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SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

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THE BARBECUE ISSUE

Cutting the public short

To save time, City Council cuts public comment to two minutes

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Starting tonight, City Council speakers with prepared speeches, some more epic than others, might want to plan for a two minute time slot.

A series of new rules and procedures, intended to shorten the length of council meetings, will take effect starting tonight, included among the changes a limit on public speakers from three to two minutes.

The changes were adopted during the council meeting on May 22, some councilmembers pointing out that Santa Monica has some of the longest meetings in comparison to city councils in similarly-sized municipalities. The meetings, which commence at 5:45 p.m., often run longer than six hours and continue past midnight.

The council has toyed with the idea of shortening the length of meetings for the past several years, the seemingly endless sessions causing concern for its effect on public

input and the ability of councilmembers to remain alert in the late hours. The council voted in 2001 to start meetings earlier at 5:15 p.m., a change that was short-lived as many councilmembers were unable to arrive to the meetings on time.

The long meetings also sparked a lawsuit by then Mayor Pro Tem Herb Katz and Councilmember Bob Holbrook, alleging violations of the Brown Act because it prevented public participation. Public comment is scheduled at the end of the meeting, a time

when most people are already at home and in bed. The lawsuit was eventually defeated.

Among the new changes will be a rule that no new discussion items will be introduced after 11 p.m. except by two-thirds vote by council. The restriction does not apply to the public comment period.

One of the biggest proponents for the shortened meetings was Councilmember Bobby Shriver, who suggested eliminating

SEE PUBLIC COMMENT PAGE 9



THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

Doves were released Monday at Woodlawn Cemetery for the 70th Annual Memorial Day celebration in Santa Monica. Veterans and their families gathered to pay tribute to those who sacrificed their lives for freedom. See more photos of the event on page 15.

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

City ficus tree battle proved costly

(Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.)

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The ficus tree litigation could prove to have been an expensive undertaking.

Nearly eight months after construction for a Downtown Santa Monica beautification project was slated to begin, the City Council is expected

to authorize an additional \$50,000 to architectural firm Zimmer Gunsul Frasca, covering the costs of new tree lighting designs and the long hold-up in court. The expenditure is part of more than \$4.8 million in spending items the council is expected to approve tonight.

It was in October of last year that the Santa Monica Treesavers filed a lawsuit

against Santa Monica City Hall alleging violations in the California Environmental Quality Act for the Second and Fourth streets Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvement Project, focusing specifically on the removal and transplantation of 54

SEE CONSENT PAGE 7

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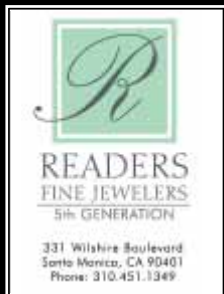
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Calendar

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TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2008

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Rolling with Ray

Westside, 1 p.m.

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

Getting wild on the Westside

Noon — 5 p.m.

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

Time to learn

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

With all the talk on land use, transportation, density and green building you have likely heard of “smart growth.” But what is it? Join Sustainable Santa Monica for a special presentation by Dimitris Klapsis on the thinking, principals and practices behind smart growth. The presentation will be followed by time for questions from the audience. For more information contact Traci Reitz, community sustainability liaison, at traci@sustainablesm.org.

Reel justice

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6:20 p.m. — 9 p.m.

Film screening and discussion series led by UCLA Law professor Paul Bergman, highlighting movies with a legal setting. For May, the Oscar-winning hit starring George Clooney “Michael Clayton.” The program is free. Seating is first come, first served. For more information contact the Santa Monica Main Library.

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

Kiwanis Club meeting

Santa Monica YMCA, Noon — 1:30 p.m.

Come and join the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club — an organization made up of volunteers that provides community support through grants, volunteer hours and much more — for their weekly club luncheon at the Santa Monica YMCA. Members use these meetings to increase fundraising efforts and spread the word on support committees and community events. Special guest speakers will be attending the luncheon. For more information, call (310) 613-1249.

Optimum immunity

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:45 p.m.

Dr. David Allen, a graduate of UCLA Medical School and a leading integrative and anti-aging medicine specialist with over 30 years experience, will discuss ways to optimize and balance your immune system for vibrant health. How can we develop and maintain integrity in this most vital system of the body in the midst of our often crowded and complicated modern world? Join Allen for this fascinating and informative lecture, and learn some simple steps you can take to maximize your immunity, and create for yourself greater levels of wellness, vitality and longevity than you might have thought possible. For more information contact the Santa Monica Main Library.

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.



Craft reveals look at Mars' polar area

BY ALICIA CHANG
Associated Press Writer

PASADENA, Calif. NASA's newest outpost in the solar system is a polygon-cracked terrain in Mars' northern polar region believed to hold a reservoir of ice beneath.

Hours after the Phoenix Mars Lander softly landed Sunday in the Martian arctic plains, it dazzled scientists with the first-ever glimpse of the Red Planet's high northern latitudes.

A flood of images sent back by Phoenix revealed a landscape similar to what can be found in Earth's permafrost regions — geometric patterns in the soil likely related to the freezing and thawing of ground ice.

"This is a scientist's dream, right here on this landing site," principal investigator Peter Smith of the University of Arizona, Tucson said in a post-landing news conference.

Phoenix landed on Mars after a 10-month, 422 million-mile journey. After a week checking out its science instruments, the lander will begin a 90-day digging mission to study whether the northern polar region possesses the raw ingredients needed for life to emerge.

Phoenix joins the twin rovers on the



THIS IS A SCIENTIST'S DREAM, RIGHT HERE ON THIS LANDING SITE."

Peter Smith
Principal investigator

Martian surface, which have been exploring the equatorial plains since 2004. Unlike the mobile rovers, Phoenix was designed to stay in one spot and dig trenches in the soil.

Early indications show the lander is healthy, said Barry Goldstein, project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The images confirm the lander unfurled its solar panels, hoisted its weather mast and unwrapped the protective covering of its 8-foot-long robotic arm. It'll be several days before the arm will be unstowed.

