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WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008

Volume 7 Issue 168



Santa Monica Daily Press

LOST AND FOUND
SEE PAGE 6

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE GO LAKERS ISSUE

Putting in work

City Hall looks to spend $129M for improvements

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Locating the next Big Blue Bus arrival will soon only require the touch of a send button.

In an effort to enhance customer service and scheduling predictability, the local public transportation agency plans to install a new feature whereby passengers waiting for their bus can dial into an automated response system, plug in the station number and find out when the ride is expected to show.

"We are implementing real-time information at the highest (traffic) bus stop locations … and we think that will make it easier for existing customers and will help us attract new users," Stephanie Negriff, the director for the Big Blue Bus, said.

The call-in feature is part of a batch of projects the Big Blue Bus is slated to receive under City Hall's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), a three-year plan that finances undertakings related to the city's infrastructure, whether it be addressing pedestrian safety in the Pico Neighborhood or replacing the beach restrooms.

The CIP for the fiscal 2008-09 year is estimated at more than $129 million, roughly $17.3 million of which will come from both the general and capital project funds, representing 13 percent of that budget. The remainder of the CIP budget will be paid through various unrestricted resources, including the Redevelopment Agency fund, according to Don Patterson, the assistant to the city manager for management services.

The proposed CIP budget, which was presented to the City Council last week, represents an approximately $51 million spike over the current fiscal year, attributed to increases in redevelopment and Big Blue Bus projects.

The projects were chosen based on council priorities, community input received during the fall neighborhood group sessions, departmental needs and whether any grants or non-city funds could be leveraged. The first year of the CIP budget includes council adoption and appropriation, moving on to planning and construction in the second and third years, Patterson said.

"The projects may change by this time next

SEE CIP PAGE 11



Alexandra Bissonnette *news@smdp.com*

STRUCTURE: **Among the more notable recipients of City Hall funding in the next fiscal cycle will be the Santa Monica Municipal Pier, which will see about $3.2 million in infrastructure improvements.**

Firemen to assess dispatch center

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY More than a year after the Santa Monica Fire Department merged its dispatch center with Los Angeles, city officials are beginning to evaluate the performance of a new system that has drawn some criticism for service quality and slower response times.

The SMFD contracted the Los Angeles Fire Department Regional Dispatch Center in January 2007 to handle all 911 calls, expanding the capability to address emergency situations in Santa Monica where the fire department in the past only had one dispatcher per 12-hour shift.

Santa Monica fire officials spent nearly two years evaluating nine different options to enhance dispatch services, including increasing staffing at the local Communications Center and creating a joint center with the Beverly Hills and Culver City fire departments.

The Los Angeles regional dispatch center was the only one that met all of Santa Monica's needs, according to SMFD Chief Jim Hone.

The switch to a regional dispatch center also allowed the SMFD to acquire $2.4 million in unmatched Homeland Security grant funds to purchase a new fire station alerting system and radios. The grant also offsets the first 18 months of the regional dispatch contract.

The contract for the current fiscal year is estimated at approximately $611,000. Prior to 2005, the cost to operate the SMFD Communication Center was approximately $551,000.

While the new dispatch center has alleviated some of the burdens placed on the one dispatch officer, it has created some concerns for its slower response time and in the accuracy of the emergency situations that are

SEE DISPATCH PAGE 12


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



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.

Thursday, May 29, 2008

Move to the beat

SMC Concert Hall, 1900 Pico Blvd., 11:15 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

The Santa Monica College Percussion Ensemble, led by conductor Matthew Altmire, will present a creative, unique performance of percussion music, covering a variety of styles. Admission is free. For more information contact SMC at (310) 434-4452.

Sing it loud

Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m.

SMC Emeritus' Lyric Chorus presents its seasonal mixture of Broadway and Hollywood songs including "April in Paris" and "Lyrically Yours." The concert will take place in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium. Admission is free. For more information contact Judith Graham at (310) 458-8600 or at judith.graham@smgov.net

Can I see your tongue?

1807 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 200, 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.

As part of the Quarterly Lecture Series at Emperor's College of Traditional Oriental Medicine, this is a free lecture to educate curious members of the community about Oriental Medicine. Faculty member Mark Franco Lac will discuss the techniques used to diagnose patients and the important information derived from those methods. No previous knowledge of Oriental Medicine is required. For more information contact the college at (310) 453-8300, ext. 127.

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.



Pollack remembered as one of Hollywood's greatest

BY RAQUEL MARIA DILLON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Sydney Pollack was remembered by some of the elite actors he directed in films such as "Out of Africa," "Tootsie," and "Absence of Malice," not only for his Academy Award-winning direction, but also for his acting talents.

