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MAY 23-24, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 171

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE PLAY BALL! ISSUE

SAMOHI ADVANCES
SEE PAGE 3

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

Upstart Pacifica Christian moves on

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

VENICE Pacifica Christian, playing its first ever baseball season, advanced to the second round of the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division VII playoffs with a 7-6 victory over Newbury Park Adventist on Friday.

The Seawolves entered the bottom of the seventh and final inning with the score tied at 6-6. Freshman starting pitcher Kevin Hammer led off the inning with a double and was balked to third and later balked home with the winning run.

"It's a terrible way to win, but we'll take it," Head Coach Julian Chavez said.

Hammer pitched a complete game in the victory allowing six runs over seven innings. Freshman Zach McMillan was the star on offense going 3-for-3 with a two-run home run in the first inning. He also had a double and a single.

"It feels great to be winning with this young team," Chavez said of his squad consisting almost entirely of freshmen. "They are getting this great experience, playing good teams.

"I'm was really excited watching them get into a close game and finishing it off."

With the win, the Seawolves will advance to play the winner of the Cate-Maricopa game on Tuesday. The results of that game were not available at presstime.

daniela@smdp.com



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

NICE STAB: **Pacifica Christian's Keenan Pierandozzi-Howes makes a play on a chopper on Friday at North Venice Little League. Pacifica Christian won the CIF-SS first round game, 7-6.**

School board to increase class sizes

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The fallout from the defeat of five major budget propositions from the special election became apparent on Thursday when district officials outlined the first in a series of spending cuts expected for the upcoming school year.

Included in the initial round, which was presented to the Board of Education during its meeting, are cuts to the contracted services and special education budgets, which will lose about $300,000 and $700,000, respectively, and larger class sizes, which is expected to yield a savings of about $1.9 million.

The proposed reductions will be approved at the next board meeting, scheduled for June 4.

Voters last Tuesday overwhelming rejected propositions 1A-1E, which school officials said were necessary for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District to avoid an extra $6.8 million revenue reduction on top of the $10-$12 million it is already expected to lose over the next 18

SEE CLASSES PAGE 14

SMPD officials say jewel thief targets Santa Monica and Beverly Hills

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN Detectives are asking for the public's help in identifying and locating a jewel thief suspected of stealing four Omega watches valued at $17,000 from a local jewelry store earlier this month.

The suspect is also believed responsible for similar thefts in Beverly Hills, where two high-end jewelry stores were targeted, the suspect walking away with rings and other jewelry valued in excess of $100,000.

The suspect is described as a white male in his 30s, 5-feet-10 to 6-feet, weighing around 200 pounds with short, bleached-blonde hair. The suspect is said to speak with a Russian or European accent.

The theft in Santa Monica allegedly occurred on May 7 at the Jewel Shop, located in the 1300 block of the Third Street Promenade. The suspect spent time talking with employees and looking at merchandise. The suspect returned the following day at around 11 a.m., police said. While the employees were distracted setting up displays, the suspect removed four Omega men's watches from a glass case and left the store.

The loss was noticed after the suspect left.

The Beverly Hills thefts occurred May 1 and May 7. The suspect was able to distract employees long enough to remove items, according to a press release from the Beverly Hills Police Department. The suspect appears to target only high-end jewelry stores.

Detectives are hopeful that someone will come forward with information leading to the arrest of the suspect. Surveillance photos are available at the SMPD's Web site, www.santamonicapd.org. Anyone with information is asked to contact SMPD Detective Chad Goodwin at (310) 458-8942, or the on duty Watch Commander at (310) 458-8427.

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

The Hinnebusch experience

Paint: Lab
2912 Main St., 5 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Come to the opening reception of David Hinnebusch's "Experience! Express! Explore." The exhibit is a first of a series featuring local artists who embody the spirit of creativity in their work.

Yoga in the park

Palisades Park
Ocean Ave. and Palisades Ave., 10 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
Start your weekend off right with an energizing and rejuvenating yoga class in Palisades Park overlooking the ocean. Beginners and all levels are welcome. All you need is your yoga mat. If you have always wanted to try yoga, this class is for you. All classes are paid for by donation. Call (310) 560-4317 for more information.

'Cinderella: The Musical'

Santa Monica Playhouse Main Stage
1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.
Audiences of all ages will love this Rudie-DeCarlo adaptation of the classic fairy tale including colorful versions of all the traditional characters. Tea parties and birthday arrangements are available with every performance. Admission cost is $10.50-12.50. Those seeking more information can call (310) 394-9779 ext. 2.

Sunday, May 24, 2009

Sound of music

Santa Monica Pier
3 p.m.
Members of the UC Berkeley Men's and Women's Chorale will be performing at the west end of the pier. Admission is free and those interested can call (310) 458-8900 for more information.

Time for the symphony

Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 7:30 p.m.
Conducted by Allen Robert Gross, the Santa Monica Symphony will be performing a free concert at the civic auditorium on Sunday evening. Featuring violinist Michael Emery, bassoonist David Riddles, cellist Ernest Ehrhardt and Catherine Del Russo on the oboe, the performance will also offer a pre-concert talk with Raymond Knapp, chair of the UCLA Department of Musicology. Those interested can obtain more information by calling (310) 395-6330.

Monday, May 25, 2009

Mariachi Margarita Monday

El Texate Restaurant
316 Pico Blvd., 5 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Come enjoy the beautiful music of Mariachi Alta California over the only fresh-squeezed margaritas in Santa Monica. The band includes Samohi alumni and UCLA and USC students, making it the only Mariachi band based in the Westside. Call (310) 399-1115 for reservations. Cost is only for dinner and drinks.

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.

CORRECTION

A restaurant review by columnist Merv Hecht entitled, "Baking genius rises with Huckleberry," May 21, should have said the restaurant Huckleberry is open Wednesday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

Santa Monica advances to second round

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAN BERNARDINO The Santa Monica High School Vikings must really enjoy playing for their playoff lives.

Playing the fourth elimination game in a row, the Vikings' baseball team traveled deep inland to take on no. 2 seeded San Gorgonio in the first round of the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division III playoffs on Friday and won 3-2.

Samohi's Alonzo Gonzalez started the game and pitched six innings of seven strike out ball while giving up just one earned run.

"I'm on cloud nine right now," Gonzalez said on the bus heading home. "I knew the caliber of the game we were playing.

"I just pounded the strike zone from pitch one to the sixth inning."

Samohi Head Coach Rob Duron praised Gonzalez' effort and said he was pleased with the junior lefty's control.

With the win, Samohi, who qualified for the first round by winning a wild card game

SEE SAMOHI PAGE 11

Previously uncharted plant species discovered in nearby mountains

BY WILL WEISS
Special to the Daily Press

SM MOUNTAINS A recent flora survey of the Santa Monica Mountains near Sandstone Peak, the highest point in the region at 3,000 feet, revealed a species of plant not known to inhabit the area.

Tony Valois, a biological field technician with the National Park Service, discovered the small flower during a routine examination of the area, though he was quick to point out that the plant is not far out of its expected region.

"The species is a native," Valois said. "It's not really out of its range; it's fairly wide-

SEE PLANT PAGE 13



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

OOPS: **St. Monica's Michael Redondo bobbles a ground ball on Friday at Marine Park during a 2-8 loss to Aquinas in the first round of the playoffs.**

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PLAYOFFS

St. Monica suffers first round loss

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

MARINE PARK A successful season has come to an end for St. Monica's baseball team.

The Mariners, who were champions of the Camino Real League, came into the California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section Division V playoffs hoping to parlay a winning season into a deep run into the postseason.

It just wasn't meant to be.

St. Monica lost to Aquinas 8-2 on Friday at Marine Park to end the Mariners' season.

"I'm disappointed because we didn't play our best game," Head Coach Jack White said. "Our defense, which has carried us all year, just didn't work today."

While White was particularly displeased with his infield that made four errors on the day, he said he was proud of what his team accomplished this season and looks forward to next season.

"I feel really bad for the seniors," White said. "They really did well."

Senior Connor Walsh started the game for St. Monica and cruised through the first inning. He began the second inning well by forcing Aquinas' Jonathon Ruiz to fly out to center field. The second batter, Jimmy Jones, followed and quickly hit a ground ball to third baseman Kyle Schwan, but he was unable to field it cleanly, allowing Jones to reach first on an error.

Aquinas wasted little time capitalizing on the miscue. The next man up, Ryan Smith cracked a double to left field scoring Jones making the score 1-0. Walsh forced the next man up to fly to left field, but that success was fleeting. Jimmy Seter followed with an RBI single bringing home Smith and giving the Falcons a 2-0 lead.

"We usually rely on our defense keeping us in games," St. Monica's Jose Munoz said. "Our errors gave them extra outs that they took advantage of."

Already leading 2-0 in the second inning with two outs and Seter on first, the Falcons

SEE MARINERS PAGE 12





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A storm is coming

Editor:

A year and a half before Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, the Army Corps of Engineers asked the Bush administration to repair the aging levees, because the levees were insufficient to hold the lake if a big enough storm hit New Orleans. The Bush administration said no because the repair of the levees was cost prohibitive. The result was the flooding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit because the levees broke. The people who were able to get out of New Orleans did. The rest suffered. Twelve-hundred people died.

We have a storm coming to Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. That storm is autism. One in 150 children are diagnosed with autism. The levee of special education is broken in our district and it needs repair. The district needs to invest in programs and the hiring and retention of well-trained staff. Without rebuilding the special education levee, the storm of autism will overtake our district, because there is no cure for this disability. The initial blocks for rebuilding are free. They include creating a policy for treating people with civility and respect (this was also one of Lou Barber's recommendations) and equitable access to special education services for all (recommended by the Working Group). Board policy states that the SMMUSD strives to promote social justice. The district needs to honor that policy by supporting the rebuilding of special education.

Debra Shepherd
Santa Monica

Take it public

Editors:

The insurance industry and their allies [have] promised President Obama that they'll cut healthcare cost inflation by 1.5 percent a year. The insurance companies want us to believe this is a big deal, but it's not.

Heathcare costs are actually rising by more than 6 percent a year, and the industry is only promising voluntary efforts to trim that.

This is a disingenuous attempt by the health insurance companies to derail healthcare reform we need.

The only way to make reform work for patients and payers is to allow the option of a public insurance plan.

A fair, competitive public insurance plan will compel the insurance industry to find the savings they've promised, and give Americans another choice if they don't. Obama and lots of congressional leaders have committed to that in the past, but insurance companies are trying to talk them out of it. Congress and the president should not listen to the insurance companies. They should listen to voters. Congress and the president must pass healthcare reform this year that gives us the option of a public plan.

Robert Frcek
Santa Monica

Torture photos pose threats

Editor:

Those unconcerned over Obama's reversal of his decision to release hundreds of photos that depict torture at U.S. hands probably missed a one paragraph item in the World Briefing section, page A6 in the New York Times (May 12, 2009); "United Arab Emirates: Sheik Held Over Torture Video." When a video surfaced depicting the brother of the ruler of Abu Dhabi, president of the seven-member United Arab Emirates federation, torturing an Afghan grain merchant, he was detained pending the outcome of a criminal investigation. Contrast this with our CIA erasing videotapes, and the president we elect on the pledge to bring sunshine explains that releasing the photos might have negative consequences for our troops. Confirming to the world we are a nation unwilling and incapable of facing the evidence of our crimes will not serve to protect troops carrying out any mission we attempt to portray as just.