"Everything just worked like a charm," said Goldstein, who kept up a JPL tradition by passing out bags of lucky peanuts on landing day.

Mission control erupted in cheers when a radio signal from Phoenix was detected after a hair-raising plunge through the atmosphere that required the lander to slow itself down from over 12,000 mph to a 5 mph

touchdown using a combination of friction, parachute and thrusters.

Mission managers pumped their fists and hugged one another after the confirmation signal was received.

"They will be remembered forever that they are the first people to explore the polar region of Mars. There's no telling what discoveries would be seen over the next 90 days," said JPL director Charles Elachi.

It's the first successful soft landing on Mars since the twin Viking landers touched down in 1976. Rovers Spirit and Opportunity used a combination of parachutes and cushioned air bags to bounce to the surface four years ago.

Phoenix avoided the fate of another polar explorer, the Mars Polar Lander, which crashed into the Martian south pole after prematurely shutting off its engines in 1999. Phoenix inherited the hardware of a lander that was canceled after the Polar Lander dis-

aster and carried similar instruments flown on the ill-fated 1999 mission.

Phoenix's descent was nearly flawless. The only unexpected turn occurred when it opened its parachute seven seconds later than planned, causing the spacecraft to settle slightly downrange from the bull's-eye target, said Ed Sedivy, program manager at Lockheed Martin Corp., which built the spacecraft.

Phoenix planted its three legs in a broad, shallow valley littered with pebble-size rocks that should not pose any hazard to the spacecraft, project managers said.

"I know it looks a little like a parking lot, but that's a safe place to land. There's not any big rocks," Smith said.

During its prime mission, Phoenix will dig through layers of soil to reach the ice, believed to be buried inches to a foot deep. It will study whether the ice melted during a time in Mars' recent past and will analyze soil samples for traces of organic compounds, which would be a possible indicator of conditions favorable for primitive life. Phoenix is not equipped to detect past or present alien life.

The \$420 million Phoenix mission is led by University of Arizona and managed by JPL.

The real Jimi Hendrix experience on display

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

LOS ANGELES "Hendrix Revealed: A Life Through The Lens" will open Thursday, May 29 at the Celebrity Vault gallery in Beverly Hills.

The event represents the largest exhibition of photographs of Jimi Hendrix ever shown in the Los Angeles area. Previously exhibited in London earlier this year, the show was produced and curated in association with U.K.-based Raj Prem Fine Art Photography.

The exhibit is being presented at Celebrity Vault, a Beverly Hills art gallery located on Canon Drive. Co-founded by Klaus Moeller, Cole Sternberg and Sean Goodchild, the partners announced that 10 percent of opening day sales will be donated to the "Experience Music Project" in Seattle, Hendrix's hometown.

The Seattle music project will also be lending Celebrity Vault some rare Hendrix artifacts to be displayed during the exhibition.

EMP is a non-profit arts organization

dedicated to the exploration of creativity and innovation in popular music through interactive exhibitions, educational curricula and other special programs.

Since its Frank Gehry-designed museum opened in Seattle in 2000, it has drawn more than 4 million visitors. EMP's retrospective Hendrix exhibition, Jimi Hendrix: An Evolution of Sound, opened last month and runs through April 2010.

Celebrity Vault's Moeller said, "We are honored to have EMP's participation in Hendrix Revealed, and to help support their important work. We hope to have more of this kind of synergy with our gallery going forward."

Hendrix Revealed presents works by 15 world class photographers including: Ed Caraeff, Eddie Kramer, David Montgomery, Bruce Fleming, David Redfern, Gered Mankowitz, Barry Levine, Robert M. Knight, Jerry Schatzberg, Herb Schmitz, Dezo Hoffman, Barry Peake, David Magnus, Baron Wolman, Dominique Tarle and Rob Bosboom.

Spanning the years 1967 to 1970, the

images range from famously iconic shots to rarely seen treasures — edition sizes will vary, and several will be one-of-a-kind, hand-finished "editions of one."

The show marks the 40th anniversary of Hendrix's first U.S. tour in 1968, also the year that Electric Ladyland was released. David Montgomery's infamous image for the U.K. cover of that LP, featuring large group of naked ladies, was banned in the U.S. -- the image is part of Hendrix Revealed, as is Montgomery's elegantly psychedelic inner sleeve portrait of Jimi. The year prior to Electric Ladyland, Hendrix's era-defining performance at the 1967 Monterey Pop Festival propelled him to instant global fame and remains one of rock's seminal moments.

Taken at that concert, Ed Caraeff's unforgettable shot of Hendrix setting fire to his Fender Stratocaster will also be featured.

Participating photographers who will be attending the May 29 opening include Barry Levine, who shot Hendrix at Woodstock, and Eddie Kramer, who was Jimi's friend and engineer/producer.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No respect

Editor:

This is an open letter to Fran Pavley, candidate for state Senate, District 23, which includes Santa Monica.

On Memorial Day weekend, after attending an event at the VA Hospital, I happened by your Democrat headquarters on Wilshire Boulevard near Ninth Street. There I saw a collage displayed prominently in your window. In the center of this "art" there is a photo of a horribly mangled child, the victim of who or what is not made clear, though the context seems to blame our military.

Here are a few examples of the many photos, signs, statements and drawings surrounding that photo, examples of which you, Ms. Pavley, and your volunteers are so proud to have displayed to the public during the time set aside to honor our fallen troops in all our wars: "Bush Is A Terrorist;" "Asses of Evil" written under the faces of Bush, Cheney and Condi Rice; a mug shot of Bush labeled, "Wanted For Murder;" a caricature of Bush as Satan, and, what is easily the sickest two things I've ever seen displayed in a political party's headquarters, the collage has an image stating, "Military Recruiters Get Out Of Our Schools And Communities," and at the top is a drawing of what looks to be the president of the United States sodomizing the Statue of Liberty, which is bent over on all fours.