Pollack, diagnosed with cancer about nine months ago, died Monday afternoon, surrounded by family, at his home in Pacific Palisades in Los Angeles, said his publicist, Leslee Dart. He was 73.

Unlike many other top directors of his era, Pollack was also a film and television actor himself, and he used this unique position to forge a relationship with Hollywood's elite stars and create some of the most successful films of the 1970s and '80s.

"I sort of straddle the line ... between personal movies and mainstream Hollywood," he told The Associated Press in 1993.

In 1970, "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?," about Depression-era marathon dancers, received nine Oscar nominations, including one for Pollack's direction. He was nominated again for best director for 1982's "Tootsie," starring Dustin Hoffman as a cross-dressing actor and Pollack as the exasperated agent who tells him, "I begged you to get some therapy."

As director and producer, he won Academy Awards for the 1986 romantic epic "Out of Africa," starring Robert Redford and Meryl Streep, which captured seven Oscars in all.

Last fall, Pollack played law firm boss Marty Bach opposite George Clooney in "Michael Clayton," which he also co-produced. It received seven Oscar nominations.

"Sydney made the world a little better, movies a little better and even dinner a little better. A tip of the hat to a class act," Clooney said in a statement. "He'll be missed terribly."

Other A-listers Pollack directed include Sally Field and Paul Newman in "Absence of Malice," Nicole Kidman and Sean Penn in "The Interpreter," Robert Mitchum in "The Yakuza," Tom Cruise in "The Firm," and Redford in seven films: "This Property Is Condemned," "Jeremiah Johnson," "Three Days of the Condor," "The Way We Were" with Barbra Streisand, "The Electric Horseman," "Out of Africa" and "Havana."

"I first met him while he was in the midst of editing 'Tootsie,'" Cruise said in a statement. "I'd seen every one of his pictures and he generously took the meeting. ... He spent over six hours, with the patience of Job, answering all my questions.

"Throughout the years, unpretentious and never condescending, he shared with me what he loved about family, storytelling, food, flying and a great bottle of vino," Cruise added. "He was a Renaissance man and a great friend. I will miss him dearly."

In later years, Pollack, who stood over six feet tall and had a striking presence on screen, devoted more time to acting, appearing in Woody Allen's "Husbands and Wives," Robert Altman's "The Player," Robert Zemeckis' "Death Becomes Her" and Stanley Kubrick's "Eyes Wide Shut."

On television, Pollack had an occasional recurring role on the NBC sitcom "Will & Grace" playing Will's (Eric McCormack) father, and appeared in the "The Sopranos," "Frasier" and "Mad About You."

His last screen appearance was in "Made of Honor," a romantic comedy currently in theaters, where he played the oft-married father of star Patrick Dempsey's character.

"Most of the great directors that I know of were not actors, so I can't tell you it's a requirement," Pollack said at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2005. "On the other hand, it's an enormous help."

Pollack first met Redford when they acted in 1962's low-budget "War Hunt," and would go on to play a major role in making Redford a star. "It's easy working with Bob; I don't have to be diplomatic with him," Pollack once told The Associated Press. "I know what he can and cannot do; I know all the colors he has. I've always felt he was a character actor in the body of a leading man."

Pollack produced many independent films with the late Anthony Minghella and the production company Mirage Enterprises. His producing credits include "The Talented Mr. Ripley"; "Cold Mountain"; "Sketches of Frank Gehry," a documentary that was the final film directed by Pollack; and the new HBO film "Recount," about the 2000 presidential election.

Sidney Irwin Pollack was born in Lafayette, Ind., to first-generation Russian-Americans. In high school in South Bend, he fell in love with theater, a passion that prompted him to forgo college, move to New York and enroll in the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theater.

Studying under the renowned Sanford Meisner, Pollack spent several years cutting his teeth in various areas of theater, eventually becoming Meisner's assistant.

"We started together in New York and he always excelled at everything he set out to do, his friendships and his humanity as much as his talents," Martin Landau, a longtime close friend and associate in the Actors Studio, said in a statement.

After appearing in a handful of Broadway productions in the 1950s, Pollack turned to directing. He began on TV series such as "Naked City" and "The Fugitive," then moved to film. His first full-length feature was "The Slender Thread," about a suicide help line.

The film was scored by Quincy Jones. "Sydney Pollack's immense talents as a director were only surpassed by the compassion that he carried in his soul for his fellow man," Jones said Monday.