Torture is alive and well at Guantanamo under Obama. Little wonder we can't compel him to release the photos, let alone bring those responsible to justice, which is what he fears their release will require, more than consequences for our troops.

Charles Fredricks
Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California for sale

THE FACT THAT CALIFORNIA IS IN BAD shape financially does not make it unique. What makes it unique is Gov. Schwarzenegger's suggestion to help get California back on its sandaled feet. He recently proposed that the state sell off some of its most famous properties: San Quentin Prison, the Los Angeles Coliseum, the Cow Palace, Del Mar Race Track, and various state buildings. He explained that it's just like some people in the current recession having to sell their homes or luxury items like boats, second cars, and motorcycles. He wants to have a big garage sale, and even sell the state's garages.

I'm not an economist. I have trouble balancing my checkbook. (You remember checkbooks. Those are things that everybody used to carry with them when people kept track of how much they were spending). However, even a layman like me can see a big problem with the governor's proposed sale. First of all, they'd have to find folks to buy these properties. If the people down your block are putting off painting their fence because of the recession, I don't think they're going to plunk down $400 million for the Coliseum.

As you know, we just had a "special election." California has a "special election" slightly more often than it has Sig Alerts. We vote on just about everything, while the legislators … actually, I have no idea what the legislators do. Anyway, surprise, surprise, Californians didn't vote to raise their taxes or pay the state's bills in some other way. Schwarzenegger anticipated this possibility when he suggested selling off some of the state's most valuable real estate. California is in big trouble. Much more money is going out than coming in. And the state doesn't even have a charge account at The Gap.

The property that is most intriguing to me is San Quentin. As you probably know, it is located in Marin County on scenic waterfront property north of San Francisco. That's right. For years, prisoners at the Q have probably had a better view than you. So I guess the idea is that if someone bought the property and developed it, they could build some luxury housing that would be quite desirable. Who wouldn't want to live in a place called something like, "Death Row Duplexes?"

Or maybe some super rich person would buy San Quentin and keep it as is. They could use it as a place of business. I'll bet employees would be kept in line with such incentives as, "If you make your quota this month, you'll get an actual seat for your toilet."

Most people think the governor's big sale won't really happen. He and the Legislature will probably figure out a more reasonable way to get the state solvent again. Maybe they'll hold a giant car wash.

CALIFORNIA IS IN BIG TROUBLE. MUCH MORE MONEY IS GOING OUT THAN COMING IN. AND THE STATE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A CHARGE ACCOUNT AT THE GAP.

But even if the Cal-Sale doesn't happen, it's a provocative idea, and California's certainly not the only place with famous landmarks. So maybe other areas will entertain the "everything's for sale" idea. And it could work. You see, there's one factor that you might not have thought of.

You can't overestimate the number of individuals who like to brag about their stuff. If that couple you know is hard to take now, talking about their new plasma TV or their front-loading washing machine, can you imagine what they'd be like if they owned the Statue of Liberty or Carlsbad Caverns?

The states or the federal government could set up rules so that, let's say, people couldn't buy Santa Monica's beaches and pave them over to make a huge used Chrysler lot. The government could set it up so that whoever buys the properties would have to lease them back to the government immediately. That way, the public would still get to use them as always, but Mr. or Mrs. Big Shot could still brag at parties. I can almost hear one of them saying, "Yes, we were going to buy a summer home up north, but instead we bought the Grand Canyon. It's so much easier to maintain. We don't have to dust."

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

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The Q Line

Holding pattern over jet ban

This past week, Q-line asked:
A U.S. appellate judge upheld an injunction last week restricting City Hall from enforcing its ban on certain jets at Santa Monica Airport. An FAA hearing officer also ruled that the ban violated the city's agreement with the agency. Should City Hall press its case further and perhaps take it all the way to federal court?
Here are your responses:

"OF COURSE CITY HALL SHOULD absolutely continue to press its case regarding the jet ban at the airport, even to the highest court in the land. Please take care of our citizens. The noise, the pollution, the big safety issues are an incredible violation of our citizens' rights. The whole issue is absurd."

"PRESSING A CASE TO FEDERAL COURT is very costly. Especially when suing a branch of the federal government. Keep in mind that both the city of Santa Monica and the federal government will be using taxpayers' money to argue those relevant issues in hand. Prudence dictates that those residents living within close range of the Santa Monica Airport takeoff and landing pattern form a coalition of homeowners to argue their costly grievance in the federal court bureaucracy. Trust me, it will be very costly. Legal fees will be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, and in the end, the FAA will win."

"THE AIRPORT WAS BUILT BACK WHEN jet planes were something only in Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon. There were mostly farms of carnations and vegetables around it. Over the years, we've had several small planes crash around town, but a jet crashing in a populated area would be a terrible disaster. On the other hand, our stupid City Council is famous for squandering money on frivolous projects, and fighting the FAA would cost plenty."

"I FEEL THAT WITH ALL THE ACCIDENTS that have continuously happened with jet aircraft, there is no way that City Hall shouldn't press its case further. In other words, yes, absolutely. They should take the case all the way to federal court because the FAA is clearly not putting safety before access."

"YES, I LIVE IN SANTA MONICA, I LIVE ON the Santa Monica Airport bike path and I definitely think City Hall should press its case all the way. They have to to uphold the ban on C and D jets."

"I'M A RESIDENT OF SANTA MONICA FOR 35 years and I think that the city should definitely press the case further."

"I AGREE WITH FIGHTING FOR THE LARGE jet ban but sadly for different reasons than City Hall will have. First you have the homeowners of Sunset Park. They are recipients of tremendous noise and jet exhaust. Then you have the millionaires of large jets. These owners care little for Santa Monica. Last you have the City Council who cares even less but will fight the FAA because it will cause class envy throughout our town, especially in Sunset Park. In the end, the council will gain more control through voter anger against the airport. Anger confuses people and like the magician's sleight of hand, City Hall yet again will confuse the unenlightened while they slip something important past us."

"I AM IN FAVOR OF ENFORCING THE BAN on jets at the Santa Monica Airport. I'm also in favor of taking it to the federal court. I think it is the jets' fuel and the jets themselves that pose a tremendous health and safety threat to the community. And it is not what the airport was intended for when it was built."

"A STRONGER COURSE OF ACTION would have been to ban air-polluting aircraft. There is not one word about any air pollution safeguards in the city's agreement with the FAA. Ban the air-polluting aircraft and all your C and D aircraft will also be gone. Both the FAA and the city of Santa Monica have been remiss in addressing this critical health and quality of life issue. What the city is arguing now is speculative. Air pollution as a nuisance has already been proven and therefore a stronger case to argue."

"YES, YES, YES! CITY HALL SHOULD press this case further, and take it all the way to the United States Supreme Court. As a resident of Santa Monica who lives right near that airport I think it's disgusting, it's smelly, noisy and I wish they would shut down that Santa Monica Airport."

"YES, CITY HALL SHOULD PRESS THE case as far as possible, to the Supreme Court if necessary. But hopefully the FAA wakes up before that."

"YES, BY ALL MEANS, CONTINUE THIS struggle with the FAA until the city's needs are met. Over-stuffing Santa Monica with excessive, out-of-scale building has already served to much-frustrate our street travels and to degrade the quality of lives here. Staying equally in denial about the eventual killing disaster coming from use of inappropriately-sized aircraft on our tiny airfield is comparably harmful and silly. When, if ever, in this little town will logic about the limits to growth and wise use of space be respected over the wishes of self-interest, privilege and greed? Oh, and let's not forget that other self-sabotaging game in play, that ill-conceived, too-big train line now in the works coming this way. Whose city is this anyway?"

"NO, IT'S A WASTE OF TIME AND MONEY. Let the airport be and spend the time on more important issues."

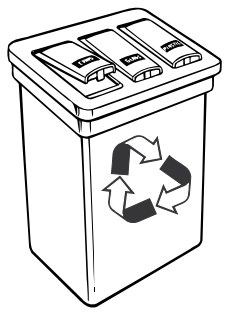
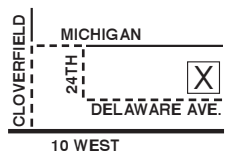
"CITY HALL SHOULD DEFINITELY PRESS its case all the way, including federal courts. Too many lives are at stake, both along the approach to the airport and the massive area to the west of the runway. The jets and prop planes do not follow the recommended flight path so a broad area of Santa Monica and Venice and Mar Vista is at risk."

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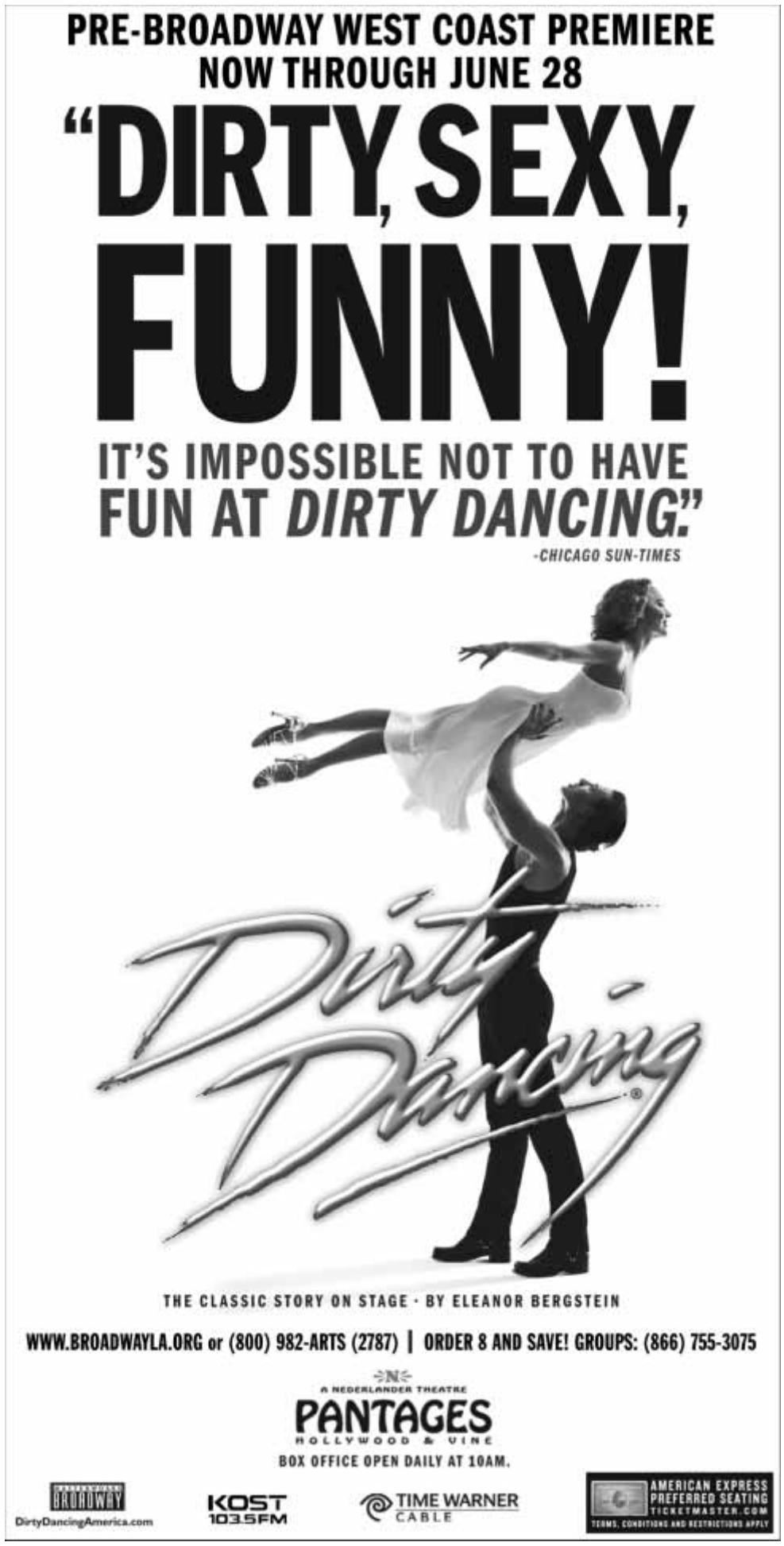

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Cocktails offer a sip of history

CARYN BROOKS
For The Associated Press

On the American cocktail scene, newer, faster and cheaper is giving way to older, slower and it's worth it.