Fran Pavley, this is the headquarters for your drive to become a state Senator, is it not? Why does it look more like a lunatic fringe headquarters, like something I would expect to find on the beach walk in Venice, or at a MoveOn.org or Code Pink rally, or, come to think of it, like something we see coming from Web sites run by Al Qaeda?

Military recruiters out of our schools and communities? And on Memorial Day of all times.

Of, course, this sick display is from the same Democrat headquarters that, during the last presidential election, had the American flag improperly displayed in this same office until my friend Cheryl, a Navy veteran, wrote about it to the editor of this paper, mentioning my contempt for the office's complete disregard for the flag.

Shame on you, Ms. Pavley. Shame on you and the powers that be at this Democrat headquarters for such an insulting, tasteless and unprofessional display of posture.

Well, at least the flag is properly displayed.

James Zeruk Jr.

Santa Monica

In response to critics

Editor:

In answer to Gera Korte's letter ("Enough Already," page 4, May 22, 2008), I regularly get similar remarks from acquaintances – "Forget the [figus] trees," they say. "Do something more important with your time," etc.

It so happens that I work for (or against) what I consider the number one national problem and the number one local problem. My choice of national problem is the Iraq war, and it was at rallies against it that I learned of the Treesavers because so many of them... are anti-war activists. Is that a worthy enough cause for Korte? And if we can be advised how we can help with Korte favorites such as transients, murderers, unsafe crossings, bicycles, perhaps some of us can help with those.

Cecilia Rosenthal

Santa Monica



What's the Point?

David Pizarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

We don't honor the fallen heroes

THIS PAST JANUARY I WAS SITTING IN A Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, observing the people around me. One of them, a bull of a man, was watching the news-feeds on the advertising monitors. I asked him if he could recall any of the ads he had just watched, he replied no, and that opened a conversation between us.

He had a military background, and was clearly a student of history, and soon we started speaking about the faux patriotism that we have today, versus the attitude of sacrifice and common endeavor that was the hallmark of World War II.

I had to agree with him, for one of my pet peeves are those annoying little yellow ribbon stickers that people buy to put on their cars that say "support the troops." I see that as such an empty gesture. It is too easy to buy a sticker at a carwash and use that to proclaim your support.

If you go to The Galley, you can see the type of publicity campaign that was waged to generate a sense of unity and camaraderie to bring us together as a nation, a nation at war. There are posters that proclaim "Sacrifice at home, so that they won't have to" with a line drawing of a sailor.

We had "Victory Gardens," people went without luxury goods, like meat, to provide for our troops. Everyone understood that sacrifice was necessary, even if some of them didn't participate.

Today, no civilian family understands that sacrifice is necessary, and I can't name one person, besides President Bush, who has given up anything to assist in the war effort. The president's sacrifice however, is telling. He gave up golf.

On the one hand, I think that is a slap in the face to the brave men and women who do serve in the armed forces. Anyone who has played golf understands that this is a rich white man's game for the leisure set.

At least when played at the non-professional level. To be the president and to say that he has given up golf to show solidarity with the military families seems condescending.

On the other hand, I've given up nothing. My life, and those of my fellow Americans, continues on.

We make no sacrifices, we don't really follow what is going on in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Sudan.

So long as we can buy our ribs by the multi-pack, and enjoy our big screen TVs, the fact that over 4,000 Americans have died in Iraq and more than 500 in Afghanistan, according to icasualties.org, is not something that is shocking anymore to the American conscience.

The appalling fact is that those numbers are grossly underreporting the reality of the true cost to our troops. Thanks to the Department of Defense's arcane rules of what is "hostile" there are many deaths that are reported as non-hostile.

There are also many more who are now

injured, and thanks to advances in medicine, survive, but are grossly wounded and disabled. Those veterans then come back to a Veteran's Administration that is underfunded, and is overwhelmed with the physical and mental needs of the returning soldiers who are not receiving the care they need for months, and in some cases, years.

That is why I am urging everyone this Memorial Day, if you want to support the troops, do something of value. Send a check to the VA, or the VFW, or VeteransforPeace.org.

Buy a vet a steak dinner, and listen to what they have to say about the costs of this war, or any war.

IF WE WANTED TO HONOR THE DEAD WE WOULD WORK FOR PEACE. WE WOULD DO MORE THAN PUT FLAGS ON GRAVE MARKERS AND HOLD PARADES LISTENING TO HOT-AIR POLITICIANS ESPOUSE WAL-MART PATRIOTISM.

Memorial Day is to remember the fallen. We dedicated this day to the soldiers who have made the greatest sacrifice possible, for others to live.

But as funerals are for the living to process the grief, so the purpose of Memorial Day is for the living to remember the dead. Remembering is more appropriate to me than honoring them. We can't give honor to those who have fallen, while we continue to wage war.

If we wanted to honor the dead we would work for peace.

We would do more than put flags on grave markers and hold parades listening to hot-air politicians espouse Wal-Mart patriotism.

We need to come together this Memorial Day to remember that sacrifice is an important part of a nation at war. The world has changed, and goods are plentiful, so what we need to sacrifice is our time, by giving some of it to a veteran in need.

David Pizarra is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pizarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

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Your column here

OWEN LEDDY & JESSIE BRUCE

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Kids say the darndest things

KIDS BUILDING COMMUNITIES

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE OTHER families on your block? Do you know them at all?

A strong community can only be built if the people in it can collaborate and work as a neighborhood. Why not kids too?

If kids all get to know the other kids in their neighborhood, it will bring families together and forge a great community. Kids can make friends, do projects together, help each other with homework, and generally improve the sense of community in their area.

That's how it always used to be too. People would know everyone on their block. There was no mystery about whom you lived near.

With some effort it can be that way again. According to research and studies, about 55 percent of kids volunteer in their local communities., that's great, but if kids got to know each other and did things together, that number could increase greatly.

So make introductions and, for all those kids who might be reading this, ask your parents to introduce you as well.

Organize a block party and invite everyone. Go for group walks with your new-found friends. And, most important of all, have fun.

