made in his short life."

Staff writer Kevin Herrera contributed to the reporting of this article.

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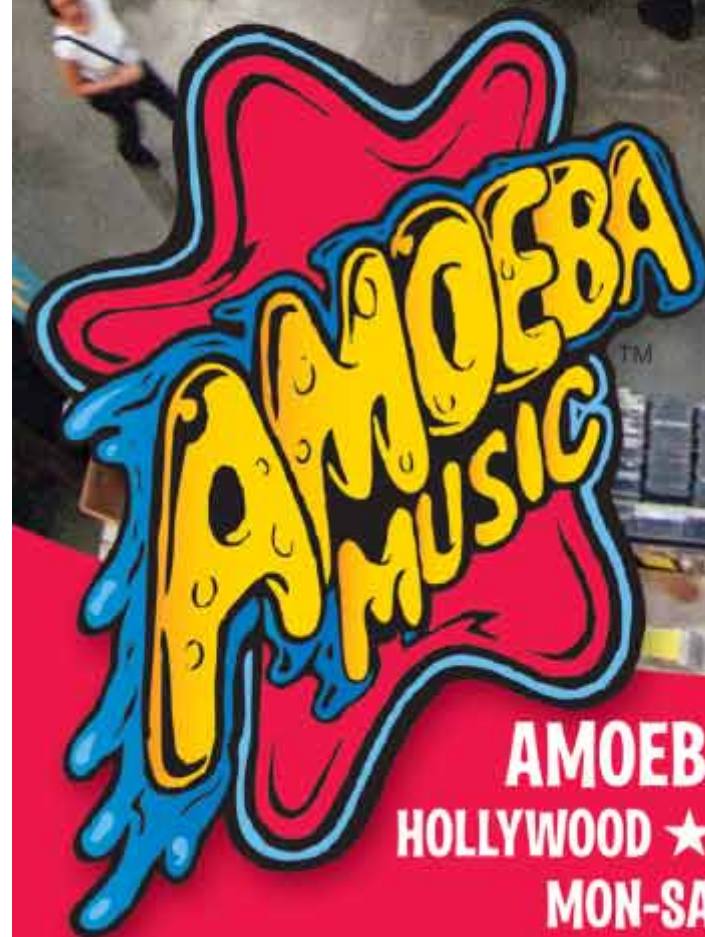
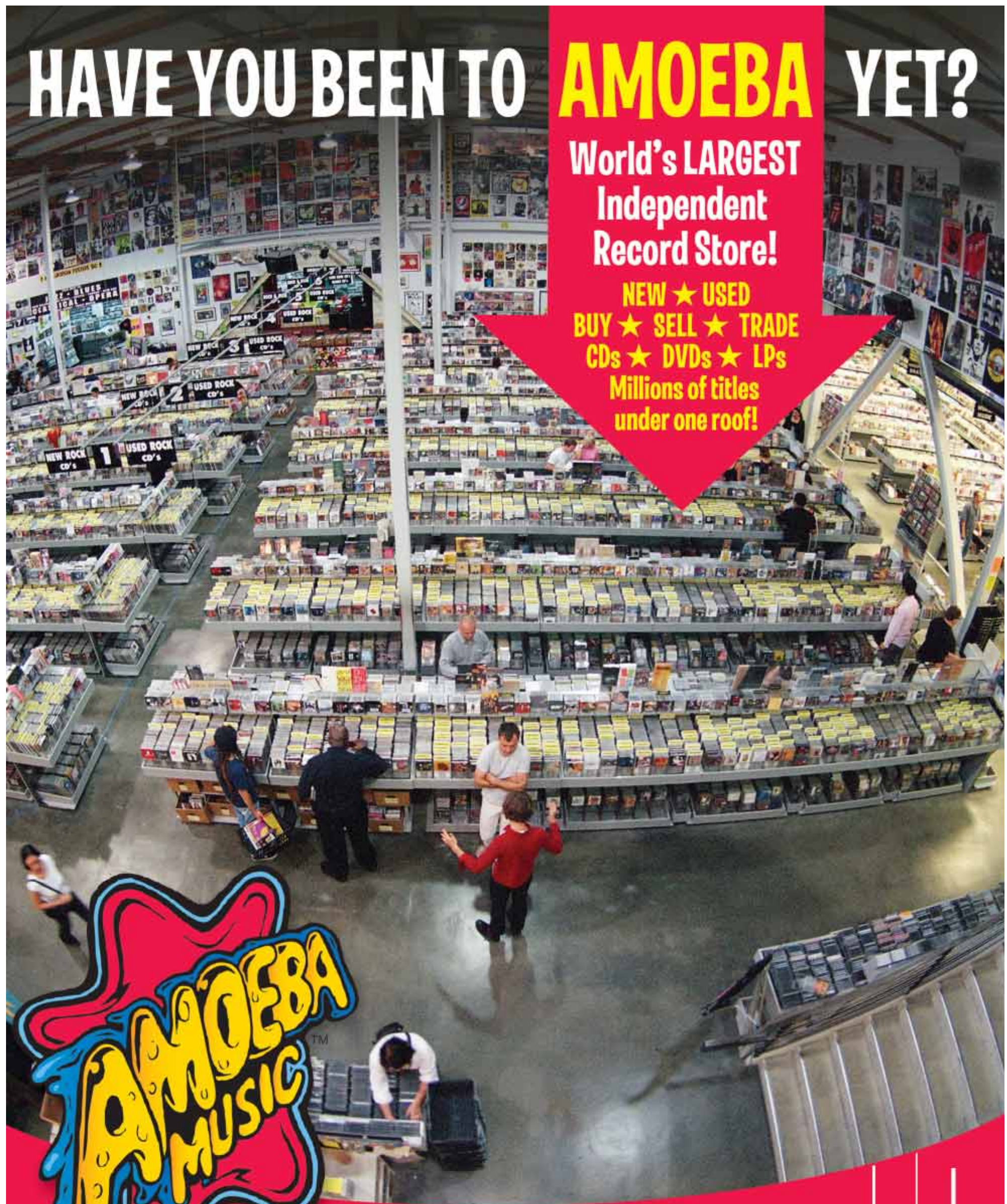

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Wasteful use of resources

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE In violation with the city of Santa Monica for the better part of four years, county officials are hoping their wasteful sprinkler use is all water under the bridge after this weekend.

Officials with the Los Angeles County Superior Court said Friday that they have hired a landscaping company to repair sprinklers here after repeatedly violating the city's water conservation requirements.

Since 2003, the courthouse has committed numerous violations and has been fined twice, most recently on May 3. Violations have included excessive watering, watering during the day and for producing runoff.

City Hall maintains strict laws against excessive water use, even a section that prohibits restaurants, bars, cafes and cafeterias — both public and private — from serving drinking water to anyone who doesn't ask for it.

"We are working on the sprinklers right now and we should be finished this weekend," said Reyna Guzman, who oversees custodial services and landscaping at the courthouse. "There are a few things that have to be repaired and we have finally got the funding to do it."

Guzman attributed the latest water infraction to a faulty timer, which caused the sprinkler system to turn on during the daytime, when it is prohibited by City Hall. Under the water conservation law, no lawn or landscaping shall be watered between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., unless a drip irrigation system is in place or if reclaimed water is being used.