Pre-Prohibition era cocktails — sort of the barkeep's equivalent of the horse and buggy — have begun elbowing their way onto big city bar scenes and into numerous cookbooks and magazines.

"There's a trend in general toward classics and I've definitely noticed more classics on menus throughout the city," said Alyssa Shepherd, a member of the Boston chapter of Ladies United for the Preservation of Endangered Cocktails.

"It's worth bringing these drinks back because they're about balance and flavor," she said.

Founded in Pittsburgh in 2007 — now with branches around the country — Shepherd's group describes itself as "a classic cocktail society dedicated to breeding, raising and releasing nearly extinct drinks into the wild."

It's a popular mission but a tough trend to measure.

Indicators include spikes in sales of old-time liquors, such as rye whiskey, which jumped 30 percent from 2007 to 2008.

"The entire spirits industry on average sees an increase of 6 percent per year," said Danielle Eddy of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States. Rye, a key ingredient in many old-fangled cocktails, hasn't been popular since the Great Depression.

"For any particular spirit to see as great of an increase as 30 percent, you know that there's a lot of interest behind that."

Much of the credit for the rise for of the classic cocktail goes to David Wondrich, author of "Imbibe!" The book follows the adventures of one of America's pioneering men of mixology, Jerry Thomas, who wrote the nation's first bartending guide.

Written in 1862, the guide has become a lodestar for old-school cocktail fans across the country.

"Drinks back then were like Italian food," Wondrich said. "Italian food uses a few basic ingredients and a few simple preparations. But the ingredients have to be the best and then the simple preparations work."

Classics are drinks whose formulas were concocted before Prohibition or just after. Famous ones include Manhattans, Tom Collins and Juleps, with lesser known ones brought out of retirement from old recipe books. Bars sticking to the original plans use only fresh ingredients as they did in the old days, some going as far as making their own bitters and grenadine.

Wondrich has become one of the scene's most prominent experts. Requests for him to speak have increased so much during the past five years he has to turn down more than he accepts.

"It's a revolution," Wondrich said recently at The Clover Club, a throwback bar in Brooklyn where the cocktail menu has paragraph-deep descriptions of drink types.

"And like most revolutions it moves in cells at first," he said.

In this case, those cells are the passionate young bartenders who turn fellow workers and customers on to the advantages of these kinds of drinks.

> **"THERE'S A TREND IN GENERAL TOWARD CLASSICS AND I'VE DEFINITELY NOTICED MORE CLASSICS ON MENUS THROUGHOUT THE CITY."**
>
> **Alyssa Shepherd**
> Member of the Boston chapter of Ladies United for the Preservation of Endangered Cocktails

Back then, drinks were formulated so that imbibers actually tasted the alcohol in the beverage; during Prohibition the quality of available alcohol diminished and people found ways to hide the taste. That trend continued past Prohibition and continues in many modern bars today. A return to the classics celebrates and marquees the taste of good quality liquor.

At The Clover Club, guests pick drinks under headings such as "Sours & Daisies," "Collins & Fizzes," "Old Fashioned, Flips & Sangarees" and "Royales." For the uninitiated, flips are made with a whole egg and royales are doused with Champagne or sparkling wine.

Want to catch one of these activist bartenders promoting an old-school agenda in action? Head to Alembic in San Francisco where bar manager Daniel Hyatt has split the cocktail menu into two camps: The Canon and The New School.

From The Canon you can get a simple bourbon Old-fashioned, here described as "Nothing more than a slug of good whiskey on the rocks, with a couple of dashes of bitters, a little sugar, and a twist of lemon peel to take the edge off."

Hyatt said that most of his customers appreciate Alembic's differences.

"There's always going to be people who come in and say,

Oh my God, it takes forever to get a drink here.' But the really exciting thing is when people pop in and don't know where they're coming, and they say, 'Wow, I've never seen anyone put so much care into a drink.'"

One way Hyatt shares the old-school playbook with his customers is a popular monthly Stomping Through The Savoy night co-hosted by Bar Area blogger Erik Ellestad. Ellestad is in the midst of an almost three year (and counting) project to make every cocktail in "The Savoy Cocktail Book," which he documents on his blog, www.underhill-lounge.com.

Savoy night at Alembic consists of customers leafing through the hundreds of recipes in the book and picking one for the bar to make at their own risk. While some things were definitely better back then, it's not a hard and fast rule.

"There are some drinks in there that call for absinthe as either a sweetener or as a bittering agent that are pretty disgusting," Hyatt said. "I'll tell you if I've made it before and it's disgusting but if you insist on it, it's yours."



Kitchen Vixen

Elizabeth Brown
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Home is where the (healthy) heart is

I HAVE BEEN ON THE EAST COAST FOR the past week visiting friends and family who I have not seen in several years. I've known most of my friends over 25 years. This is difficult to believe since I feel like I'm only 25 years old.

But it's been fun to see familiar faces and talk about where all the time has gone.

I met some of my friends while working at a gym when I was 18. It was the same gym where Rocky Johnson and the Samoans trained. I remember joking with them about the fact that they were professional wrestlers. I would say, "You can't make a living as a wrestler." They were very nice men who loved to joke around.

I also remember meeting Rocky's son, Dwayne Johnson (better known as "The Rock"), when he was in high school. He was very quiet and a little shy back then. He certainly proved that one can make a very good living as a professional wrestler.

Working as a personal trainer spawned my career in nutrition. I found that I could teach people how to move their bodies, but I didn't know what to tell them to eat to fuel their bodies.

So I elected to study nutrition in college. I also became a weight management specialist, a diabetes educator and attended an holistic culinary school.

I have lived on the East Coast, West Coast and the Gulf Coast. I've worked with people from all over the world and have learned how food affects and shapes people's lives. I have seen my friends and family change over the years as a natural part of the aging process and as a result of a stressful environment and lifestyle choices.

During my trip home, I've been trying to help those people I love most by sharing my recipes and nutrition knowledge, but as most of you know, change doesn't happen overnight. Change is a process that must be implemented one day, one recipe or one little piece of information at a time.

While flying from Atlanta to Allentown, I spoke with a gentleman who had been married for more than 40 years. He admitted that he is lost in the kitchen since his wife's passing. I shared with him a very simple baked fish recipe.

At Mother's Day dinner I talked to my family about the importance of omega-3 fats. With a strong history of heart disease and arthritis, they were all ready to take action to get more omega-3s each day.

I spent time with my friend Samina Wahhab, a prominent plastic surgeon with two young children and an amazingly balanced life. We talked about how to get her children to eat more vegetables. Together we made spaghetti and meatballs with a hidden green vegetable for extra nutrition.

I made an orange arugula salad for my BFF Kara. And I'll be taking a quinoa tabouli salad when we visit family in Delaware (see blog for recipes).

Although no single recipe can erase a lifetime of less than perfect eating habits and lifestyle choices, at least we can all make some positive changes today. If someone had told me that I would make a living writing about my loved ones, I would have said, "You can't make a living writing about your everyday life!"

I was wrong.

How lucky am I?

Breaded and Baked White Fish

One pound thin white fish: sole, flounder or tilapia
2 cups brown rice or corn flour or whole grain flour of your choice
1 tbs. Italian seasoning
1/2 tsp. sea salt
1/2 tsp. black pepper
1 egg

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Coat baking tray with canola oil. Combine flour and seasonings in a bowl. Beat egg in a separate bowl. Dip fish in egg one piece at a time. Dip in flour. Coat both sides evenly. Set on oiled tray. Bake 10 minutes then flip. Bake 10 more minutes, remove from oven. Serve with green salad.

Spaghetti & Meatballs

2 slices whole grain bread
8 ounces lean beef
1/8 onion, minced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 cup fresh, chopped spinach
1 tbs. fresh or 1 tsp. dried basil
1/2 tsp. dried oregano
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
Pinch cayenne
1 egg, beaten

Sauce

1/2 cup vegetable broth
1 small onion, fine dice
2 red peppers, fine dice
28 ounce can diced tomatoes
6 ounce can tomato paste

Make by hand or use a processor. Crumble bread. Add meat and mix. Add onion, garlic, spinach, basil, oregano, nutmeg, cayenne and egg. Mix thoroughly and form into balls. Brown meatballs in canola oil. Remove meatballs. Set aside. Add broth to deglaze pan. Add onion, peppers, diced tomatoes and paste. Add meatballs. Simmer 30 minutes. Add more liquid as needed. Salt and pepper to taste. Serve with pasta.

Visit ELIZABETH'S blog for more articles and recipes, kitchensciencevixen.blogspot.com, or e-mail her at eat2liv@earthlink.net.

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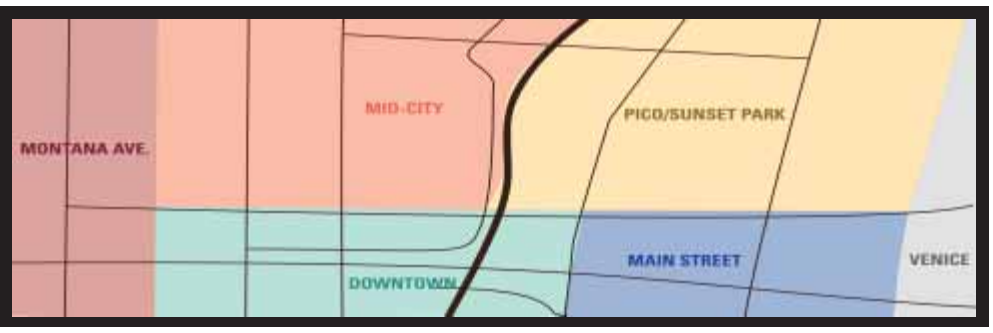
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- Percentage of local news carried
- Fiscal intregity
- Reputation of publication

In no case shall the contract prices for such publication exceed the customary rates charged by such newspaper for the publication of other comparable legal notices. The City reserves the right to reject all bids.

Bids should be submitted in writing to the **Office of the City Manager, Attn: Newspaper Advertising Bid, 1685 Main Street #209, PO Box 2200, Santa Monica, CA 90407-2200** and received no later than **Friday, May 29, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.**

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITY HALL

Step up to the plate

The Santa Monica Social Services Commission is looking for two new members.

Applications for appointment to two seats on the commission are due by noon, Tuesday, June 16.

The commission, established in 1982, is charged with preserving and enhancing the quality of life in the community. The commission, through ongoing dialogue, outreach, education and advocacy, advises and assists the City Council and staff with needs assessment, priorities, planning, and budgetary implications for social service programs.