Imagine a neighborhood where your best friend lives across the street. People stop to chat when they see each other on the street. Kids come biking down the street in a noisy group, laughing and joking. Imagine what your community could be if we all worked together.

— Owen Leddy

NO ONE NOTICES THEM

HAVE YOU SEEN PEOPLE ON THE STREETS with no homes, or food when some people have a lot of both, and more?

Do you know how many adults in the United States have been homeless at some point in their lifetime? Well, 12 million adults have.

Twenty-two percent of the homeless are mentally ill in surveyed cities, and 30 percent are users of substance. A way to help is to have more homeless shelters for all different

ACCORDING TO RESEARCH AND STUDIES, ABOUT 55 PERCENT OF KIDS VOLUNTEER IN THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES., THAT'S GREAT, BUT IF KIDS GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER AND DID THINGS TOGETHER, THAT NUMBER COULD INCREASE GREATLY.

kinds of homeless people. For instance, there could be one for mentally ill, one for users of substance. Also, we should raise money for them by having a bake sale, lemonade stand, a yard sale ... anything you want to do.

Look in your house for clothes you don't wear and donate them to shelters. Homeless people don't have homes, but they usually don't have many clothes, toys, electronics, or food.

So be happy for what you have. Our country is too busy with the war in Iraq and we don't notice this problem right in front of us.

Think about what I just told you. I hope everyone can help, because this is a real problem. What if you were homeless? You wouldn't want to be, so get up and try to make a difference. Get more people to notice this problem, because we can't do this alone.

— Jessie Bruce

Owen Leddy and Jessie Bruce are fifth-grade students at Wildwood School, an independent, private K-12 school in Los Angeles. The students are studying how to write editorials and submitted their work to the Santa Monica Daily Press for publication. They can be reached at school at (310) 397-3134 ext. 4048.

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The Q-Line

Stepping Down

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent Dianne Talarico is widely expected to leave her post at the end of the school year.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

What should the Board of Education look for when selecting her successor?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.



Kate Bransfield
Estates Director

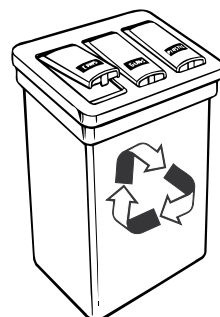
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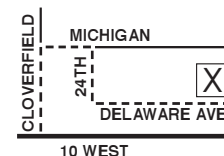
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State business gets condor experts' silence in land deal

NOAKI SCHWARTZ

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Biologist Noel Snyder got an intriguing call from a development-company representative a day after it announced it was moving forward with plans to build nearly 3,500 luxury homes, condos and hotels on land used by the endangered California condor.

Would he like to make \$3,000 for just one day's work reviewing the company's plan to safeguard the condor from the development?

There was just one catch: Snyder would have to sign a promise not to publicly criticize the Tejon Ranch Co. project.

"My jaw dropped to the floor," said Snyder, one of the foremost experts on North America's largest flying bird. "It was very clear to me I could've asked for \$10,000. I could've asked for \$50,000."

The Portal, Ariz., scientist said he turned the job down for fear it might prevent him from objectively evaluating the plan and, if he disagreed, from testifying against it in court. He has since decided the project could significantly harm the condor.

But others have taken the offer from Tejon (TAY-hone). The developer has retained the services — and secured the public silence — of three condor experts. That's a significant portion of the half-dozen or so scientists specializing in condors on Tejon, according to the developer's chief consultant on the bird, Peter Bloom.

In truth, many environmentalists are delighted by the deal, under which Tejon will set aside an extraordinary 375 square miles for the bird and other wildlife. It would be the biggest parcel in California history to be designated for conservation.

Five of the nation's most influential environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council and Audubon California, helped



WE HAD TO GIVE UP SOMETHING AND WE GAVE UP THE RIGHT TO OPPOSE THE DEVELOPMENT."

Joel Reynolds

Attorney at the Defense Council

negotiate the plan and gave it their blessing when it was announced earlier this month.

But critics say that with hundreds of millions of dollars at stake, Tejon is systematically trying to stifle any remaining opposition to its plans, which are still awaiting approval from various government entities.

"Given the small number of experts with knowledge of this land and given Tejon's behavior to now, I think one of their tactics is to bottle up some or all of those experts so there can be no dissent if this lands in court," said Adam Keats, an attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity, which is considering suing over the project.

Tejon spokesman Barry Zoeller bristled at the criticism.

"If there is any assertion or implication that any attempt was made to get an opinion or buy an opinion from someone, that is absolutely incorrect and flies in the face of the independent evaluation" of the conservation groups, he said. "They're putting their credibility on the line as well."

Zoeller said Tejon routinely requires consultants to sign confidentiality agreements because information leaks can harm the company's stock and its shareholders.

Companies often hire environmental experts as consultants with the expectation they will give an honest assessment but not publicly bash a plan. In the past decade, however, developers have increasingly required consultants to actually sign contracts with clauses preventing them from

speaking out, said Tom Scott, a former biological consultant who is now a natural resources specialist at the University of California, Berkeley.

The condor has near-mythical status in California and virtually any project seen as even remotely threatening to its habitat faces stiff opposition. Getting the conservation groups and the condor experts to sign off on the deal — and, in the case of the experts, not publicly criticize any parts of it — gives the project a major boost.

David Clendenen, a condor expert who declined to work for Tejon, criticized those who accepted the consulting job, saying the arrangement "destroys their credibility completely."

"For us, the ultimate line in the sand is you don't allow development in designated critical habitat, and it's that simple," he said.

Tejon Ranch Co. is a publicly traded company dating to 1936. Its primary asset is Tejon Ranch, a 426-square-mile area about 60 miles north of Los Angeles that is the largest unbroken expanse of land under single ownership in California.

The land was mainly used for farming and ranching for decades. In 2000, the company began looking to develop parts of the property but ran into resistance from environmentalists.