Neal Shapiro, the urban runoff management coordinator for City Hall, said the courthouse has been a frequent violator of the law. Conserving water is important, especially in Santa Monica, which imports more than 90 percent of its drinking water from the Metropolitan Water District because its wells are contaminated with a fuel additive known as MTBE.

City Hall is also concerned about urban runoff that can flow into the Santa Monica Bay, bringing with it pollutants that degrade water quality, forcing beach closures, Shapiro said.

"The city promotes sustainable irrigation practices so that we use our limited potable water resources wisely and with future generations in mind," Shapiro said. "Exterior water use in Santa Monica uses nearly 50 percent of our water supply for residential properties, mostly single-family. It can also be a high percentage at non-residential properties with large landscapes or parking lots or open spaces.

"As the city has a policy to reduce water use by 20 percent by 2010 from 2000 use, it is in our best interest to promote irrigation strategies that use water at the maximum efficiency," Shapiro added. "Especially this year, when we have had record low rainfall, on the par of Death Valley."

Since 2003, the courthouse has been cited for 11 violations, which have included watering more than two times



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

ITS ALL A WASH: Sprinklers in front of the Santa Monica Courthouse on Main Street overspray their target.

per week and allowing overspray from sprinklers on hard-scapes, producing runoff.

A fine of \$250 was issued on June 7, 2004 and paid. A second fine was issued earlier this month.

"The problem with sprinkler irrigation systems is that they deliver water inefficiently — too much in too little time; they overspray most of the time; timer systems to control sprinklers fail frequently; the systems promote inherent waste; people water the wrong times of the day or right before a rain event ... when no irrigation is required," Shapiro said.

City Hall's Environmental Programs Division has several tips available online for irrigation control and landscaping. It also has a link to several water saving tips, including installing dual flush toilets and new showerheads.

In March, City Hall gave away free "smart irrigation" controllers that can tell when its sunny or rainy and water gardens accordingly, and a project is underway at Wilshire Boulevard and Ocean Avenue to collect more urban runoff and funnel into a water-treatment station before releasing it into the bay.

kevinh@smdp.com

Solstice Canyon stays popular during heat

FROM TRAILS PAGE 3

hike included a portion of the Backbone Trail, a 70-mile route that traverses most of the Santa Monica Mountains.

The Backbone Trail starts at the Will Rogers State Historic Park, covering national park and other public park land as it winds its way north to its terminal at Point Mugu State Park. A section of the trail through Zuma Canyon is particularly pleasant, featuring shade, a stream, bridge and waterfall.

For hikers who want to spend only a few hours in the park, Malibu Canyon provides a well shaded trail with stops at several lakes where a hiker can cool off with a dip in the water.

Located almost three miles west of where the 405 Freeway meets Mulholland Drive is the Westridge Trail, part of the Westridge-Canyonback Wilderness Park. It's been a favorite spot for Alaina Cunningham, an outreach specialist with REI Santa Monica, a recreation and outdoors sporting equipment store.

Since last summer, Cunningham has dedicated at least one day a week to hiking the Westridge Trail, usually waking up at the crack of dawn and tackling the trail by 6 a.m.

"You'd be surprised at how many people you find hiking that early in the morning," Cunningham said. "Most people up there are regulars."

Even the hot weather won't keep the regular hikers away. "The Westridge trail is popular year-round, especially in the morning," she said.

Before heading out on the trails this summer, hikers should be well equipped to handle the heat.

Baggy pants and a cotton T-shirt is the ideal hiking uniform in the summer because it's loose enough to allow a cool breeze to pass through, according to Tim Nelson, an avid hiker and employee at outdoor recreation clothing store Patagonia on Main Street. Cotton shirts easily absorb sweat and remain wet longer, keeping the body cooler against the damp shirt, he added.

An extra pair of socks will come in handy during longer hikes when feet become sweaty, creating an uncomfortable situation for the hiker.

"If you lose your feet, you're not going to do too well," Nelson said.

The most important thing is to stay hydrated throughout the hike, keeping at least one liter of water. It's also important to maintain electrolyte levels. Nelson recommends packing some Gatorade.

While temperatures might be warm during the day, they can drastically drop in the evening. For overnight trips, hikers should pack a fleece or windbreaker.

Injuries can happen at any time and Nelson recommends first-aid kits. Even a snake-bite kit can come in handy as there have been sightings of rattlesnakes in the past at the Santa Monica Mountains.

"Not everyone can have wilderness first-aid training," Nelson said. "You can at least prepare yourself for the worst."

Irene Manahan contributed to the reporting of this article.

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AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA APPROVING THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, AND HILL STREET PARTNERS III, LLC FOR 1327-1337 OCEAN AVENUE

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2227 (CCS) prepared by the Office of the City Attorney:

Ordinance Number 2227 (CCS) ("the Ordinance") approves a Development Agreement to allow development of a 73-room hotel at 1327-1337 Ocean Avenue which includes the adaptive re-use of two landmark properties, subject to recommended amendments to the building design; and amendments to the Development Agreement as proposed in the report. The project will contain a total of approximately 41,810 square feet over an approximately 129 space subterranean garage. The project includes the demolition of two commercial buildings on site and the re-location of one of the landmark buildings, the Victorian, to create a publicly accessible plaza in the center of the site.

Ordinance Number 2227 (CCS) was adopted on May 8, 2007, and shall become effective 30 days after its adoption.

The full text of the above Ordinance is available upon request from the office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica. Phone: (310) 458-8211.

New study rekindles crate debate

BY AMY LORENTZEN
Associated Press Writer

AMES, Iowa A new study is raising questions about the effectiveness of small, metal crates for pregnant pigs that animal welfare groups say are cruel and inhumane.

Researchers from Iowa State University found that allowing pregnant pigs to move freely in group housing structures called hoop barns could be less costly and just as productive as the narrow, individual crates.

"What we found was that there appears to be no real difference in pig performance between the two," said Peter Lammers, an ISU graduate research assistant who conducted data analysis for the 2 1/2-year study.

There has been a backlash against placing pregnant sows in the gestation crates. Some food processors and fast food chains have pledged not to purchase meat from producers who use them, and some chefs said they would only use crate-free pork. The

European Union has decided to phase out the crates by 2013, while voters in Florida and Arizona have approved ballot initiatives to ban them over the next few years.

"Highly intelligent animals, curious animals are crammed in a 2-foot-by-7-foot cage that doesn't even allow them to turn around," said Wayne Pacelle, CEO of the Humane Society of the United States.

He said the sows remain in the cages for most of their four-month pregnancies, amounting to about three years by the time they're eventually slaughtered.

The pork industry has defended the use of the gestation crates, which allow producers to house as many pigs as possible in one building. Industry representatives argue that pregnant sows can be aggressive toward one another in groups, and that the stalls allow for equal feeding and care of each sow. Individual management of the animals has been thought to aid their productivity.

Dave Warner, a spokesman for the

Washington, D.C.-based National Pork Producers Council, which lobbies for the nation's 67,000 pork producers, said the majority of the group's members use gestation stalls, though he noted that both the crates and group housing have their advantages and disadvantages.