Applicants should live or work in Santa Monica and must be committed to improving the provision of social services through advocacy, education, and related efforts. The commission meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m., and the public is invited to participate.

With a total of nine members, the commission recommends to the City Council policies to guide the provision of social services to residents, and reviews and comments on procedures developed by the city manager for the development of a comprehensive delivery system to provide social services. The commission also recommends to the council specific social service programs necessary to serve the unmet needs of residents and reviews the city manager's proposed budget for social services.

Further, commissioners review the continually evolving role of the city within the county of Los Angeles, and seeks to ensure that other regional entities are doing their fair share to achieve regional goals and objectives for social services.

Each year commissioners set key goals, objectives and tasks aimed at improving the provision of social services in Santa Monica. The commission also attends the "Celebrating Success" breakfast hosted by the Westside Shelter and Hunger Coalition and participates in the Annual Black Student Conference held at Santa Monica College, the Juneteenth Celebration at Virginia Avenue Park, and the Santa Monica Festival, in addition to many other community events.

Application forms and information are available from the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 1685 Main St., Room 102, by calling (310) 458-8211, or online at www.smgov.net/cityclerk/boards.

DAILY PRESS

DOWNTOWN

Protecting mother nature

Councilmember Kevin McKeown has been honored as an "Environmental Champion" by the Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters.

The league cited McKeown's accomplishments in initiating and promoting a broad range of laws, policies, and programs that create a cleaner, healthier environment and promote a more sustainable way of life.

McKeown downplayed his own role, and accepted the award on behalf of the Santa Monica community and its history of environmental leadership, including former mayor and 2008 league award recipient Denny Zane.

Past Santa Monica leaders like Zane "created programs for recycling, alternative fuel vehicles, Farmers' Markets, cleaning up Santa Monica Bay ... it is on their work that we build," McKeown said.

McKeown, who serves as City Council liaison to the Santa Monica Task Force on the Environment, pointed proudly to the success of ongoing efforts.

"This week, we complete work on a new runoff pipe at Santa Monica Pier that will eliminate one of the last leaks in our system, making the Santa Monica Pier area newly swimmable and surfable."

Santa Monica's greatest achievement, according to McKeown, is that once-controversial local policies often end up adopted more widely for everyone's benefit.

"In 2003 Santa Monica banned smoking in our parks. In 2004, we banned smoking on our beaches. Last week, the state Senate passed and sent to the Assembly a bill to ban smoking in all California parks and beaches, statewide," McKeown said.

The league holds its annual Smith-Weiss Environmental Champion award event each spring as a way to bring supporters together and recognize individuals and organizations that uphold the league's mission. It endorses, supports, and helps elect candidates for local public office who promote the conservation of natural resources, and a healthy environment throughout Los Angeles County. In its 34-year history, the league has helped to elect more than 100 environmental leaders to local offices.

DP

Vikings' season lives on

FROM **SAMOHI** PAGE 3

against Knight on Tuesday, advances to the second round where it will play the winner of the Orange-Los Altos game. Results from that game were not available at presstime.

"We're feeling pretty good right now," Duron said. "These kids are carrying me right now.

"We did what we've been doing all year."

Senior Logan Whitchurch paced the offense all day. He went 2-for-4 on the day and scored a pair of runs. Closer Drew Hammond came in to pitch the seventh and made it a little interesting.

Nursing a 3-2 lead, Hammond hit the first man he faced. The next San Gorgonio batter hit a sharp grounder to second baseman Walker Dove who made a dazzling stop to begin a double play. Hammond hit the next man up, but retired the final batter to secure the victory.

"Like I've said all along, we can play with anybody," Duron said.

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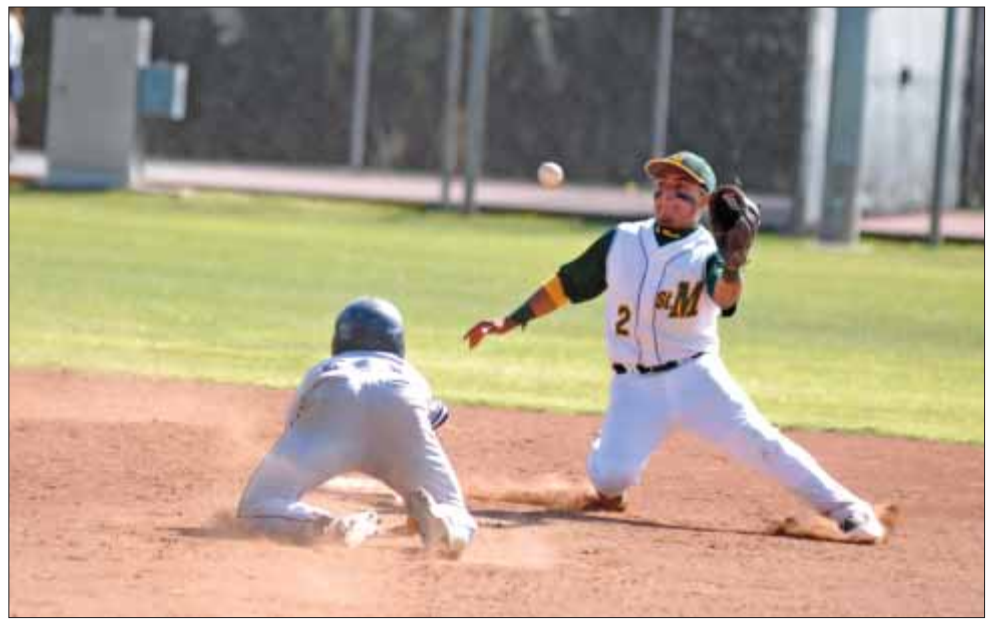
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2007 Audi A4 2.0T Sedan	Silver, Leather, Moonroof, VIN#7A058109	$18,994
2008 Volvo C30 T5 1.0 Hatchback	CD/MP3, Alloys, A/C, Only 1,358 miles, 1 only, VIN#82069986	$20,991
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2007 Infiniti FX35 SUV	Sport Pkg, MP3, Bluetooth, Leather, Dual Pwr Seats, 16k miles, VIN#7X102036	$25,994
2006 Volvo C70 T5 Convertible	Hard Top, 2DR, Auto, Climate/Prem Pkg, Prem Sound, VIN#6J006116, Certified	$27,554

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Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

CLOSE CALL: **St. Monica's Jose Munoz tries to make a play on Aquinas' Jimmy Seter on Friday at Marine Park. St. Monica lost the CIF-SS first round playoff game 2-8.**

Mariners were league champs in '09

FROM **MARINERS** PAGE 3

again forced St. Monica to come through with a defensive stop, but the Mariners couldn't oblige. Chris Beauchamp hit a single to right field that advanced Seter to third, but the Mariners attempting to get Beauchamp at first over threw the ball allowing Seter to come around with what would become the winning run making the score 3-0.

From there, the Falcons' Tyler Stirewalt, who has committed to play quarterback for Fresno State, held the Mariners in check for most of the afternoon with his only mistake being a two-RBI triple by Munoz in the bottom of the third inning. Stirewalt finished the day with nine strikeouts, three walks and just four hits in five innings pitched.

"My day started with great words of encouragement from my coaches," Stirewalt said. "I had a great defense behind me and I was locating my pitches."

Aquinas moves on to face the winner of the Woodcrest Christian-Montclair Prep game on Tuesday. The results of that game were unavailable at presstime.

daniela@smdp.com







ONE, TWO, THREE

Benjamin Brayfield *news@smdp.com*

Senior citizens participated in a body-mind wellness class at the Senior Center on Friday. Spa Body Makeover Co-Owners Kris Reid and Alisa Daglio taught participants basic exercise techniques and nutritional tips on how to maintain a healthy and balanced body.

Species highlights need for new flora

FROM **PLANT** PAGE 3

spread. It's just that we've never come across it here before."

Valois explained that the plant, called the whisker brush (Leptosiphon ciliatus), is typically found in considerably higher elevations, ranging from 5,000 to 7,000 feet and is not common in Southern California.

The plant poses no harm to any native species, Valois said, but its discovery does raise questions about how exactly the plant came to inhabit the Santa Monica ecosystem.

"Because this plant is very widespread, it has probably just been overlooked during past surveys," Valois said, "If you wanted to be dramatic you could say it's a shock. We think we know the range and we go out and look for certain things, but we sometimes find species we had never seen here before.

"One of the things it tells us, though, is that there is stuff going on in our ecosystems that we just don't know about."

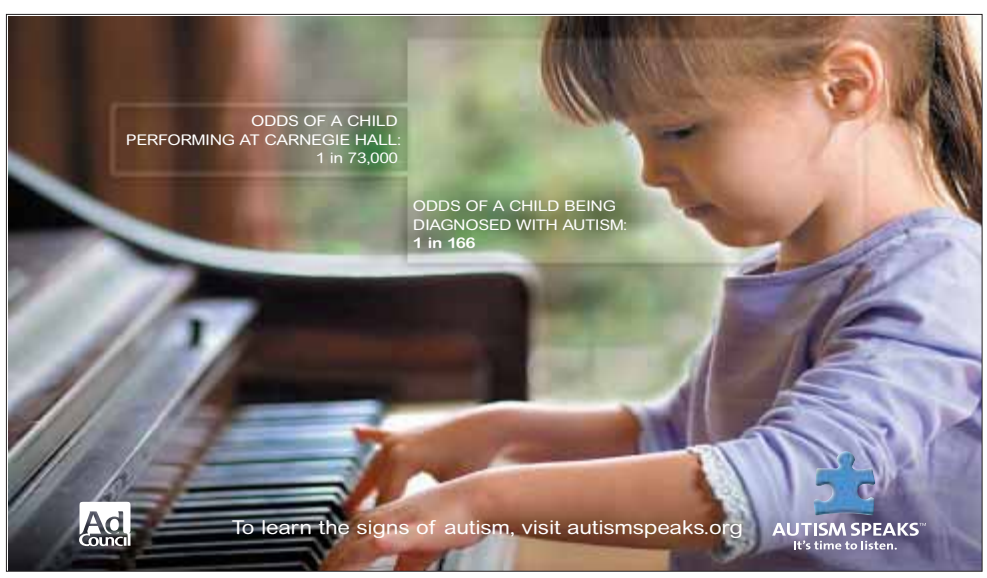
Valois also explained that the discovery is not necessarily due to any change in climate, stating that the migration of the plant likely happened with the help of a bird or other animal. The survey work that Valois and others with the park service do in the area serves the mission of the national organization, developing an understanding of the different species in the region so that measurements of ecological change can eventually be made off of the data set.

"Things like global warming and development of lands are having a huge impact on the ecosystem," he said. "But in order to know how much of an impact this has, we need to know what is there now."

Helping to assemble such a data set is UCLA Professor of ecology and environmental biology Arthur Gibson, who, along with colleague Dr. Barry Prigge, is working on what will become the fourth revision to the Santa Monica Mountains/Simi Hills flora.

The flora, a list and description of all the plants growing in a specified area, was first prepared in the 1960s by botanists at UCLA and was revised once in 1977 and once in 1986, Gibson said, adding that the current revision is actually a complete reproduction of the flora data set and has been in progress since 2000. The team hopes to finish and publish findings sometime next year.

news@smdp.com



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CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

BID #2979 – PROVIDE MATERIALS, LABOR, AND EQUIPMENT TO INSTALL NETTING ON THE PIER.