The project to build 3,450 housing units on land used as a feeding ground by condors is just one piece of far larger Tejon Ranch Co. plan to build what amounts to a mid-size city that could eventually bring more

than 70,000 people to the area.

Two years ago, the company began negotiating a compromise with the environmental groups, ultimately agreeing to set aside a huge tract atop the Tehachapi Mountains that is home to elk, wild turkeys, coyotes, bears, eagles and the California condor.

"We had to give up something and we gave up the right to oppose the development," said Joel Reynolds, an attorney at the Defense Council.

The California condor nearly went extinct in the 1980s. In 1987, the last 22 wild condors were trapped and taken to zoos for a breeding program that raised their numbers to just under 300. Now there are some 200 in the wild, with about 60 in California, many of which use Tejon for foraging.

As for the consultants hired by Tejon, "experts expect to get paid and it doesn't mean their integrity goes by the wayside," Reynolds said.

Bloom, who previously worked on condor issues for the National Audubon Society, was Tejon's lead condor consultant during the confidential negotiations. He said he was paid "a healthy amount" but would not be more specific, saying it would "taint people's opinion" about a deal he feels provides adequate protection.

Lloyd Kiff, who once called Tejon Ranch Co. the "anti-Christ for condors," was hired to scrutinize the condor plan about a month before the agreement was made public.

He, too, declined to say what he was paid but said he was persuaded to take the job because of the impressive roster of environmental groups that signed off on it. Kiff said he endorsed the plan only after Tejon incorporated many of his suggestions.

Bob Risebrough, the third hired condor consultant, said he was pleased with the final product but declined to comment on his deal with Tejon, citing the confidentiality agreement.

Vallejo faces uncertain future after declaring bankruptcy

BY TERENCE CHEA

Associated Press Writer

VALLEJO, Calif. For years, this cash-strapped city on the edge of San Francisco Bay shrugged off warnings that it was paying and promising its employees more than it could afford.

But the day of financial reckoning arrived last week when Vallejo became California's largest city to declare bankruptcy.

Other cities are monitoring Vallejo's decision closely as they too grapple with mush-

rooming employee costs and shrinking tax revenue amid the ongoing housing crisis and economic slump.

"They might not be at the crisis point we're in today, but sooner or later they're going to get there," said Vallejo Mayor Osby Davis.

This Bay Area suburb of about 120,000 people faces a \$16 million deficit in its fiscal year starting July 1. Bankruptcy will keep services running and prevent creditors from suing the city while officials devise a plan to get back on solid financial footing.

Like Vallejo, many U.S. cities are saddled with labor contracts that offer salaries, overtime pay, pensions and health benefits they say they can't afford. Those expenses are expected to balloon as health care costs soar and employees retire earlier and live longer.

Vallejo officials hope the bankruptcy judge will allow the city to rewrite its labor contracts and bring compensation down. If they're successful, other cities may follow their lead, experts say.

"The solution that will come out of Vallejo

may very well be a model for other cities facing similar fiscal challenges," said Marcia Fritz, vice president of the California Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility. "If Vallejo turns out better after declaring bankruptcy ... that will be an avenue (other cities) look at to break contracts."

But bankruptcy is not without risks. It will cost the city millions of dollars in legal fees and damage its credit rating. As a result, borrowing money to build roads, schools and other projects will become much harder — and more expensive.

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Big Blue Bus seeks new management system

FROM CONSENT PAGE 1

figus trees. A restraining order was issued against City Hall just days before construction was expected to commence.

City Hall recently prevailed on the lawsuit when the California Appellate Court denied the Treesavers' petition to challenge the project. The 23 ficus trees identified as being structurally unstable recently came down and the remaining seven trees slated for relocation — shaved down from the original 31 — have yet to be moved. More than half of the contract increase is to cover design development of tree up-lighting. The remainder is attributed to the litigation.

"Due to the delay in construction from the ficus tree restraining order, costs for construction support design services are anticipated to increase by \$22,000," according to a city staff report.

CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE ON SMOKING BAN

Visitors to Santa Monica need not read up on the city ordinance to know that smoking is illegal. A new anti-smoking campaign is expected to be rolled out in the coming months, informing visitors about the series of smoking ban related laws that have been adopted in the past several years, including the 2003 prohibition at city parks and most recently, in most outdoor areas.

Southard Communications is expected to receive a \$150,000 contract to devise the campaign, the firm chosen because of its background in social-marketing.

"They proposed a research-based approach to effectively target diverse audiences," according to a city staff report.

In addition to beaches and parks, smoking is outlawed within 20 feet of any door or window of a building that is open to the public. Smoking is also banned at the Third Street Promenade, waiting areas, the Santa Monica Farmers' Market and in most areas of the Santa Monica Pier.

MAKING CITY HALL EARTHQUAKE SAFE

More work means more money.

Due to a number of revisions and an increased scope of work for the City Hall Seismic Retrofit project, engineering firm Black and Veatch is seeking nearly \$309,000 more to its existing contract.

A number of changes to the elevator and electric room designs and multiple presentations to governing boards have increased the costs for the project, according to city staff. The enhancement in the contract is necessary for the consultant to complete the design work for improvements to the old jail and electric room.

BETTER MANAGEMENT FOR BIG BLUE BUS

The Big Blue Bus is seeking a new management system that can better track driver certifications, training and timekeeping, its current software outdated and inefficient. The Trapeze Software Group has been tapped to provide the new Motor Coach Operator Management System and customer service software for \$1.6 million, a contract that includes four additional one-year options that total more than \$441,000.

The existing system is outdated and cannot interface properly with new products used by the Big Blue Bus. The new software will track employee absences and manage payroll, according to transit staff.

In addition to authorizing the software purchase, the council will also be asked to spend more than \$740,000 in grant money for transit security projects, allowing the Big Blue

**DUE TO THE
DELAY IN CON-
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DESIGN SERVICES ARE
ANTICIPATED TO
INCREASE BY \$22,000."**

City staff report

Bus to conduct security training for all front-line employees. The federal, state and regional grant funds will also help enhance security improvements to the Big Blue Bus campus.