The ISU study was conducted at a research farm in southwest Iowa. It compared sows housed in stalls in mechanically ventilated confinement buildings to those in naturally ventilated hoop barns with straw bedding.

Researchers who tracked 957 litters from 353 sows found that sows in the hoop barns gave birth to more live pigs per litter than those confined in gestation stalls.

They also found that group housing may produce pigs at a lower cost — as much as 11 percent less per weaned pig — than the gestation stalls, Lammers said.

He said sows in the hoop barns may have done better because of the bedding and ability to huddle, which allows them more con-

trol over their temperature. Individual feeding stalls in the hoop barns continued to allow for feed management.

Even though soiled straw must be removed, the researchers said group housing may not require more labor per animal than gestation stalls.

"In the United States, using a bedded system for gestating sows in hoop barns is relatively unfamiliar," Mark Honeyman, animal science professor and coordinator of ISU's Research Farms, said in a statement.

"With increased experience, management will evolve and production may be enhanced."

Lammers said the purpose of the study "wasn't to say one view was right, or one view was wrong."

A related study, based on a survey of general contractors and equipment and materials suppliers, said the estimated construction cost per gestating sow in hoop barns was \$552, compared with \$815 for the crates.

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NFL

Vick scrambles from dog fiasco

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press Sports Writer

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. Michael Vick treated questions about his ties to an alleged dog-fighting operation the same way he handles opposing defenses: He scrambled away.

The first quarterback to rush for 1,000 yards in a season refused Friday to discuss the sordid case, the latest in a series on embarrassing revelations about the Atlanta Falcons star and one that could land him in trouble with the NFL.

But he did vow to change his ways, saying he is mindful of how he's viewed by fans. When asked for specifics, Vick replied, "You'll have to wait and see. Just don't plan on talking about me anymore unless it's about football."

Commissioner Roger Goodell, who has vowed to crack down on misbehaving players, already met with Vick and could impose a suspension if it's shown that he knew about dozens of mistreated dogs that allegedly were used for fighting.

The animals were found at a home owned by Vick in Smithfield, Va., though he said previously that he rarely went to the house and didn't know that a large kennel on the property could be involved in a criminal activity.

The Daily Press of Newport News, Va., reported Friday that Vick has sold the house.

John Brooks, an agent with Long & Foster, told the newspaper that the two-story brick house was put up for sale on

Wednesday and sold the same day. Vick was asking \$350,000 for the property — less than half its assessed value of \$747,000. Brooks would not reveal the sale price.

Looking as though he didn't have a care in the world, Vick emerged from the locker room after the Falcons conducted their first practice of a mandatory three-day mini-camp. He sat down on a set of metal bleachers, wearing a T-shirt that said "Pay The Price," and was engulfed by some 30 members of the media.

"How y'all doing," he said, breaking into a slight smile.

Before the first question was asked, Vick made it clear that he didn't want to talk about the dog-fighting case.

"I know y'all are here to talk about the ongoing investigation back home in Virginia," he said. "As of right now, that situation is still under investigation. My attorney has advised me not to talk about the situation right now. That's the best thing."

"I know you guys have a job to do, but I would respect it if you respect what I have to say about just not saying anything right now until the investigation is over."

Vick wouldn't discuss the sale of the house or even respond to the chance to proclaim his innocence, as he did shortly after the property was raided by investigators some two weeks ago.

"Like I said, I won't talk about the situation right now," he said. "When the investigation is over, then I'll be more than glad to answer any questions that you have for me."

NFL

Williams tests positive for smoking marijuana — again

BY STEVEN WINE
Associated Press Sports Writer

MIAMI Former NFL rushing champion Ricky Williams tested positive again for marijuana last month, which will delay his return to the league until at least September, a person familiar with the case said Friday.

Williams sought to end a one-year drug suspension last month when he asked to rejoin the Miami Dolphins. But following the positive drug test, clinicians in the NFL's substance abuse program advised commissioner Roger Goodell to delay reinstatement, the person close to the case said.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because of the confidential nature of the testing program.

The Dolphins and the NFL declined comment.

Williams, who turns 30 on May 21, has played only 12 games since 2003. Before his latest setback, new Miami coach Cam Cameron repeatedly declined to say whether he would welcome Williams back.

Williams' latest positive test first was reported by ESPN.com. His agent, Leigh Steinberg, did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment.

The NFL suspended Williams in April 2006 after he violated the league's drug policy for the fourth time. That failed test apparently involved a substance other

than marijuana and may have been related to his interest in holistic medicine.

Williams' previous positive drug tests were for marijuana, which he acknowledged using.

Last year Williams played in the Canadian Football League, then taught yoga in California. Steinberg recently quoted Williams as saying his interest in Eastern philosophy had overcome his desire for mind-altering substances.

Williams still owes the Dolphins \$8.6 million for breaching his contract when he sat out the 2004 season, but they've given no signal they want him back.

General manager Randy Mueller traded Williams when both were with the New Orleans Saints in 2002. Two-year starter Ronnie Brown is expected to return as Miami's starter at running back, and the team acquired running back Lorenzo Booker of Florida State in the third round of the draft last month.

St. Louis Rams coach Scott Linehan, the offensive coordinator for the Dolphins when Williams last played in 2005, recently said he would consider acquiring Williams as a backup.

Williams won the 1998 Heisman Trophy at Texas and the 2002 NFL rushing title with the Dolphins. Last season with the Toronto Argonauts of the CFL, he rushed for 526 yards in 109 carries but missed two months with a broken arm.



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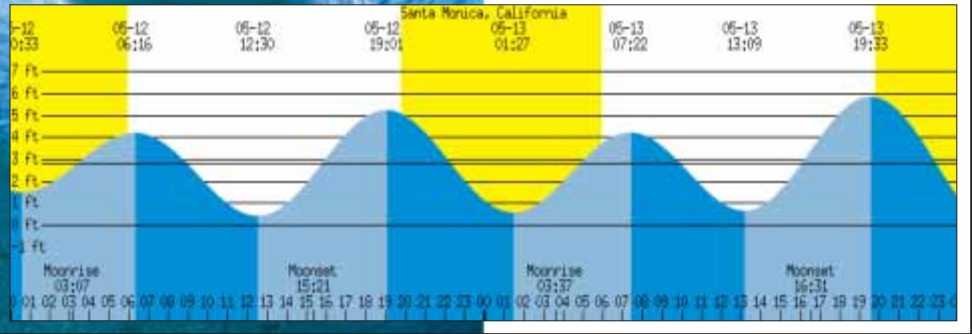
SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 55°**

SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)
Saturday looks about the same for surf, weather, winds and tide: small waves with an onshore flow and receding AM tide. Sunday, we should see a slight increase in NW wind swell, but at this point, our call is for knee high surf most everywhere with maybe some waist+ stuff around west facing breaks.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
LIGHT NW WIND SWELL NEXT WEEK...