Pollack said in 2005 that for "Tootsie," Hoffman pushed him into playing the agent role, repeatedly sending him roses with a note reading, "Please be my agent. Love, Dorothy." At that point, Pollack hadn't acted in a movie in 20 years — since "The War Hunt" with Redford.

The love soon frayed as Pollack and Hoffman differed over whether the film should lean toward comedy or drama, and the tension spilled into the public arena. But the result was a hit at the box office and received 10 Oscar nominations, with Jessica Lange winning for best supporting actress.

Associated Press writer Marcus Franklin in New York contributed to this report.



CHAMPS

photo courtesy SAGE

Santa Monica High School took first place in the national SAGE (Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship) competition on May 23 in Cincinnati. They are now invited to represent the nation at the SAGE World Cup to be held in Nigeria, July 21-27, 2008.

Calif. Senate rejects $7 billion to improve inmate medical care

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO The state Senate on Tuesday rejected a demand from a court-appointed receiver for nearly $7 billion in bonds to improve medical care and mental health services for state prison inmates.

The move sets up a possible clash with the federal courts.

Senators who reluctantly voted for the bill said the state has little choice because a federal judge in San Francisco could order the money taken directly from the state treasury.

Senate Republicans voted against the bond money, which needs a two-thirds majority to advance to the Assembly. They said the bill was premature because of a possible federal court settlement of various prison-related lawsuits, including over health care. The bill failed 22-14, five votes shy of the two-thirds majority. Senators are expected to seek another vote on the bill Thursday.

"We have no choice but to pay," said Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland. "You don't really get an opportunity to fool around with a federal court judge."

Current medical and mental health treatment care is so poor that two federal judges have ruled it violates inmates' constitutional rights. But Republicans said a settlement proposed in federal court could reduce the prisons' population and in turn lessen the need for medical and mental health services. That possible settlement between the state, inmate advocates and law enforcement authorities was announced May 19 and could end a series of lawsuits related to California's prisons.

At the heart of the legal complaints is overcrowding and the myriad problems that accrue from that. California's 33 state prisons have about 170,000 inmates, about 70 percent over their designed capacity.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Told you so

Editor:

Back on March 1, I said in my Q-Line answer that the activists better keep a 24 hour watch on the [ficus] trees, as the City Council would be sneaky enough to go out at 2 a.m. to cut them down. Okay, I was off by a few hours, but the point is the same. They had to hurry up and suddenly do it early in the morning so they could get away with it.

Mike Kirwan
Venice

Lifeguards should not be janitors

Editor:

We all see the trash that is left on the beach after a busy weekend. Some is left by those who are careless. Some spread from trash cans by ravaging sea gulls. But what is most disturbing to me is the waste on and around our Santa Monica lifeguard towers. I have watched the local lifeguards pick up cigarette butts and used condoms from on and around their posts. I have found that this is more than just a once in a while occurrence and happens a few times a week for some time now. It is sad to think what goes on [at] the beach after dark. In such a great city it is hard to believe this continues to happen.

Chadwick Jones
Santa Monica

Good deed by a local dry cleaner

Editor:

Though we live in Pacific Palisades we frequent a Santa Monica dry cleaner because they do good work, charge a reasonable price and are very nice people. Only recently did I realize just how nice they really are. This is a young couple who run/own the shop.

My grandson, who is in college in Tucson, left me his sport jacket that needed repairing. I took it in and left it for repairs and cleaning. When my husband went to pick it up the young man handed him the jacket and then handed him six $100 bills. He explained that he had found them in the pocket of the jacket. My husband was speechless.

Evidently my grandson had cashed a paycheck and left it in his pocket. He must have been too embarrassed or ashamed to admit he'd lost the money and obviously, had no idea he'd left it in the jacket. Scary, isn't it?

When my husband got his speech back and thanked the young owner he told my husband that he'd found $4,300 recently, which he obviously returned or he would not have mentioned it.

It is a shame that we are so astounded that this young owner returned the money. I am quite sure he is having a rough time like most small businesses are.

My husband Jon and I both grew up in families who owned and ran dry cleaning establishments in the Valley. My husband remembers finding a $20 bill, a huge amount back then, and his mother firmly told him they would return it to the owner. Jon said he begged her to let him keep it, finders keepers you know, but she was quite firm and he feels it was a lesson he learned early on. Evidently this young man's mother instilled the same values in him.

I hope you will print this because his honesty needs to be acknowledged by more than my family.

The dry cleaning establishment is Plaza Cleaners at 11740 Wilshire Blvd.