MORE HELP WITH EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The council will be asked to extend a contract with Aon Consulting and Insurance Service by \$25,000, allowing the firm to continue providing employee benefit and consulting services through the end of the fiscal year.

Among the services provided by the firm are health insurance renewal negotiations and consultation on savings plans.

NEW FACE ON CHARNOCK WELL FIELD TEAM

Management firm WorleyParsons Komex is expected to join the team for the Charnock Well Field Restoration Project, providing technical oversight and support services for an undertaking that will replenish the local drinking water supply.

The drinking water wells at the Charnock Field were shut down in 1996 due to MTBE contamination, a gasoline additive. City Hall has imported water from the Metropolitan Water District since the incident. WorleyParsons Komex is expected to receive a \$900,000 contract, among its services to ensure that the improvements proposed by the contractor are appropriate. City officials hope the treatment facility will be running by 2010.

NEW TRAFFIC SYSTEM

Traffic engineering firm Kimley-Horn and Associates is expected to receive a \$660,000 contract to design and prepare plans for a new traffic management system. The Advanced Traffic Management System, which will initially be used in Downtown Santa Monica and then expanded citywide, will synchronize traffic signal timing within the entire system.

The system will provide centralized control over all traffic signal operations and other related devices, such as traffic monitoring cameras, on one system.

GRANTS FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAM

The council is expected to spend roughly \$40,000 in state grants to institute the Aboveground Petroleum Storage Tank Act (APSA). City Hall is a Certified Unified Program Agency, allowing it to coordinate six specific hazardous material control programs.

The programs are operated by the Environmental Programs Division with the Santa Monica and Los Angeles Fire Departments. The grant will be used to fold in the APSA into the existing CUPA system.

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Council speakers now limited to two minutes

FROM PUBLIC COMMENT PAGE 1

staff reports to introduce discussion items and limiting councilmembers' time to speak. Neither suggestion was approved.

Shriver pointed to the state Park & Recreation Commission — on which he served — as an example, noting there are no staff reports during meetings because it is assumed that commissioners have already read up on the material. Instead, the meeting jumps right into public comments and staff is given the opportunity to respond, Shriver said.

"I hear a large amount of push back in the community from people who say they are unable to come to the meetings at the time (their item) gets put on," Shriver said last week. "The way we run meetings discourages participation ... by the public."

Several council meetings this year have dragged on past midnight because of a discussion item or two that attracted a horde of public speakers, believing there is persuasion in large numbers. More than 40 people spoke during a recent meeting regarding the Third Street Historic District, the discussion running so long that the council had to postpone its decision to the next meeting.

"When was the last time we turned down a parking district?" Holbrook asked. "Generally it's 7-0 ... everyone of us knows the item is a slam dunk. (Yet) we get a lot of people show up."

Prior to the changes, public comment was limited from three to two minutes only on dis-

cussion items that had more than 15 speakers. The commenting time was also limited to two minutes if there were more than 40 people interested in speaking throughout the meeting.

Under the revised rules, all speakers will have only two minutes regardless.

Jerry Rubin, a council meeting regular, said he didn't have a problem with limiting public speaking time, adding that he can usually get his thoughts out in two minutes. The problem with long council meetings can instead be attributed to the scheduling of closed session which should be moved to a different night, Rubin said.

Closed session takes place following the consent calendar and can often run longer than one hour.

Rubin also pointed out tardiness.

Shorter meetings could also mean more meetings. Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom said the council might have to meet more frequently to avoid falling behind, adding that scheduling extra meetings when he was mayor last year was like "pulling teeth."

"We need to recognize that we need some amount of time to catch up," Bloom said.

Bloom used as an example the Pasadena City Council, which oversees a city with similar complex issues and demographics as Santa Monica. While the city council only meets for four hours, its meetings are held weekly.

"We're trying to preserve a small-town democracy in a city that has big-city issues," Bloom said. "There's a tension and a balance."

melodyh@smdp.com



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The City of Santa Monica Housing and Economic Development Department is currently accepting proposals to create and preserve affordable housing in the City of Santa Monica beginning June 1, 2008 until funds are exhausted. These proposals will be evaluated pursuant to the Housing Trust Fund Guidelines - primarily the Redevelopment Housing Trust Fund subsection of Section VII. An electronic copy of the Guidelines is available upon request at the Housing Division, located at 2121 Cloverfield Boulevard, Suite 100, Santa Monica, 90404 and is available online at <http://smgov.net/housing/nofa/htfguidelines.pdf>.

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Barbara Collins, Housing Manager

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Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull 2 hrs (PG-13) 1 p.m., 2:25, 4, 5:25, 7, 8:25, 10 The Fall (R) 1hr 57min 1:30 p.m., 6:45 Harold and Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay 1 hr 42 min (R) 4:15 p.m., 9:30 Baby Mama 1 hr 36 min (PG-13) 1:15 p.m., 3:50, 6:30, 9	LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741	Made of Honor (PG-13) 1hr 41min 11:50 a.m., 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10 What Happens in Vegas (PG-13) 1hr 39min 11:10 a.m., 12:10, 1:40, 2:40, 4:15, 5:10, 6:40, 7:40, 9:20, 10:20
AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262	Postal (R) 1hr 39min 1:40 p.m., 4:30, 7:10, 9:40 The Visitor (ZPG-13) 1hr 48min 1:30 p.m., 4:20, 7:20, 10	
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Hang out with a pal, Cap