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 four weeks up to the ending date of **May 8, 2007**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills — 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 0
- Number of wet days — 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 44 / 21
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather — 4 / 9

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

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 72 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	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Canillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	A+	Will Rogers State Beach at Palms Canyon storm drain	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechosa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	A+
Escorial Canyon at El Metate State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chatsaugos)	A+	F
Boned Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	A+	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	F	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	F
Escandido Creek, just east of Escandido State Beach	A	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Stand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A+	F
Loriga Canyon Creek mouth	D	A+	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	B
Salvador Canyon at Don Blecker County Beach	A	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Pico Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A	A+	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	A+
Marin Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Serfside Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	A+	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	A+
Serfside Beach (beach location) - daily	A	F	Venice Beach - projection of Topsail St.	A	A+
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	C	A+	Marine del Rey, Mothers' Beach - lifeguard tower	A	F
Carbon Beach at Seaverston Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	F
Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (joint use)	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 13948 PCH stairs	A	A+	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Los Toros County Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DAW jetty)	A	A+
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	A+	Dockweiler Beach - opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A	A+
Casterock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	F	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	A+			

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.

Stay playful, Capricorn

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the
kind of day you'll have:

★★★★★	Dynamic	★★★★★	Positive
★★★	Average	★★	So-So
		★	Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your strong instincts guide you. If you tune in to your intuition and then decide to take a strong action, the end results will work. Otherwise you could hit a snafu, or a situation could evolve that you would prefer never existed. Tonight: Continue to play it low-key. Be with those you trust.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You are like a boulder, strong and powerful. You will hit the bull's-eye if you have an objective. Friends, people in general and personal aspirations play a large role. Just watch! Tonight: Where you are is what is happening.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Take charge and enjoy the limelight. Every moment counts. You set a precedent and follow a new path. Your vision of what might be OK could be different from others'. Getting a majority could be touchy! Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Take off for adventure and excitement. Some might choose to meet a friend halfway, while others might go on a day trip. Allow your mind to clear, and happiness will surround choices and friends. Tonight: Where there is music.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Someone clearly wants to run the show. Do make that behavior OK if you want this bond to flourish. Your instincts kick in with a parent or older friend and his or her needs. Follow through on what you know to be true. Tonight: Be adventuresome.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Others want your time and attention, and they let you know it in no uncertain terms. Investigate different suggestions and invitations. Your ability to zero in on a situation helps someone open up. Tonight: Go with another's program.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Easy does it. You could be overwhelmed by the options on your plate. You also might not be thrilled by any of them. Call on your diplomatic abilities and wade through what you must. Tonight: The mood changes. Suddenly getting together with others feels great.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You have a way that energizes people and helps them loosen up. Others seek you out, but a child or loved one needs your attention too. If you are single, a new love relationship could be making heavy blips on your radar screen. Tonight: Let it happen, but also know when you are too tired to continue.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Take your time with errands, a project or enjoying a hobby. Don't let time be your master. Use it for your benefit, but allow yourself to let go if you're having a good time. Stay close to home or invite pals over. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Dance to a new tune. Decide what needs to happen with a new relationship or special bond. A child also might desire some attention. Make time for the special people in your life. Worry less about the logistics of what you need to do. That can wait. Tonight: Stay playful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Do check on a purchase with care. You're still likely to make a big purchase or investment. Try not to be too quirky or frivolous. In the long run, as tempted as you might be, you will be happier. Tonight: Get together with friends for dinner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You must not be stagnant today. Take a healthy bite out of living. Others might be only too delighted to hear from you. Magic walks in your footsteps. Use this specialness. Tonight: Go until you are too tired.

Born Today
Actress Katharine Hepburn (1907)
Baseball player Yogi Berra (1925)
Musician Steve Winwood (1948)



Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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Happy Birthday!
This year you have spontaneity and creativity in your camp. Sometimes others try to lure you into making a strong action or into taking a bigger role. Knowing yourself could be very important. Recognize when it is time to back off or proceed in a different manner. Your love of life emerges as a major focus. Others often seek you out for stability, advice or simply your company. If you are single, a friendship points the way to romance. If you are attached, do more together as a couple.

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Praise for Mel Judge has nice words for Gibson's progress

A judge praised **MEL GIBSON** on Friday for maintaining his court-ordered treatment for alcoholism following his drunken-driving arrest last July.

"I truly believe the rehabilitation that is being effected in this case is effective, and I don't want anything to interrupt that," said Superior Court Judge

Lawrence Mira.

The 51-year-old actor-director didn't attend the progress report hearing, but Gibson's attorney, Blair Berk, told the judge she filed a report with the court saying Gibson was complying with all the terms and conditions of his rehabilitation program.

"He's doing very well.

He's working hard," Gibson's publicist, Alan Nierob, told The Associated Press on Friday. "This is just an ongoing process that he's committed to."

Mira added that he wanted to see Gibson in court at some point "to ensure we are all on the same page."

Gibson pleaded no con-

test to charges of drunken driving Aug. 17 under a deal that included serving three years' probation, a fine and alcohol-rehabilitation classes.

He was arrested on a Malibu highway in July after a sheriff's deputy caught him speeding. Gibson's anti-Semitic remarks to the deputy

sparked outrage, and he later apologized.

Gibson starred in the "Lethal Weapons" movies. His directing credits include 2004's "The Passion of the Christ" and last year's Mayan epic "Apocalypto."

His next court hearing is scheduled for Aug. 23.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMBASSADOR DREW

DREW BARRYMORE has been named an ambassador against hunger for the World Food Program.

The 32-year-old actress recently returned from a trip to Kenya, where she toured WFP-supported school meal projects, the United Nations announced this week.

"I can't think of any issue that is more important than working to see that no schoolchild in this world goes hungry," Barrymore said in a statement Wednesday.

"Feeding a child at school is such a simple thing, but it works miracles. I've seen it with my own eyes."

Barrymore joins marathoner Paul Tergat as an ambassador. Tergat, from Kenya, benefited from school meal programs as a child, then won the New York City marathon in 2005.

Founded in 1962, WFP provides food aid to an average of 90 million poor people, including 58 million hungry children in at least 80 of the world's poorest countries. The United States said it provides nearly half the annual contributions to the Rome-based agency, which has an annual budget of just under \$3 billion.

Barrymore is advocating legislation in Congress to increase money for school meals from \$100 million per year to about \$300 million per year within five years. Her screen credits include the "Charlie's Angels" movies.

AP

`Grey's' Bailey flees wildfire

It's enough to drive Joe the bartender to drink.

STEVEN W. BAILEY, who plays the portly drink-slinger on ABC's "Grey's Anatomy," lives near Los Angeles' Griffith Park, which went up in flames earlier this week. To escape the smoke and heat from the fire that blackened more than 800 acres, he and his wife

headed for the peace and solitude of idyllic Santa Catalina Island.

"We thought, get away for a little while, get away from all this fire nonsense, go to Catalina, get some fresh air," Bailey told KABC-TV.

"We were approaching the island and we see this smoke from pretty far away," he added. "I jokingly said to my wife, I was

like, 'That cloud formation over there looks like there is a fire in Catalina.'"

It was a 4,000-acre blaze that erupted Thursday. It dwarfed the size of the one in Griffith Park and forced hundreds of people to evacuate the city of Avalon, where Bailey was headed.

"It just descended into more and more fire, more

and more smoke, more and more ash," Bailey said.