- A mandatory job walk will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 9:00 AM Pacific Time. Bidders are to meet Bill Bollinger at the Santa Monica Pier, on the north side of the Pier Carousel Building.
  Late arrivals may be disqualified from bidding.
  Please refer to the bid packet for further details.
  The bid packet can be downloaded at:
  http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/biddtl.cfm?BidNo=386&Status=Bidding
- Submission Deadline is June 17, 2009 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

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

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



Parents concerned about cuts to special education budget

FROM CLASSES PAGE 1

months due to state funding cuts.

Perhaps the most concerning to parents is the reduction of one house at Santa Monica High School, which has successfully operated its small learning communities concept through the five-year-old house system.

The Samohi organization is structured so that all students are assigned to one of six houses, each of which has a principal, advisors, outreach specialists and other staff. The houses are located in different buildings and are designed to allow students to take a full schedule of courses in the same place, though many do have classes all over campus.

District staff looked at various ways of altering the house system to save money, ultimately settling on cutting one house, which would result in the loss of one house principal, two advisors, one outreach specialist, an administrative assistant, senior office specialist, security officer, half a librarian and 1.2 teacher leaders, all for a savings of about $700,000. The change is expected to increase the student to adviser ratio from 241-to-1 to 289-to-1.

Superintendent Tim Cuneo pointed out that the enrollment at the high school has decreased since the house system began, going from more than 3,400 students in the 2003-04 school year to approximately 2,900 this year, a drop of about 14.7 percent.

"We are prepared to work with the principals and administrative staff at the schools to make sure there is a smooth transition," Cuneo said.

Samohi Principal Hugo Pedroza said that that while the house proposal might not be the most popular, he is ready to back it and work with his teachers to ensure that change causes as little disruption as possible.

"I urged my folks at Samohi to make sure that we do not allow this to break our unity as an entity … because there is a danger for that to happen," he said.

Several parents expressed concerns about the impact that the reduction would have on students who are the most underserved in the community, including those who come from Title 1 elementary and middle schools that are on the free and reduced lunch program.

Laurie Lieberman, a parent at Samohi, said that the bigger the student population is at each school, the further the system gets from its intended purpose of creating small learning communities.

"You've got to remember that small really is beautiful in this case," she said. "It's in fact the primary reason that many people send their kids to private schools."

The proposal received support from Dona Davoodi, the Samohi student body president, who said the board should place emphasis on quality rather than quantity.

"Keep our school's quality intact by keeping the quality faculty members whose main focus is to be directly involved with the students rather than save all of the houses and thus letting go of the fundamental faculty members," she said.

While the proposal generally received support from the school board, Maria Leon-Vazquez said that district staff should find more ways to save money and look at all of the schools, including those in Malibu.

"Let's look at the whole district," she said.

All schools will be seeing some budgetary impact through the increase in class sizes. All classes in kindergarten through third grade will grow by three students, while secondary school classes will increase from a student-to-teacher staffing ratio of 31-to-1 to 32-to-1. The exception is John Adams Middle School, which will go from a student-to-teacher ratio of 29-to-1 to 30-to-1.

McKinley and John Muir Elementary Schools will see a decrease in their fourth and fifth grade classes by five students, while the staffing ratio will remain the same in those grade levels for Will Rogers Elementary and Edison Language Academy. All four are Title 1 schools.

OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL ED CUTS

It was about a month ago that an ad hoc committee of parents and teachers, charged with the task of reviewing old studies on special education, came up with a set of recommendations to improve the troubled program, measures that would require the district to spend quite a bit of money.

That was what several parents concerned about the proposal to cut $700,000 from the special education budget pointed out to school board members, asking that several key recommendations from the Special Education Collaborative Working Group, including the hiring of integration director, be adopted.

Officials said the district has over the past several years overbudgeted special education and that aligning the budget with historical spending for the department would yield a savings of about $700,000.

But some parents said they don't understand how the district arrived at the $700,000 figure, adding that special education finances, especially when the department was run by former Deputy Superintendent Tim Walker, has been a "black box."

The Special Education District Advisory Committee recently formed a subcommittee focused on examining the finances of the troubled department. Along with the Financial Oversight Committee, the two groups requested that district officials provide a detailed analysis supporting the district's conclusion that it could save approximately $700,000 by aligning the budget with historical expenditures for special education.

The groups also asked that the district back its claim that aligning the budget with historical spending would also yield savings in legal costs and instructional assistants given that data provided in the 2008 audit on special education and other district financial documents contradict it.

"Special education has been donating a minimum of $700,000 a year for the past three years to the district," Lee Jones, a member of the Special Education District Advisory Committee, said. "The special education community had no knowledge of this since we were being told there was no money — none — to build internal capacity that would allow the district to provide necessary instruction for students with learning disabilities."

melodyh@smdp.com

71st Annual Memorial Day Observance



Monday May 25 at 11 AM

Woodlawn Cemetery 1847 14th St. (Corner of Pico & 14th) In Santa Monica

In addition to honoring our nation's brave men and women in uniform who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for the freedom we all enjoy today, the service will also commemorate the 40th anniversary of the passing of Eugene Biscailuz, former Sheriff of L.A.County and First Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol. He was a long time resident of Santa Monica who is interred at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Some highlights of the program include:

- Patriotic music provided by a local talented school choir and high school marching band
- An exciting flyover of military aircraft
- A dove release
- 21-gun salute
- Keynote address by Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca.

For more information call 310-458-8717

Event parking is available at the parking structure at Santa Monica College at 16th Street and Pico Boulevard and college parking lot located at the southeast corner of Pico Boulevard and 14th Street. The Big Blue Bus will be providing shuttles to and from Woodlawn Cemetery from 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. There is no charge for parking or the shuttle. There will be NO parking allowed on the grounds of Woodlawn Cemetery.

California faces its day of fiscal reckoning

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO The day of reckoning that California has been warned about for years has arrived.

The longest recession in generations and the defeat this week of a package of budget-balancing ballot measures are expected to lead to state spending cuts so deep and so painful that they could rewrite the social contract between California and its citizens. They could also force a fundamental rethinking of the proper role of government in the Golden State.

"The voters are getting what they asked for, but I'm not sure at the end of the day they're going to like what they asked for," said Jim Earp, executive director of the California Alliance for Jobs, which represents the hard-hit construction industry. "I think we've crossed a threshold in many ways."

California is looking at a budget deficit projected at more than $24 billion when the new fiscal year starts in July. That is more than one-quarter of the state's general fund.

This week, voters said they no longer want the Legislature to balance budgets with higher taxes, complicated transfer schemes or borrowing that pushes California's financial problems off into the distant future. In light of that, Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has made it clear he intends to close the gap almost entirely through drastic spending cuts.

The governor's cutbacks could include ending the state's main welfare program for the poor, eliminating health coverage for about 1.5 million poor children, halting cash grants for about 77,000 college students, shortening the school year by seven days, laying off thousands of state workers and teachers, slashing money for state parks and releasing thousands of prisoners before their sentences are finished.

"I understand that these cuts are very painful and they affect real lives," Schwarzenegger said. "This is the harsh reality and the reality that we face. Sacramento is not Washington — we cannot print our own money. We can only spend what we have."

He also has advocated selling state assets to raise cash, including the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and San Quentin State Prison.

The Democrats who control the Legislature do not want major spending cuts, but so far they don't have a plan for closing the deficit. And if their solution is higher taxes and more borrowing, they will probably not have enough Republican votes to get the two-thirds approval needed for passage.

The crisis is a sort of political comeuppance for Schwarzenegger, who took over a state with a projected $16 billion gap in 2003 and promised to end California's "crazy deficit spending."

The gap has two primary causes: The state has been living beyond its means for years by spending generously on all sorts of programs that the voters, the politicians and the special interests wanted. And the recession has hammered California's economy.

Personal income declined this year for the first time since 1938 and unemployment is 11 percent, one of the highest rates in the nation. Nearly $13 billion in tax increases and $15 billion in cuts enacted earlier this year, as well as billions in federal stimulus money, have not been enough to make up for the drop-off in revenue.

"This is the year everything has fallen apart," said outgoing Assembly Minority Leader Mike Villines, a Republican from the Central Valley. "We don't have an alternative. We're literally at the day of reckoning and have to cut it all out."

The drastic cuts that appear to lie ahead will, by accident, accomplish the stark reduction in state government that many Republicans have long advocated.

"We should have been limiting the growth of government for years," Villines said.

The crisis also has prompted talk of a complete overhaul of the way California government operates.

A group of business leaders and good-government groups has begun the process of calling for a convention to rewrite the California Constitution.

A separate commission is expected to release a proposal to rework the state's tax structure, which is vulnerable to booms and busts in California's economy because it relies heavily on high-income earners. The state also has few limits on what state government can spend and a small rainy day fund that can easily be raided by the politicians.

Former Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg, a Democrat who has joined a group seeking to change the state's budget system, said too many services that used to be performed by local governments have been taken over by the state because of a landmark 1978 ballot measure that drastically limited property tax revenue. Hertzberg said the programs, and the money, need to be sent back to counties and cities.

"The real problem of California is that we need to bring government closer to the people, so that the role of the state is much narrower. We need to focus on big-picture stuff," he said.

In the near term, the huge cuts that are about to hit will probably affect nearly every one of the state's 38 million residents. Schwarzenegger's latest budget proposal, for example, would eliminate health care coverage for more than 2 million people, about 1.5 million of them children, said Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access California.

"It would place their families in financial jeopardy for any ailment, injury," he said. "A child won't be able to see a dentist if they have a toothache or see a doctor if they don't have the ability to see the blackboard at school."

The state also faces a related problem: Every year, California borrows money on the bond market to cover its day-to-day expenses and pays it back when tax receipts flow in. But the tight credit market and questions about California's ability to repay its obligations could make borrowing difficult or extremely expensive this fall.

Schwarzenegger and some Democratic lawmakers have asked the Obama administration for a federal loan guarantee — or what some are calling a bailout. The move would be virtually unprecedented and would require the approval of a reluctant Congress.









Plot renews fears of radical Islam in prison

ERIC GORSKI
AP Religion Writers

NEW YORK The arrest of four Muslim ex-convicts in an alleged homegrown terror plot in the Bronx is renewing fears about the spread of Islamic extremism in the nation's prisons.

At least two of the four men suspected of plotting to bomb synagogues and shoot down military airplanes converted to Islam behind bars. The alleged mastermind is also a convert, and the fourth man identified himself as a Muslim when he entered prison.

Islam has had a strong presence in U.S. prisons for decades, and many chaplains and corrections officials credit the faith, when taught properly, with being a stabilizing force that can help inmates turn their lives around.

But this week's foiled plot is not the first terror scheme implicating Muslim convicts, and it comes despite reports of progress in screening chaplains and materials on Islam in the prison system.

"Basically, the threat is real," said Paul Rogers, past president of the American Correctional Chaplains Association. "Prisons have unstable people and people who are on the edge of a lot of different things. The radical elements of any religion can be emphasized."

Those fears were heightened this week as lawmakers debated the fate of detainees if President Barack Obama shutters the prison at Guantanamo Bay.

FBI Director Robert Mueller said terror suspects brought to the U.S. could end up "radicalizing others" or plan attacks on the country. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Obama would do nothing to endanger the public and decried "fear-mongering about this."

The four defendants in the New York terror case had been in and out of prison.