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ If you're feeling exhausted or down before the day has begun, let it go. Maybe you would like to take a day or two off. If you think you need to make a major change, give yourself time. Tonight: Vanish while you can.	LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ Focus on getting errands and "the job" done. Certainly you will experience a lot of crosscurrents right now. Concentrate and prioritize. You will get results. Emphasize possibilities. Defer to others when you're unsure. Tonight: Call it an early night.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ The time has come to focus on friends, desires and the possibility of realizing a goal. Understand what is happening with a dear friend or loved one. Could he or she be jealous? Tonight: Know what you want.	SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★ Creativity comes forward when dealing with others. Try to avoid being put in situations where you need to make decisions. Help others think and create solutions. In the long run, this will be a better approach. Tonight: Let your imagination design this evening.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★ Step up to the plate, and you'll get great results. Take someone's request as only that, not a demand. A family member simply could be irritable and nothing more. Do your own thing as the day ages. Tonight: Say yes.	SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ Pressure bubbles up. Negativity will float if you're not careful. Your perception could change dramatically in either case. You'll want to remain sensitive to a family member with all this tension. Tonight: Be happy to go home.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ If you feel pushed by events and you don't like what you hear, that is fine. Just the same, you could feel much better if you detach. You just might see another slant or perspective. Understanding grows. Tonight: Listen to great music.	CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ Express yourself creatively with others. You might not be able to get a handle on where someone is coming from. You will if you keep communication open. Tonight: Hang out with a pal.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ You deal with others directly and on an individual level. You could hit a little flak, which might send you into a tizzy. Insecurity mounts as you deal with finances and someone who doesn't see eye to eye with others. Tonight: Live it up.	AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Curb spending while you still can. If you feel uncomfortable with an expenditure, say no. If you need time to assess it, say so. Don't allow yourself to be painted into a corner. Tonight: Your treat.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Fatigue might be the most common response to the day's events, whether good or bad. As a result, the smart Virgo would be well advised to distance himself and take in information. Defer to others. Your sense of humor could ease the way. Tonight: Sort through invitations and then decide what works for you.	PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ You could be irrational sometimes. Could this be one of those times? Relax when dealing with others, knowing that you have the right idea. Investigate new ideas, and allow yourself the time to come to understand this person. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

Happy birthday

This year is divided into two distinct periods – before New Year's 2009 and after. Tension could be high until 2009. You'll discover how much happier you are after 2008 says goodbye, relatively quickly. Let others lead more often. Letting others have authority is the first step in helping them see the end results of their ideas. If you are single, your life will take on a new variety if you remain open. Be careful about a tendency to be possessive. If you are attached, be careful about pushing too hard to get what you want. Plan a special trip together for the winter. PISCES can trigger you.

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	3		6	5				9
1			3	9				5
	9					7	3	

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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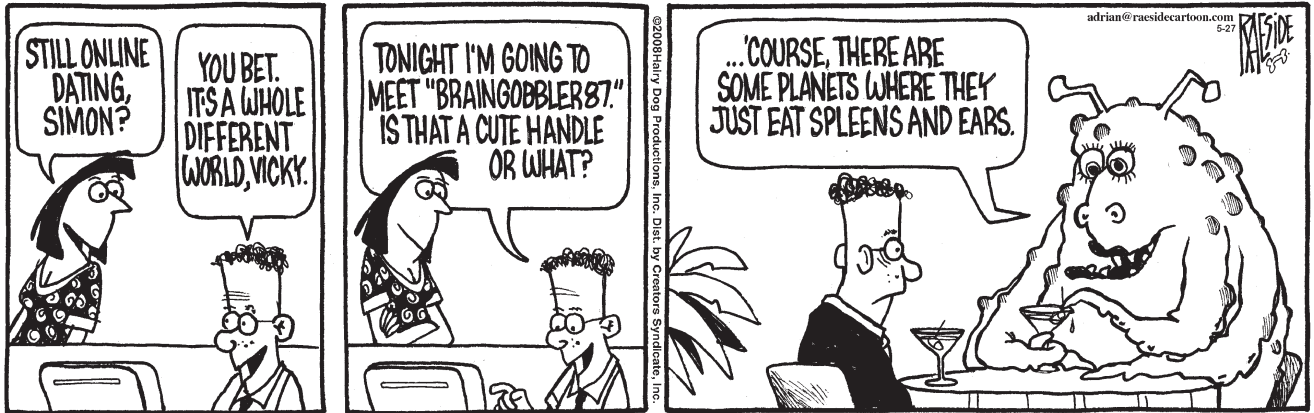
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