The actor couldn't immediately be located for comment Friday. KABC-TV reported that the fire prevented Bailey and his wife from checking into their hotel so they were considering returning home by ferry.

AP

Carlyle didn't like being a zombie

ROBERT CARLYLE says he disliked wearing contact lenses to look like a zombie for his starring role in the new movie "28 Weeks Later."

"The problem with these things where you're working with them on film is (the) studio is very hot and you're in that atmosphere, they just stick to

your eyes," the 46-year-old actor said. "You get constant drops and stuff."

"28 Weeks Later" is the sequel to 2002's "28 Days Later." Six months have passed since the "rage" virus wiped out London. Carlyle stars as a man who survived the plague that decimated Britain and now is among

survivors in a fortified area of London guarded by U.S. troops supervising the country's repopulation.

Carlyle said it didn't bother him that none of the actors in the original movie are in the sequel.

"That's a good thing in a sense because the film can stand on its own, you

know," he told reporters recently. "I think that if people enjoyed the first film, they'll certainly enjoy this one, I'm sure."

Carlyle's screen credits also include "Trainspotting," "The Full Monty" and "The Beach."

"28 Weeks Later" is a Fox Atomic release.

AP

Tribunal believes Sting is in the wrong

An employment tribunal ruled Thursday that **STING** and his wife, **TRUDIE STYLER**, discriminated against their chef by firing her after she became pregnant.

The couple, who face having to make a substantial compensation payment, said they were "devastated" by the ruling. The level of compensation will be decided at a June 8 hearing.

Jane Martin, 41, said she had worked for the 55-year-old pop star and

Styler for eight years, cooking meals for them and guests including Madonna and Elton John. She said Styler grew unhappy after Martin became pregnant in 2005, making her work long hours and growing angry when she took time off work because of illness.

Martin, who accused Styler of having a "grandiose ego," left her job under disputed circumstances in April 2006.

In its ruling, the panel at an employment tribunal

in Southampton, southern England, said Martin had been unlawfully dismissed by Lake House Estate, Sting and Styler's management company, and was a victim of sexual discrimination.

The judgment said that although Styler "had tried to distance herself from various unlawful acts and have them carried out by minions on her behalf, when the evidence is looked at holistically, her involvement is clear."

"She is without doubt

the driving force manipulating others to perform her dirty work."

Styler said the couple planned to appeal.

"I am devastated that the tribunal's judgment makes this unjust and unfair attack on Sting and me," she said in a statement.

"Jane Martin was always treated well and generously as an employee, and we remain stunned at her actions and at the verdict of the tribunal."

AP

MOVIEGUIDE

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The Last Picture Show (NR)
7:30

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Georgia Rule (R)
11:05a.m., 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:50
The Hoax (R)
11:10a.m., 1:45, 4:35, 7:20, 10:00
Spider-Man 3 (PG-13)
12:50, 4:05, 7:15, 10:20
Year of the Dog (PG-13)
11:35a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:25, 9:45

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

Blades of Glory (Pg-13)
10:35a.m., 12:50, 3:10, 5:35, 8:00, 10:20
Disturbia (PG-13)
11:00a.m., 1:40, 4:25, 7:05, 9:40
The Invisible (PG-13)
10:30a.m., 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:45
Next (PG-13)
10:40a.m., 1:00, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:45
Spider-Man 3 (PG-13)
11:30a.m., 12:25, 1:30, 2:50, 3:40, 4:50, 6:10, 7:00, 8:05, 9:25, 10:10, 11:20

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Black Book (Zwartboek) (R)
1:00, 4:30, 8:00
Hot Fuzz (R)
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00

LAEMMILE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Avenue Montaigne (Fauteuils d'orchestre) (PG-13)
4:30, 9:55
Away From Her (R)
1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:45
Jindabyne (R)
1:10, 4:20, 8:00
The Lives of Others (Das Leben der Anderen) (R)
1:10, 4:20, 8:00
Waitress (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

28 Weeks Later
11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40, 12:00a.m.
Delta Farce (PG-13)
11:30a.m., 2:10, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50
Fracture (R)
11:10a.m., 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:20
Lucky You (R)
1:00, 4:10, 7:00, 10:00
The Namesake (G)
11:20a.m., 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30

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Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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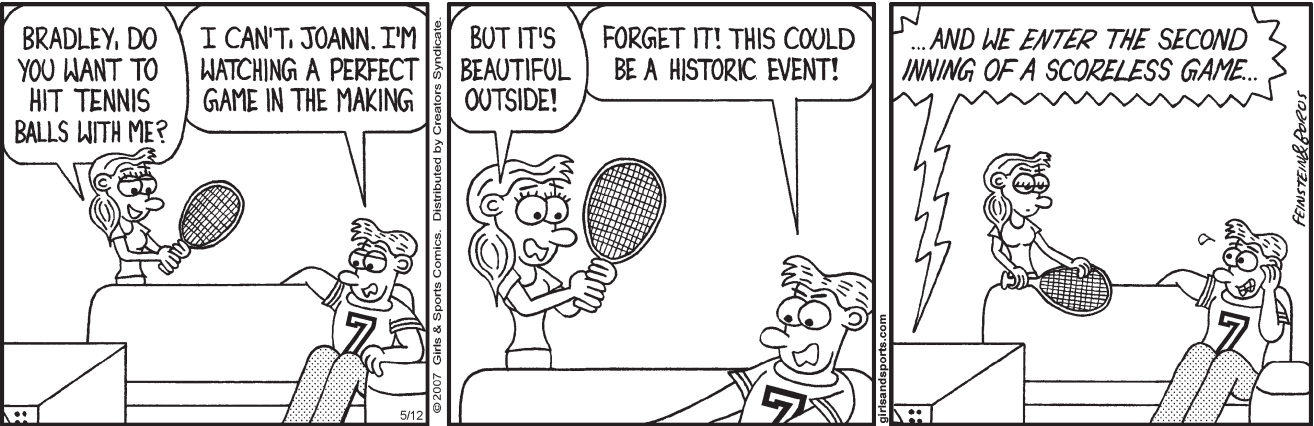
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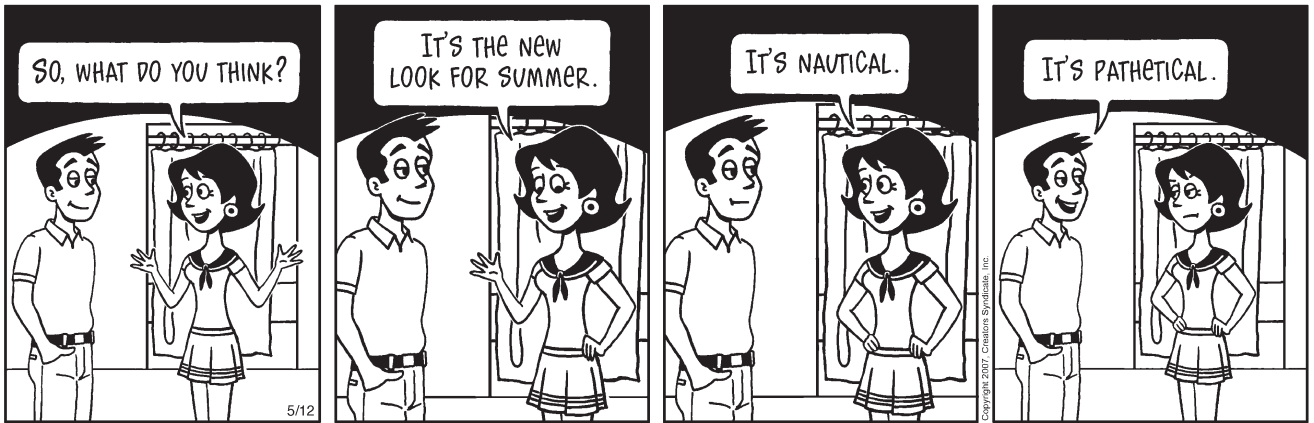
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