Laguerre Payen said he converted to Islam in prison, but a Muslim prayer leader who counseled him when he got out said he had a poor understanding of the faith. Onta Williams had registered as a Baptist in prison, but his uncle said he converted to Islam inside. David Williams and James Cromitie had registered as Muslim in prison, according to correction officials.

Payen appears to be a Haitian citizen, while the three others are Americans. The Williamses are not related.

Mitch Silber, a top New York Police Department intelligence analyst, said inmates converting to Islam are so common that he and his colleagues call it "Prislam." Though many drop the faith once they are out, for some "the conversion sticks" and can fuel anger toward the United States, said Silber, co-author of the 2007 NYPD report "Radicalization in the West: The Homegrown Threat."

Just as young people can be radicalized by "cut-and-paste" readings of the Quran on the Internet, new inmates may get a distorted view of Islam from gang leaders or other influential inmates, according to "Out of the Shadows: Getting Ahead of Prison Radicalization," a 2006 report by the George Washington University Homeland Security Policy Institute and the University of Virginia Critical Incident Analysis Group.

Several imams used the term "Jailhouse Islam" to describe a form of Islam in prison that incorporates gang loyalty and violence, the report said.

Propane suppliers skimping on refills

SANDY SHORE
AP Energy Writer

DENVER Backyard grillers may get a little steamed this holiday weekend when buying refilled propane tanks: They will be getting less fuel for their money than last Memorial Day.

When oil prices soared in 2008, propane suppliers quietly reduced by two pounds the amount of gas pumped into each 20-pound tank, saying they wanted to avoid raising prices.

Since then, propane prices have been cut in half as the price of oil has dropped. But smaller refills are still being sold nationwide by many dealers, and most buyers are unaware because the tank is the same size.

"It's a price increase," retired lawyer Stuart Barr said Friday as he swapped a tank at a Home Depot store in Denver. "I'm a great believer in full disclosure. Give me the information."

The problem, consumers say, is that no one tells them they're getting less propane. Companies have adopted similar practices in the packaging of coffee, sugar and laundry detergent.

"I'm not surprised," said Tammi Dorsey of Denver. Carrying a tank of propane from a store Friday, initially unaware that she got less this time.

For the past year, tank exchanges at retail stores have generally cost $20 to $25. For a few bucks less, consumers can take their tanks to some stores to get them refilled instead of exchanging them. Those refills usually contain the full amount of fuel allowed by law.

Until last year, Blue Rhino and Amerigas, two major suppliers, put 17 to 18 pounds of propane in each 20-pound tank. Tanks should not be filled completely for safety reasons. About a year ago, that amount was cut to 15 pounds to save consumers a price hike, Blue Rhino spokesman Chris Hartley said.

"There are a number of companies in different industries across the country addressing product packaging, just because of the soaring costs," he said.

Last year, all energy costs increased sharply, as did the price of steel used in tanks. Crude prices soared past $100 per barrel at the start of 2008 and climbed toward $150 by July. Propane futures hit $1.95 per gallon in the same month.

Those prices have all fallen this year, which would suggest bigger profits for propane distributors.

Hartley would not say if there were plans to return propane refills to the same levels as before the 2008 price spikes, but he did say that energy markets remain volatile.

In the last year, propane futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange have dropped from about $1.73 per gallon to just above 71 cents. They have climbed 11 cents since January.

Retailers who offer propane say they have not increased the volume of fuel in each tank because propane companies have not reduced prices.

Government bans guns at parks until next year

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Not so fast, gun owners. A new law allowing loaded guns in national parks and wildlife refuges will not take effect until next year, the Obama administration said Friday.

President Barack Obama signed the gun law without comment Friday as part of a measure creating new rules for the credit card industry.

A spokeswoman for the Interior Department said that because the credit card law won't take effect until nine months after it is signed, the gun measure also will be delayed. Spokeswoman Kendra Barkoff said the Interior Department will follow Congress's directive and put the new firearms law into effect in late February 2010.

Until then, rules adopted under the Reagan administration will remain in place. The rules severely restrict guns in the national parks, generally requiring that guns be locked or stored in a glove compartment or trunk.

"As Interior prepares to implement the new law, the department will work to understand and interpret its implications for our national parks and wildlife refuges, with public safety and the safety of our employees as our foremost consideration," Barkoff said. "For the time being, the current Reagan administration regulations governing possession of firearms in national parks and wildlife refuges remain in place."

The Interior Department's decision drew immediate criticism from Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., the chief sponsor of the gun measure.

Spokesman John Hart said Coburn will offer the gun amendment to other bills in order to implement the decision as quickly as possible.

Hart said Coburn was confident the amendment would be approved again, noting that the measure received support from 27 Democrats in the Senate, including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

The measure, adopted by wide margins in the House and Senate, allows licensed gun owners to bring firearms into national parks and wildlife refuges as long as they are allowed by state law.

Hart said Congress clearly intended for the law to take effect soon, adding that Coburn was disappointed the law apparently will not be in place this summer, when national parks are most crowded.

Bryan Faehner, associate director of the National Parks Conservation Association, applauded the Interior Department's decision.

"We are pleased, because that provides more time that our parks will remain safe and free from shotguns, rifles and semiautomatic weapons," Faehner said.

"We hope that the American public and members of Congress will have more time to understand the far-reaching repercussions of this outrageous and disturbing law that has nothing to do with credit cards and will only put park visitors at risk," Faehner said.

Faehner called national parks among the safest places in the country. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report, there were 1.65 violent crimes per 100,000 national park visitors in 2006, far below the national average for violent crime.

Washington has first death under new suicide law

RACHEL LA CORTE
Associated Press Writer

OLYMPIA, Wash. A 66-year-old woman with terminal cancer has become the first person to die under Washington state's new assisted suicide law, an advocacy group said Friday.

Linda Fleming, of Sequim, died Thursday night after taking drugs prescribed under the "Death with Dignity" law that took effect in March, said Compassion & Choices of Washington.

The organization said Fleming was diagnosed last month with advanced pancreatic cancer. She would have had to have been diagnosed by two doctors as terminal in order to qualify for assisted suicide.

The group said Fleming died at home with her family, her dog and her physician at her bedside.

"The pain became unbearable, and it was only going to get worse," Fleming said in a statement released by the organization.

A physician prescribed the medication, but under the law, patients must administer the drugs themselves.

Chris Carlson, who campaigned against the law with the Coalition Against Assisted Suicide, said the death was "a sad occasion and it diminishes us all."

The new law was approved in November with nearly 60 percent of the vote, making Washington the second state in the nation with voter-approved assisted suicide legislation. It is based on a 1997 Oregon measure, under which about 400 people have ended their lives.

Under both states' laws, physicians and pharmacists are not required to write or fill lethal prescriptions if they are opposed to the law. Some hospitals have opted out of the law, which precludes their doctors from participating on hospital property.

In December, a Montana district judge ruled that doctor-assisted suicides are legal. That decision, based on an individual lawsuit rather than a state law or voter initiative, is before the Montana Supreme Court, but doctors there are allowed to write prescriptions for life-ending drugs pending the appeal. It is not known if any have done so because no reporting process was in place.

In Washington, any patient requesting fatal medication must be at least 18, declared competent and be a state resident.

Two doctors would have to certify that the patient has a terminal condition and six months or less to live. The patient must also make two oral requests, 15 days apart, and make a written request witnessed by two people.

As of Friday, the state Department of Health has received six forms from pharmacists saying they have dispensed the life-ending drugs.

The state has also received five forms from an individual declaring a request for medication to "end my life in a humane and dignified manner."

The Health Department will report annually on the ages, genders and illnesses of the people who file forms with the state, but the individual forms people complete are exempt from state open records laws.

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CREST Enrichment 2009-2010

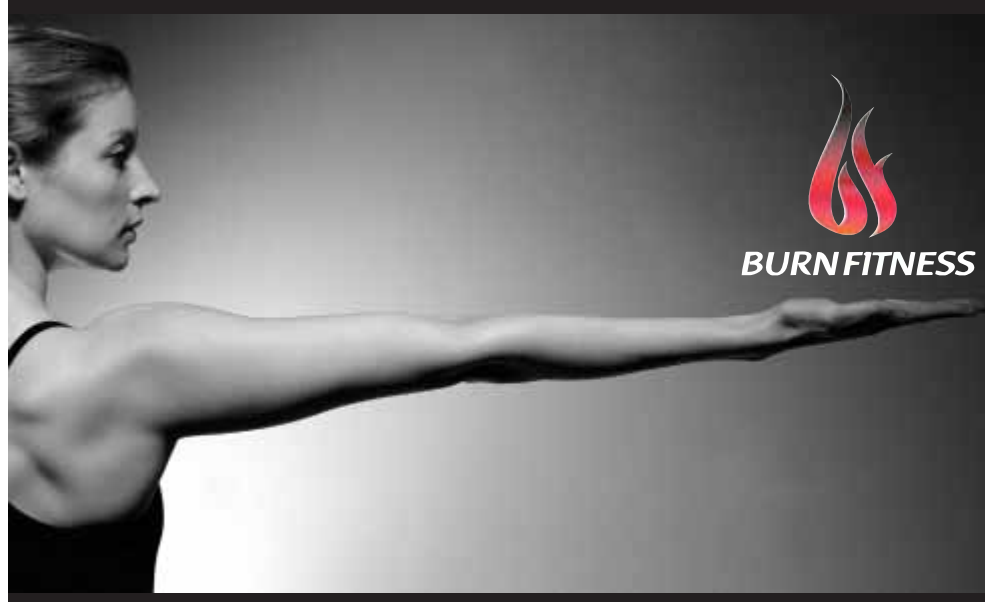
The City of Santa Monica CREST Enrichment Program is seeking qualified businesses or individuals to submit proposals to conduct before- and after-school enrichment classes for students in grades K-8 at Santa Monica public schools during the 2009-2010 school year. Applications are due May 29, 2009.

To learn more about the CREST Enrichment Program please visit **www.CREST.smgov.net**. A Request for Proposal (RFP) in your field is also available through the City's bid management program BidsOnline™, a fully automated web-based vendor and bid management system. The RFP is posted in the following category: **Recreation Classes/Camps** or you may do a keyword search by typing: **CREST**.

http://vendors.planetbids.com/santamonica/bidframe.cfm

If you need more information on the CREST Enrichment program, please contact Enrichment Supervisor, Moira McCormack (moira.mccormack@smgov.net) at (310) 458-8930.