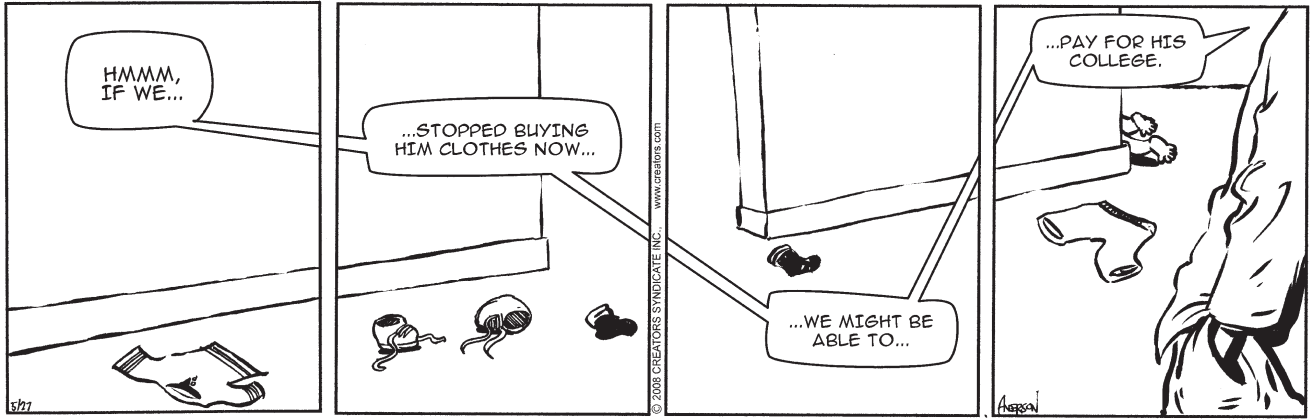
Garfield

By Jim Davis

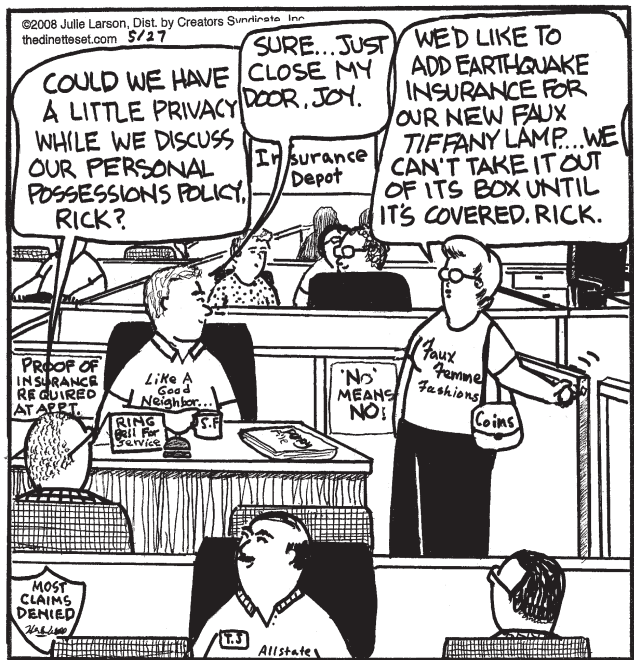


Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

The first one to identify where this shot was taken wins a prize from the Daily Press. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Syrup source
- 6 Airport aid
- 11 Shake-spearean sprite
- 12 Suspect's story
- 13 Spot for Mays or Mantle
- 15 Have lunch
- 16 Big tub
- 17 Casual shirt
- 18 Taxi part
- 20 Feel faint
- 23 Tatter
- 27 Rank above viscount
- 28 Travel document
- 29 Coffee add-in
- 31 Indy entrant
- 32 Push away
- 34 Language suffix
- 37 British brew
- 38 — Vegas
- 41 Spot for Federer or Nadal
- 44 Ham's device
- 45 Shire of "Rocky"
- 46 Indy winner Al
- 47 Examine

DOWN

- 1 Spice from nutmeg
- 2 Vicinity
- 3 Milk buy
- 4 Allow
- 5 Football team
- 6 Ceiling support
- 7 Will Smith film
- 8 Slimming plan
- 9 Qualified
- 10 Take the bus
- 14 Informer
- 18 Back tooth
- 19 Arch-enemy
- 20 Brief time

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

Yesterday's answer

- 21 Kids' card game
- 22 Mine material
- 24 Snapshot
- 25 Wield
- 26 Golfer's goal
- 30 Shooting star
- 31 Gasps, perhaps
- 33 A pop
- 34 Beige
- 35 Penn or Connery
- 36 Closes
- 38 Doozy
- 39 Like the desert
- 40 Don't budge
- 42 Father's Day gift
- 43 Cereal bit

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1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13					14					
15				16				17		
			18				19			
20	21	22				23		24	25	26
27							28			
29				30		31				
			32		33					
34	35	36		37				38	39	40
41			42				43			
44						45				
46						47				

5-27

DAILY LOTTERY



4 8 11 22 30
Meganumber: 4
Jackpot: \$17M



2 4 19 31 42
Meganumber: 12
Jackpot: \$34M



8 9 17 29 37



MIDDAY: 8 6 0
EVENING: 1 5 9



1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:46.41

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>

TODAY IN HISTORY

1818 American reformer Amelia Jenks Bloomer, who popularized the garment that bears her name — "bloomers" — was born in Homer, N.Y.

1896 255 people were killed when a tornado struck St. Louis and East St. Louis, Ill.

1933 Walt Disney's Academy Award-winning animated short "The Three Little Pigs" was first released.

1935 the Supreme Court, in Schechter Poultry Corporation v. United States, struck down the National Industrial Recovery Act.

1936 the Cunard liner RMS Queen Mary left England on its maiden voyage to New York.

1937 the newly completed Golden Gate Bridge connecting San Francisco and Marin County, Calif., was opened to pedestrian traffic. (Vehicular traffic began crossing the bridge the next day.)

1941 amid rising world tensions, President Roosevelt proclaimed an "unlimited national emergency."

1941 the British navy sank the German battleship Bismarck off France, with a loss of more than 2,100 lives.

1964 independent India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, died.

1985 in Beijing, representatives of Britain and China exchanged instruments of ratification on the pact returning Hong Kong to the Chinese in 1997.

1993 five people were killed in a bombing at the Uffizi museum of art in Florence, Italy.

WORD UP!

vehement \VEE-uh-muhnt\, adjective:

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- 2. Characterized by or acting with great force or energy; strong.

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A DAY IN THE Life

A weekly slice of life culled from one of Santa Monica's seven neighborhoods, "A Day in the Life" turns the focus on the everyday and thrusts the oftentimes overlooked into the spotlight.

W O O D L A W N C E M E T E R Y

MONDAY, MAY 26, 2008



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

HONOR: (right) Mayor Herb Katz on Monday was the first to honor soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice by placing a bouquet on the Memorial Day grave site in front of the mausoleum at the 70th Annual Memorial Day Observance at Woodlawn Cemetery. (top) With American flags in hand, veterans and their families listen to keynote speaker U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Mark F. Heinrich, director of Logistics Operations. (far right) Flags were placed at the grave sites of soldiers. (middle) With hands lifted high veterans from the American Legion of Venice salute the American flag as it is unfurled. (above) Surrounded by Memorial Day attendants, the color guard comprised of Santa Monica Police Explorers carries the American and California flags to the front of the stage.



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		<u>Single Family Homes</u>	<u>Condos & Townhomes</u>
Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 2,269,000	No Listings
North of Montana	=	\$ 4,108,148	\$ 1,671,111
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 3,160,091	\$ 992,700
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,059,539	\$ 738,756
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,480,630	\$ 615,938
Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,866,667	\$ 1,349,523

Statistics updated every Wednesday

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