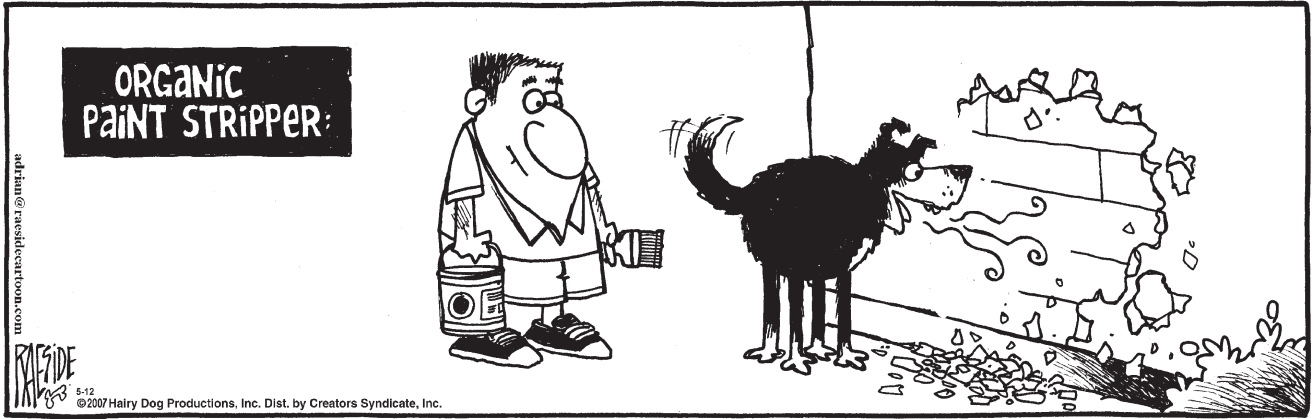
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



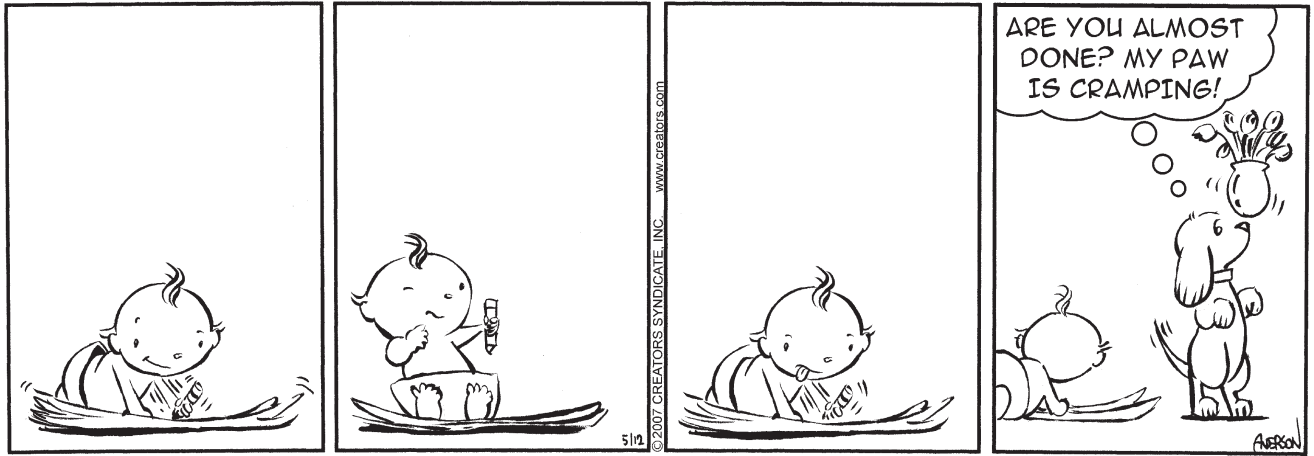
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



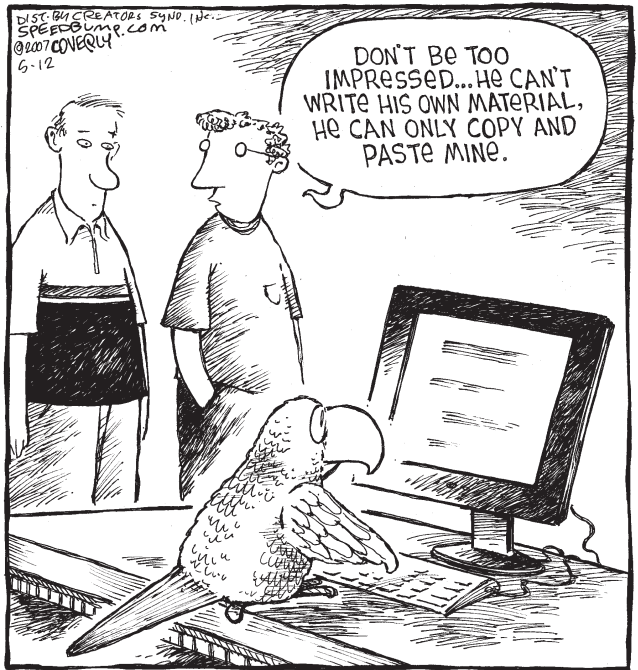
Natural Selection

By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@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 40 Yellow-stone sight

- 1 Pough-keepsie school
7 — avis
11 Hun head
12 Writer Hunter
13 Grazing spot
14 Bop on the bean
15 Sound of Washington
16 Union chapter
17 Estimate, for short
18 Generic
19 Gung-ho
21 Tittle
22 African gazelle
25 Cat coat
26 Disrobe
27 Overacts
29 Bruins' sch.
33 Nymph's pursuer
34 "Borstal Boy" writer
35 Dance part
36 Agreeing
37 Buffalo's county
38 Right away
39 Hamlet, for one

DOWN 1 Shoe parts
2 Believed without question
3 Play place
4 Brandy cock-tail
5 Heaps
6 Coarse
7 Scout's work
8 Guaca-mole base
9 Caused havoc

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

- Yesterday's answer**
- 10 Short sock
16 Après-ski spot
18 Low cards in pinochle
20 Treach-erous one
22 Indo-nesian island
23 Nutritional need
24 Gains-borough work
25 Admitted, with "up"
28 Melville novel
30 Face parts
31 Javelin
32 Dudgeon
34 Chomp down
36 Bender

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

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
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39					40					

Comics & Stuff

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS 28 30 33 48 54
Meganumber: 25
Jackpot: \$112M

Super LOTTO 16 17 24 25 46
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: \$11M

Fantasy 5 8 16 29 32 38

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

DAILY DERRY 1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1:49.94

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

■ In March, the owner of Di's Diner in Bulls Gap, Tenn., reported that a "blond, heavy-framed female" tried to take out a catfish dinner without paying for it and that when confronted, the woman got angry and threw money at the cash register. When the owner followed her into the parking lot, the woman threw the dinner, hitting employee Tina Henry. And in April, David Moser, 28, complained that his Bulls Gap home had been burglarized and that missing were handcuffs, six packs of cigarettes, a set of \$1,200 car wheels and 300 tongue rings.