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• Community Leaders: La Verne Ross & Father Mike Gutierrez
• Educators: Dr. Sylvia Rousseau & Harry Keiley, SMMCTA
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NEW DVD RELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS



Photo courtesy Fox

'Valkyrie'

Tom Cruise stars in this thriller based on the true story of a 1944 plot to kill Adolf Hitler. As Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg, Cruise is the steady nerve-center behind the coup attempt that includes high-level military officials. Smartly directed by Brian Singer ("X-Men," "The Usual Suspects") it is told from inside the conspirators' camp where the outcome of their actions weren't known for several tense hours. The picture also features Kenneth Branagh, Tom Wilkinson and Terence Stamp. (Fox)

Schwarzenegger Collector's Set

Ahhnold's pre-Gov work is on display in this four picture presentation. "The Running Man" gives "game" shows a different meaning as Schwarzenegger finds himself being hunted in the ultimate audience participation television program. "Total Recall" is a sci-fi story directed by Paul Voerhees that won an Academy Award for special effects. Co-starring Sharon Stone, Arnold will stop at nothing to get his stolen memory back. In "Red Heat" the Gov plays a straight-laced Russian detective partnered with an undisciplined Chicago cop (Jim Belushi) to arrest a murderous drug smuggler. Schwarzenegger said he'd be back and he is in "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" but this time his mission is to protect Sarah Connor (Linda Hamilton) and her son (Edward Furlong). All four films are special edition versions and have loads and loads of extras including all new making-of documentaries, all-new commentaries, production galleries, conceptual art and rare production footage. (Lionsgate)

'M Butterfly'

Based on the true story and acclaimed Broadway production that won three Tony Awards, David Cronenberg directs Jeremy Irons and John Lone in this tale about the state of the Chinese theater during the Cultural Revolution in the 1960s. Irons is a French diplomat who falls in love with a singer in the Beijing Opera (Lone). Mixed into the plot of love and betrayal are references to Puccini's "Madame Butterfly." This is not "The Crying Game" (the audience is in on the deception early here), but how is it possible to be in love with a man for 20 years, and believe all the time that he is a woman? Romantic idealism can be a crazy notion. (Warner Bros)

'The Goldwyn Follies'

This lavish 1938 musical featuring the work of Ira and George Gershwin is filled with imaginative sets and brilliant costumes to go with the composers' fine tunes. Andrea Leeds stars as a simple country girl who finds herself being courted by a Hollywood movie producer (Adolphe Menjou) and a singer (Kenny Baker). (MGM)

'Inside the Meltdown: What Happened to the Economy'

Here is a frontline investigation into the causes of the worst economic crisis in 70 years and how the government has responded. The program examines the inside stories of the Bear Stearns deal, the Lehman Brothers' collapse, the propping up of insurance giant AIG and the $700 billion bailout and the "work" of both the Federal Reserve and the Treasury department in regards to this economic chaos. (PBS)

'New York Yankees: Perfect Games and No-Hitters'

Major League Baseball Productions presents six historic New York Yankee games on six DVDs. Part of this compelling package includes the telecast of Don Larsen's Perfect Game in the 1956 World Series which has never been available on DVD. Other pitching gems include those delivered by David Wells, Dwight Gooden, Dave Righetti, Jim Abbott and David Cone. Bonus materials include features and interviews with the pitchers and radio calls on Don Larsen's Perfect Game. (A&E)

RANDY WILLIAMS can be reached at www.sportandcinema.com



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BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON



'I Need to Be Safe: I'm Worth It'

Janet Goliger • CLASS Publications

Read the papers. It happens around us. You can't seem to not see at least one story of a child abduction. This book is needed to help give your child a way to fight back. If they can keep from being removed from the area they are in by being able to execute a few self-defense releases they have a chance to run and get help.

This small book is needed by all parents and should be taught diligently to children. Author Janet Goliger is a second-degree black belt and a physical education teacher in the Sherman Oaks area, so she is the person you would use to transmit this information. She is concerned that children are safe. She shares some self-defense techniques that can help your child if properly executed. The tools are here. The first step is to be aware. The second strep is if grabbed, you must know how to escape and get help.

It is easy to be too paranoid. That is not the purpose for this publication. There is a healthy level of caution that needs to be evident. This book leans toward the caution end of the equation.

There are eight chapters in this 136-page small booklet.

Subtitled "How to Protect your Child from Danger" it has great suggestions. It covers both being followed by foot and by vehicle and offers "what to do." The main point is to not put yourself in a situation where you are defenseless. But if through no fault of your own you should find yourself confronted by a grownup, or youth, who grabs you, it is nice to have the moves to get away.

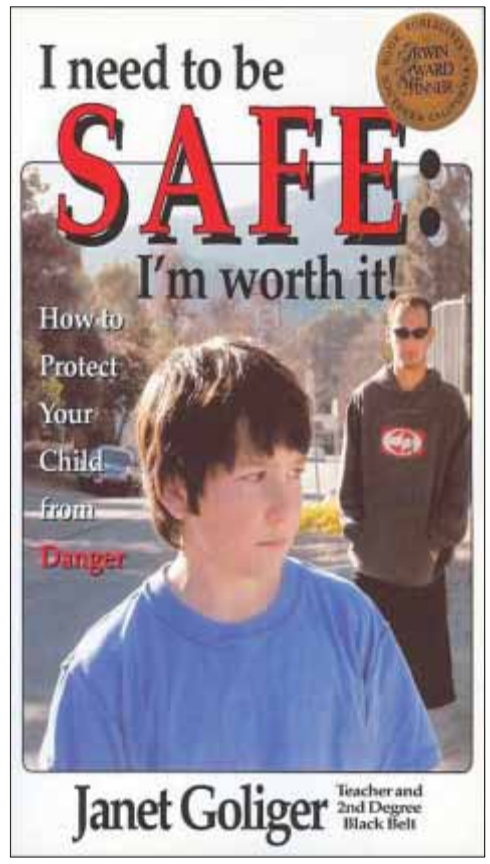
For those who find themselves being grabbed there is a whole section in chapter eight showing you in real photographs the releases you should practice until they are second nature. The techniques are not given so that you can be the neighborhood "bully." They are shown so that you will be prepared. It is better to over practice then to be helpless if the situation presents itself where you will need to use one of the releases. The pictures are explicit and detailed. Goliger has used herself in some of the pictures as the assailant. Viewing these photos makes me feel that the assailant will be in no condition to follow through with a threat after the defensive move.

The section on identifying strangers and what to look for so you can help the police is good. ""It is extremely important to remember as much as possible about this person," Goliger writes in chapter three. "The most important features to remember are ones that cannot change quickly."

Another good idea is to have a family code word. "The purpose of a code word is to keep your children safe from strangers." It should be one that is easy to remember. One suggestion is to use the color words, red, green or yellow. But at the same time it should not be one that the stranger can figure out. "As with all other self-defense techniques, the code word needs to be practiced regularly so that children know how to listen for them and when they should not join in the conversation you are having with a stranger."

This book can be purchased from the Web site www.classeducation.org where other material can be obtained to help in this area.

Information is vital. Books can supplement face to face instruction. Feel free to contact the best looking book reviewer in Santa Monica at smdp_review@yahoo.com. Let's keep the conversation going.



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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 64°

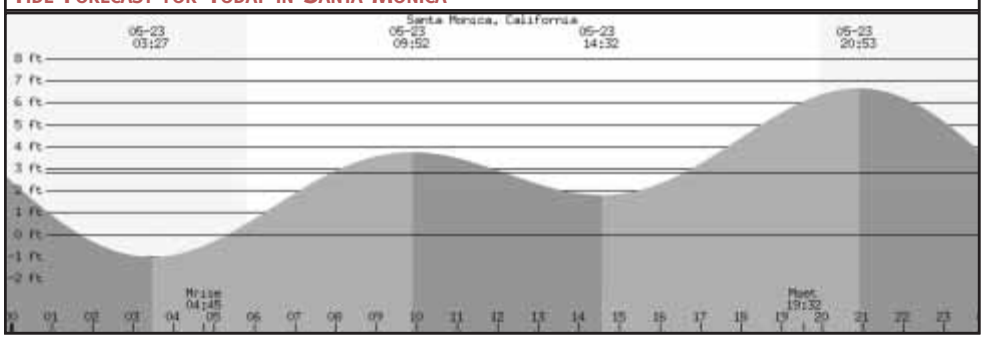
Swell Forecast (3-5 FT)

Saturday the 23rd is when our next SW swell is due from that Antarctic/Easter system mentioned in the synopsis above. Sunday the 24th the southern hemi swell should come to its peak.

Long Range Synopsis

Monday the 25th the southern hemi swell should linger with waist to chest high waves around south facing breaks. Wind swell will likely linger for waist high waves at west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **May 19, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 42 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 16

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

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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





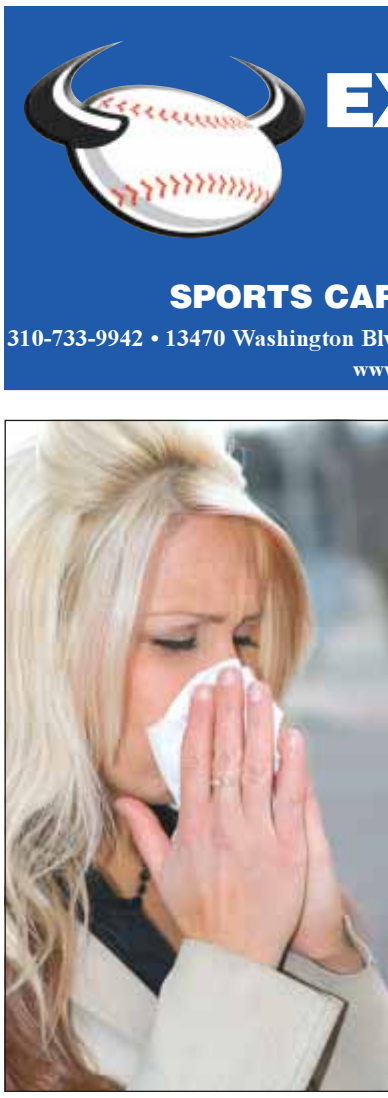
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COMMUNITY NOTICE

On Memorial Day, Monday May 25 at 11:00 a.m. a Memorial Day ceremony will be held at Woodlawn Cemetery to honor the memory of our nation's fallen military heroes. As a part of the program, a flyover above the Cemetery of military helicopters will occur at approximately 11:45 a.m. and at approximately 12:05 p.m. a 21-gun salute will be held.

Local residents should be aware that during the helicopter flyover and gun salute they may hear brief, but unique sounds that are typically not heard in the Community.

For additional information, please contact Woodlawn Cemetery at (310) 458-8717.

City of Santa Monica

MOVIE TIMES

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

Vertigo (NR) (1958) 2hrs 8min
7:30

The Untouchables (NR) (1987) 1hr 59min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Angels & Demons (PG-13) 2hrs 20min
Noon, 3:05, 6:15, 9:25

Earth (G) 1hr 30min
10:10 a.m., 12:20, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:55

Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (PG) 1hr 45min
11:00 a.m., 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

Star Trek (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
10:00 a.m., 12:50, 3:45, 6:45, 9:50

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

Ghosts of Girlfriends Past (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:00 a.m., 1:40, 4:10, 6:45, 9:20

Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (PG) 1hr 45min
11:40 a.m., 1:00, 2:20, 3:40, 5:00, 6:20, 7:40, 9:00, 10:20

Angels & Demons (PG-13) 2hrs 20min
10:15 a.m., 1:20, 4:45, 8:00, 11:10

Angels & Demons (Digital) (PG-13) 2hrs 20min
12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15

Star Trek (2009) (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
10:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 1:30, 2:15, 4:30, 5:15, 7:30, 8:15, 10:30, 11:15

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

The Brothers Bloom (PG-13) 1hr 49min
11:00 a.m., 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

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

Management (R) 1hr 33min
1:40, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40

Ballerina (NR) 1hr 20min
11:00 a.m.

Easy Virtue (PG-13) 1hr 33min
11:00 a.m., 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

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

Terminator Salvation (Digital) (PG-13) 1hr 54min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50, 12:30 a.m.

X-Men Origins: Wolverine (PG-13) 1hr 47min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

Dance Flick (PG-13)
12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:20, 9:30, 12:00 a.m.

The Soloist (PG-13) 1hr 49min
12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

Terminator Salvation (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:40 a.m., 12:20, 2:20, 3:10, 5:10, 6:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:40, 11:40

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

Do you really care, Taurus?