■ Arrested recently and awaiting trial for murder: Gary Wayne Ray Jr. (Oklahoma City, February); Larry Wayne Brigman (St. Paul, Minn., charged in February for a 1989 murder, but already in prison for a different murder); Lewis Wayne Fielder Jr. (Laurens, S.C., February); Robert Wayne Wyant (Charlottesville, Va., February). Confessed to murder: Timothy Wayne Shepherd (Houston, March). Sentenced for murder: Jimmy Wayne Bass (Mobile, Ala., February, life in prison for DUI homicide). Re-captured after a brief escape: convicted murderer Michael Wayne Brunner (La Grange, Ky., March).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1780 American Revolutionary War: Charleston, South Carolina is taken by British forces.

1862 U.S. federal troops occupy Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

1865 American Civil War: Battle of Palmito Ranch: The first day of the last major land action to take place during the Civil War, resulting in a Confederate victory.

1942 1,500 Jews are sent to gas chambers in Auschwitz.

1955 The last portion of the IRT Third Avenue Elevated in Manhattan closes.

1958 A formal North American Aerospace Defense Command agreement is signed between the United States and Canada.

1967 At Queen Elizabeth Hall, England, Pink Floyd stages the first-ever quadraphonic rock concert.

1989 A Southern Pacific Railroad freight train derails on the very steep Cajon Pass in San Bernardino, California, killing four people.

2000 The Tate Modern art gallery opens in London.

2002 Former President Jimmy Carter arrives in Cuba for a five-day visit with Fidel Castro becoming first President of the United States, in or out of office, to visit the island since Castro's 1959 revolution.

WORD UP!

acrimony \AK-ruh-moh-nee\, noun: Bitter, harsh, or biting sharpness, as of language, disposition, or manners.

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Facial Treatments
Face & Body Waxing
Packages Available**

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Color Treatments
Nail Services**

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Equipment**

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- Money motivated
- Competitive
- Confident
- Reliable
- Bilingual a plus
- Drive to achieve beyond what is expected

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For Interviews call:

Anna at 310-424-3000

Miscellaneous



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(Corner of 20th
& Santa Monica Blvd.)
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Hours: 6:30am
- 10:00pm Daily

Announcements

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Employment

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
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CAREGIVER
OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale assisted living community, is looking for qualified candidates to be caregivers for our elderly residents. Duties include dressing, bathing, escorting residents, and documenting care. Looking for afternoon shifts and various weekend shifts as well. Must have positive attitude and a love for seniors. All potential employees must have a clean criminal record. If you are interested, please fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. Santa Monica, CA 90405 or fax a resume to (310)314-7356.

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Employment

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Great long term position for the right personality. Energetic office full of resources to help you grow as a professional. Must be a self starter, high energy and computer literate. Send resume and cover letter to ross@smdp.com or call 310-458-7737 x 104

APPT. SETTERS with experience needed, work from home scheduling pick-ups of clothing and other household items for a charity. P/T Mon-Fri 8:30am-10:30am or 6pm-8pm. Call Manny (310)753-4909.

MEDICATION TECHNICIAN
Ocean House is looking for an experienced Med tech to administer medications to the residents of our community. This is a full time position in the afternoon and the schedule will include weekends. Benefits Eligible after 90 days. Please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, CA 90405 or fax a resume with salary history to (310)314-7356.

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Commission. Beautiful Interior.
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For Interview please call:
Anna at 310-424-3000

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or call **(800) 870-4357**

COMPLIANCE MANAGER: Dealership experience business office and contract desk exp a plus. Great benefits. F/T Dinah(310)264-4900 ext. 1123

CUSTOMER ACCOUNTS Assistant
National trade company requires an experienced person with a friendly phone manner and computer skills. Non-smoking please. Call 323-964-0831.

Customer Service/Full Time- starting up to \$12.00 per hour. 22 year old telephone services company in WLA with free secure parking. Experience preferred but will train. Good language skills and reliability a must. Call 310-281-3079 for recorded details.

DATA CLERK

WLA Construction firm seeks clerical support, proficient Excel, word, type 40wpm. Data entry, fax, file, answer phones, casual environment. BarringtonStaffing.com 310-453-4289

BOLD IT! MAKE YOUR AD STAND OUT

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Beverly Hills construction firm seeks Top-notch executive assistant to the president, answer, screen calls, type correspondence, generate documents, calendaring, know word, excel, outlook, \$18hr BarringtonStaffing.com 310-453-4289

LOOKING FOR part-time office assistant. Must have high school diploma or GED. Please fax resume to (310)450-9564

Employment

HOUSE SITTER and pet sitter for one cuddly, adorable small dog and two beautiful cats. in SM for July 9-30. Call and leave a message if interested. (310)828-0185.

HOUSEKEEPER/LOCAL ERRAND-RUNNER wanted. Mon-Sat; approximately 30 hrs/week. Must have own car and love dogs. For Santa Monica. Contact Rosalind at 310.625.4154.

IMMEDIATE POSITIONS open in the EVF department, housekeeper/floor techs for Century City Doctors Hospital. All shifts available, PT/FT. Hospital house-keeping preferred. Call (310) 829-8431 for interview.

MAINTENANCE AND COMMUNITY DELI ASSTS at Coopportunity, SM's Natural food grocer. Other positions, too! Great benefits and pay...Come apply at 1525 Broadway or visit www.coopportunity.com for more info.

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PART TIME job for VENTURA PUBLISHER expert to write SCRIPTS and build custom LIBRARY. Skills in data conversions and graphics design is a plus. Up to \$22/Hour depending on experience. Fax resume to (310)348-9830

RECEPTION

SANTA Monica Media company seeks receptionist to answer lite phones, lite data entry, clerical support. Previous exp preferred. BarringtonStaffing.com 310-453-4289

RECEPTIONIST NEEDED at West LA Real Estate firm Email resume and salary requirement to: jbblanchard@hackmancapital.com

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SPA/HOT TUB 2007 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth \$5950, sell for \$1950 (310) 479-3054

MOVING SALE – Monday, May 14 at 12 pm (noon)- LARGE sale! 4 custom desk units, reception desk, large shelf unit, 10' long table with a center drawer & side cabinets, variety office chairs, small & large bookcases, 2-metal storage cabinets, 2 – 3 drawer lateral filing cabinets, plastic chair mats, G4 Mac - complete with printer, monitor, speakers and keyboard, G4 unit (no monitor), various pc's at various prices, 2 faxes, 2 HP DeskJet printers, time clocks, camera cases, several sets of computers speakers, reams of 11 x 17 and 8-1/2 x 14 paper, and much more!

Shomex Productions
2601 Ocean Park Blvd. # 200
Santa Monica, CA 90405

For Sale

Parking in the visitors parking, you might get lucky and find street parking. Take the elevator to the second floor and turn left into the hallway. First door on your left. Doors will not open until 12!

Yard Sales

407 12TH st. Sat. Yard sale. Huge! Furniture, vacuums, cat stands, bikes, tvs, etc.

Wanted

BOB DYLAN

Wanted: original 1965 Santa Monica Civic Center concert poster. Will pay \$10,000 cash! 310.346.1965

Employment Wanted

EXPERIENCED CAREGIVER/HOUSE-KEEPER. 11 years exp. in Palisades home. Excellent references. Available Mon-Fri 7pm-7am. (310)562-5351

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QUICKBOOKS BOOKKEEPING service, personal or businesses. Call 310 977-7935

For Rent

\$1595/MO. NORTH of Wilshire, Santa Monica. Near Idaho and Lincoln. Very nice, cozy upper, 1bd/1ba, hardwood flooring, new paint, drapes, backyard, 7 blocks to beach. 310-395-1495

501 N. Venice: single, unit 14 and 40. stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, utilities included, laundry room, parking, no pets. \$995 and up. (310)578-7512

BEL AIR: 11797 Bellagio Rd. 2+2 !/2 \$3750/mo. stove, d/w, fireplace, w/d hookups, drapes, hardwood floors, front and back gardens, garage parking, small dog or cat ok. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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MAR VISTA \$1595.00. 2 Bd rms, 1 bath, Duplex-Apt. NO Pets. Stove, refrigerator, Washer/Dryer, Parking, 3571 Centinela Ave., Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional Info in Unit.

MAR VISTA: 12434 CULVER Blvd. unit 6 2+2 stove, fridge, d/w, a/c, carpets blinds, laundry room, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. \$1400 (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

NEWLY REMODELED spacious 2bdrm 2bath 1100 sq ft. \$2500/mo 13 blocks from the ocean. 2 months free with 24 month lease! (949)584-6194

PALMS/BEVERLYWD ADJ. \$995.00 1 Bdrm, 1 Bath, No Pets, Stove, Refrigerator, Parking, 2009 Preuss Rd. #3 & #4 Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional info in unit.

VENICE 2+2 2308 Pacific unit B upper stove fridge d/w, washer/dryer hookups, microwave, granite counter tops, tile and carpet, and hardwood flooring, 2 car parking. \$2850/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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600 SQUARE ft. non-livable, shared, shop/warehouse/loft storage space. \$900/month. Venice Blvd @ Fairfax. Call 310.398.3850.

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FRIENDLY HOLISTIC center, reasonable day rates available, beautifully refurbished, contact Robyn at (310)829-4842 or (310)829-7593

SANTA MONICA 2941 Main Street. Small single room offices \$650/month. Parking available. PAR Commercial (310)395-2663.xt.112

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Classifieds

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Prepay your ad today!



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RATES
TIME FOR A 30
YEAR FIXED?**

RATES AS LOW AS 6%

30 YEAR FIXED 5.76%

APR 5.866%

10 YEAR/1 ARM 6%

APR 6.6%

7 YEAR/1 ARM 5.75%

APR 6.655%

5 YEAR/1 ARM 5.75%**

APR 7.0%

3 YEAR/1 ARM 5.5%**

APR 7.0258%

1 YEAR/1 ARM 5.25%

APR 7.1%

6 MO./6 MO. ARM 5%

APR 7.24%

1 MO./1 MO. ARM 1%**

APR 8%

*Rates subject to change

* As of February 21, 2007

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BLISSFUL RELAXATION! Heal your body,
mind, spirit. Therapeutic bodywork/en-
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Treatment in Santa Monica.
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Excellent condition. \$690000
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'05 Nissan Altima
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
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Clean, only 20k miles. (17057A)
\$15,995

Infiniti Santa Monica
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'05 Infiniti FX35
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
White, V6 3.5L, Sport Pkg, Touring
Pkg, LOADED!
(16516A) \$30,493

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'05 Infiniti G35 Coupe
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
White, V6 3.5L, Automatic, Air
Bags, Leather (16896A)
\$27,495

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'99 RX300 \$12,700
Leather, Moon Roof, Super, super
sharp!
(X0037964)

Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047

Vehicles for sale



'04 Infiniti I35 Sedan
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Auto, A/C, Bose pre-
mium sound, ABS (P1563)
\$19,993

Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'03 Dakota \$11,788
QUAD CAB/w Shell! Auto, Air, Alloys
(3S265019)
Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047.

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'05 4 Runner \$22,900
Beeeeeautiful! Immaculate! Must
See!
(58008216)

Toyota Santa Monica
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'03 4Runner SR5 .. \$19,700
Auto, Lthr, Alloys & More!
Extra, Extra Clean!
(30003891)

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'01 ML320 \$14,995
OH MY! Chromes & All!
(Y1A269451)

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'98 Camaro Z28 \$9,995
T-Top, Auto, IMMACULATE, A MUST
SEE. (W2126678)

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'04 New Beetle ... \$18,995
Convertible, Auto, Lo Lo Miles, Im-
maculate! (4M339603)

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Vehicles for sale



'04 GS300 \$22,900
LOADED! LOADED!
(1U0019291)

Toyota Santa Monica
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'00 S2000 \$16,700
Black/Black, Hard to Find!
(YT000609)

Toyota Santa Monica
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'04 X3 Only \$24,995
Low Miles, Leather, Moon roof,
(4WB21636)

Toyota Santa Monica
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'04 Element ... CALL!
Low Miles, Auto, Very Sharp!
(4L012290)

Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'02 Explorer Sport .. \$6,700
Auto, A/C, Alloys, CD,
Full Power
(2UD37397)

Toyota Santa Monica
(800) 579-6047



'03 BMW X5 3.0i SUV
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, 6-Cyl, 3.0L, Auto, Air Bags,
Alloy, Privacy Glass (P1574)
\$26,691

Infiniti Santa Monica
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'04 Nissan Maxima SL
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Dark Blue, V6 3.5L, Auto, Bose
Prem. Sound, Leather
(16793A) \$21,991

Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

Your ad could run here!
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Vehicles for sale



'02 Oldsmobile Alero GL
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.4L, Auto, Pwr pkg, Multi
CD, Air Bags, Leather (16942A)
\$7,995

Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'04 Nissan Altima
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Silver, V6 3.5L, Auto, AC
Tilt Wheel, Cruise, CD
(P1571)
\$17,991

Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

ADVERTISE! CALL US (310) 458-7737



'05 Infiniti G35 Coupe
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
Red, V6 3.5L, 6 sp. Manual,
Bose Premium Sound
(P1570)
\$31,991

Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253



'06 Honda CRV SE
(ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)
AC, P/W, P/L, Alloys, CD,
Moon Roof, Leather, ABS, Tilt
(P1556A)
\$26,991

Infiniti Santa Monica
(866) 507-7253

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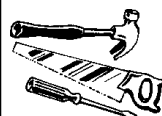
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