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Know what not to do, and you could be OK. Temptation could head down your path. You make the final call. What would be helpful is to have a tight budget. Then you won't worry so much. Tonight: Your treat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Don't allow a touchy or uncomfortable situation to impact your plans. Just go, do and be. Someone you admire is quite taken with your capacity to handle a lot and still stay cool. Tonight: A party could degenerate into a wild indulgence. Do you care?

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Do pull back if you feel uncomfortable. Understand what is happening with you personally, and then you can make an important decision. Take time to center and make sure you know what you are doing. Tonight: Be a free sprit.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ A friend could have a different idea from you. In any case, you will probably make an adjustment, as you don't really mind. Your imagination could have you working overtime. Try to stay present. It is only polite. Tonight: Into the wee hours.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Once more, take the lead. Some of you might find this role exhausting, leading to emotional displays. The impact a reaction has on your role might be interesting, but possibly most ineffective. Make a point of cutting free more often. Tonight: A must show.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ As you open your baby blues or browns, an idea floats through. If this thought is reasonable and can be translated, why not give it a shot? Your energy and enthusiasm are enough to carry it through and bypass any obstacle. Tonight: In a very different spot.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Others want your time, and your time alone. Past cloning yourself, to fulfill all requests would demand an unusual ability to juggle. If you have to make a decision, decide who really holds the dearest spot in your heart. Tonight: Togetherness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Defer to others, as they want the final say. Conversations start out of the blue. You might find out a lot, though you could be disappointed. You might want to revise your thinking some. A child or loved one could be petulant and dynamic, and could do the unexpected. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Toss yourself into a hobby, though you might want to share some of the activity with a loved one. You could be delighted and surprised by how much that adds to your enjoyment. Confusion surrounds plans. Tonight: Don't push too hard.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You might want to do something very differently, and others just want to follow along. Your imagination plays a big role, but you might not be sure of what you want to do. You could discover you are wearing old threads and need new ones. Tonight: Be a kid again.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Stay anchored on what counts. Stay close to home, understanding your priorities. Invite a friend or two over. Do remember that everyone thrives on individual attention. You could be going overboard. Tonight: Your home is your castle, especially now.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Speak your mind, and understand exactly what you expect. Communication intensifies between you and others. Instincts meet with thoughts. You might wonder just how much to say. Tonight: Swap news, jokes and gossip!

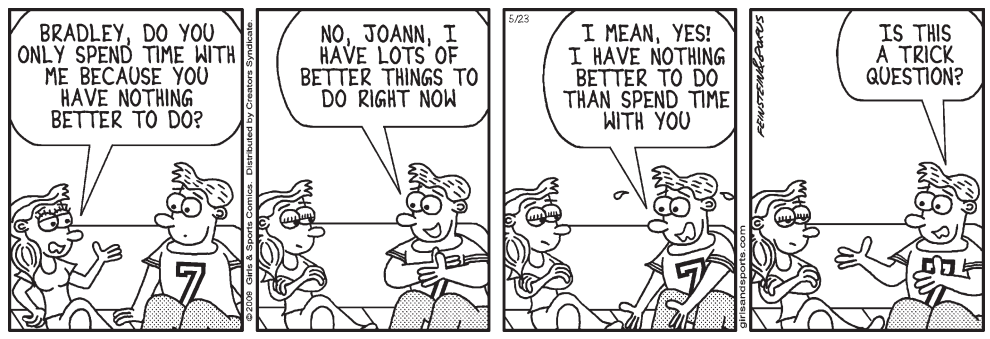
Happy birthday

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

This year, question your priorities. Much occurs behind the scenes. You would be happiest having a confidant. When possible, make decisions in your own time frame. You will tend to overthink things. Learn ways to counter this problem, be it through yoga or meditation. You aspire to a lot and expect others to be similar. Try to understand where they are coming from. If you are single, the person you meet might not display his or her true colors for a while. Proceed with care. If you are attached, you'll benefit from romantic getaways together. TAURUS reads you cold.

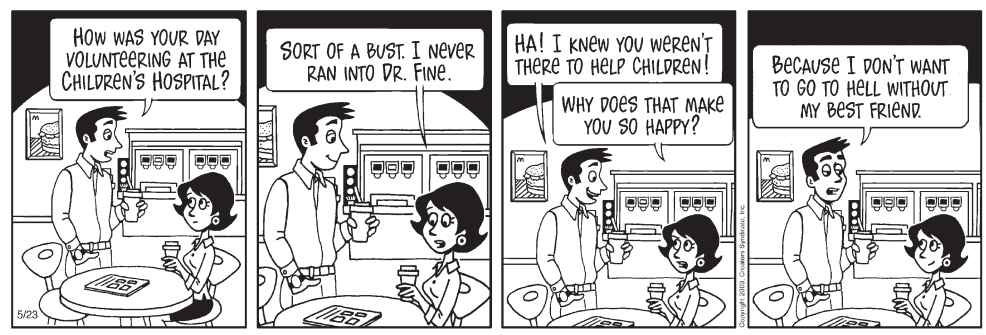
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



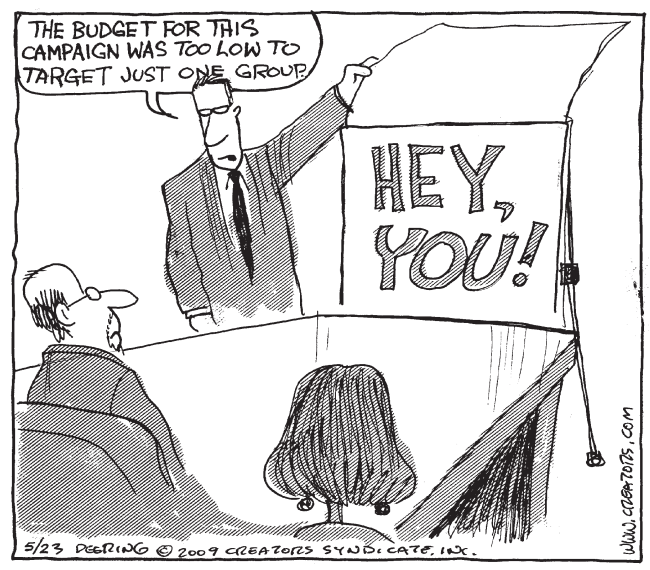
Garfield

By Jim Davis



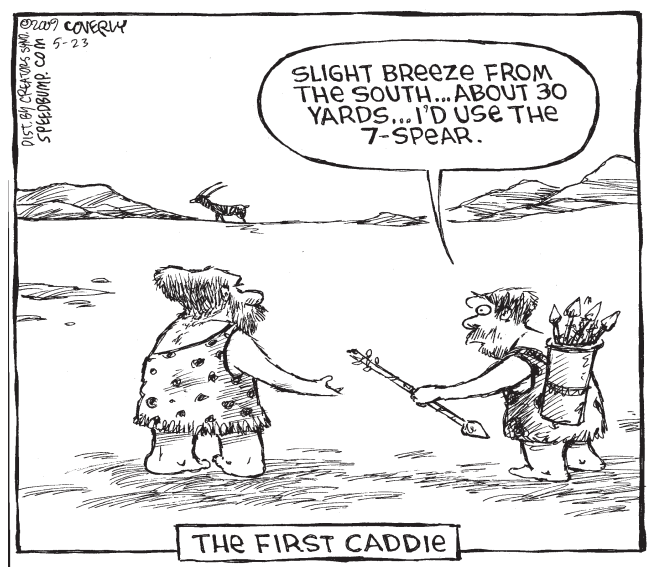
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Fancy button
5 Luke-warm
10 Sheet stuff
12 1836 battle site
13 44th president
14 Fast-food drinks
15 Shirt protector
16 Binary base
18 History bit
19 Pay homage to
21 Trick takers, often
22 South-eastern natives
24 Potpourri bit
25 South-eastern natives
29 General feeling
30 Aviation
32 Previous-ly
33 Curator's deg.
34 Sea dog
35 Small movie
37 India's first prime minister
39 Belfast setting
40 Nerdy guy
41 Blood-hound's clue
42 Messes up

DOWN

1 Messy sorts
2 Leg bones
3 Power-less
4 Rep.'s rival
5 Food in a shell
6 "Xanadu" group
7 Regal home
8 Sights
9 Rx amounts
11 More dapper
17 Deto-nated
20 Oversaw a game
21 Bowling site
23 Raiders' home
25 French brandy
26 Sweat-shirt variety
27 Choice word
28 Trap user
29 Disfigures
31 Beetle larvae
33 Convene
36 Tourist stop
38 Merino mom

L	A	K	E	S	■	G	O	A	T	S
I	M	A	G	E	■	I	N	L	E	T
L	A	N	G	E	■	B	E	L	L	E
A	L	G	■	M	I	S	S	I	L	E
C	I	A	■	E	M	O	■	G	E	L
S	E	R	F	■	A	N	W	A	R	■
■	■	O	R	A	■	S	O	T	■	■
■	R	O	O	T	S	■	K	O	R	S
P	E	A	■	L	A	S	■	R	E	P
A	S	P	H	A	L	T	■	P	G	A
G	A	P	E	S	■	A	R	E	A	S
E	L	L	I	E	■	R	E	A	L	M
S	E	E	R	S	■	S	O	R	E	S

Yesterday's answer

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

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

5-23

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 3 29 34 42 49
Meganumber: 29
Jackpot: $16M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 2 6 27 35 36
Meganumber: 1
Jackpot: $16M

FANTASY 5: 5 8 21 26 35

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 0 4
EVENING: 6 0 1

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1.47.90

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 April at a gallery in London, Mexican artist Raul Ortega Ayala's exhibit opened with the customary hors d'oeuvres for visitors. However, since Ayala's work specializes in the roles that food play in our lives, he served cheese made from human breast milk, to "explor(e) our first encounter with food emphasizing its territoriality and boundaries." He said his next piece would go the other way, with 10 menus showing what "presidents, public figures, mass murderers and cave men" ate just before dying.

■ A pedestrian bridge over Interstate 80 in Berkeley, Calif., opened late last year, decorated with $196,000 in public art by sculptor Scott Donahue. At each end of the bridge are 28-foot structures to honor the "history" and "daily life" of Berkeley, notably its tradition of citizen protests, but smaller sculpted medallions feature street scenes such as dogs romping playfully in city parks. However, as initially noted by a Fox News reporter in February, one of the medallions shows a dog defecating and another displays two dogs mating. Said a local art program official, "I think they're just, you know, natural science ... what dogs really do."

■ New York artist Ariana Page Russell has a dermatological disorder that makes her skin puff up immediately at the slightest scratch (which renders her, she says, the "human Etch A Sketch"). She now scratches herself in deliberate patterns, to create artistic designs, which she photographs and offers for sale. Russell says she must work quickly, for her skin usually returns to normal after about an hour.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1960 Israel announced it had captured former Nazi official Adolf Eichmann in Argentina. (Eichmann was tried in Israel, found guilty of crimes against humanity, and hanged in 1962.)

1984 Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a report saying there was "very solid" evidence linking cigarette smoke to lung disease in nonsmokers.

WORD UP!

buss \BUS\, *noun*, *verb*:
1. A kiss; a playful kiss; a smack.
transitive verb:
1. To kiss; especially to kiss with a smack.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Sunset Park	$1,112,500	$727,000
Ocean Park	$1,249,000	$964,750

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