Sylvia and Jon Boyd
Pacific Palisades



Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

California is not so progressive

THE L.A TIMES AND KTLA CONDUCTED A poll to get Californians' opinion on our Supreme Court giving same-sex couples the same right to marry (get sick of, then grow old and miserable with each other) as everyone else. This survey revealed the existence of a California schism around same-sex marriage — a statewide cognitive dissonance when it comes to gay and lesbian couples that could threaten our status as the hippest state in America this November.

Historically, California has been ahead of the rest of the country when it comes to individual rights and freedoms.

Sixty years ago our state's Supreme Court struck down anti-miscegenation laws designed to prevent interracial marriages (almost two decades before the United States Supreme Court) and now, in 2008, I don't have to worry about getting the chair for having sex with white women.

That's progress. So is making sure that one person in a couple isn't denied visitation in a hospital or survivor's benefits just because they happen to be the same sex as their partner.

This progress could be undermined in the fall. Opponents of equal rights for same-sex couples will get a question put on the ballot asking voters to support a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Usually, a Constitution is amended to give people rights, not take them away. But apparently when it comes to gay couples, the mission seems to be to stop them from saying "I do" by any means necessary.

I respect ballot questions as much as the next guy, despite the fact that it's the same process that got an Austrian bodybuilder with only a rudimentary ability to speak English elected governor. But the California Supreme Court's decision to grant equal rights to same-sex couples wasn't made on a whim.

It was based on a case that was heard by a trial judge who ruled in favor of same-sex marriage, then by an appellate court which overturned that judge's ruling. So some of the sharpest legal minds in the entire state have had a chance to hear the evidence and weigh in on the case and they say it's a civil rights issue.

In that case, it's morally wrong to deny these couples their rights, even if a majority of California voters want to. After all, do we really want the average uninformed voter to be making these kinds of decisions? Shouldn't a question of this magnitude be left to the experts and not to conservative voters in the Central Valley and southern California suburbs to answer?

I'm sure the good people of Modesto and Laguna Beach mean well, but do we really want them messing around with our state Constitution?

I won't blame conservatives if the amendment passes. If these people were the only proponents of the amendment, there wouldn't be a problem.

In the Bay Area alone there is enough opposition to the amendment to cancel out the Republicans who would support it.

The problem is there are some Democrats who would vote in favor of the amendment, despite their agreement with the Supreme Court ruling. According to this poll, some male Democrats, specifically.

Apparently, there are a number of men who call themselves Democrats and who agree with the Supreme Court's ruling, but would still vote in favor of a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages. The most interesting statistic in the survey is that almost half of the people who have a personal relationship with a gay person approved of the ruling and less than a quarter of those who don't have a personal relationship with a gay person approved of it.

I think one full day in Provincetown, Mass. would go a long way toward changing these men's minds.

Spending the day browsing the shops and eating in restaurants where 99 percent of the people they come in contact with are gay, super nice, and not even remotely interested in them sexually would be a real eye-opener for the average straight guy. Or they could travel to San Francisco for the pride parade.

Watching the "dykes on bikes" ceremonially start the parade with 30 minutes of roaring motorcycles ridden by proud, happy lesbians (some defiantly and unashamedly displaying their naked breasts to the world) would be like immersion therapy for undercover homophobia.

If enough of these male Democrats see that, they'd be changed forever and there is no way that amendment would pass in November.

KENNY MACK is a writer and social commentator living in Santa Monica who will vote "no" on the constitutional amendment (as you should). He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

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Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Criticism over military service rings hollow

I GOT A PHONE CALL FROM MESOPOTAMIA over the Memorial Day weekend from my son, Nathan, who is currently deployed with an EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) unit in Basra. He is, in his own words, "living the dream" of taking out the jihadist trash in the rebel Mahdi Army. Nate and I yakked and trashed talked on each other, as military guys are prone to do. It's all part of the camaraderie of being or having been in "the Club."

My Dad was in the Club in Korea. I had five uncles on my Mom's side of the tribe who were down in the front row of the Pacific Theatre at Tarawa, Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima in WWII. My paternal grandfather served as well and a great grandfather in "The Great War." In the current cultural milieu, however, we are considered, well, an oddity.

We're a family of volunteers.

Jack Neworth, in his May 16, 2008 "Laughing Matters" column in the SMDP, offered a curious opinion.

There was some dialectic drivel about taking walks and talking talks and a list of Republican pols and pundits who were either remiss in serving their country in the conscript military during the Vietnam conflict or who serve on the cheerleading squad in the current Iraq War.

I noticed, however, that Bill Clinton's name was missing from Jack's list, as were Democratopian House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and patriarch Ted Kennedy. And in what branch of the volunteer Armed Forces did Barack Obama serve?

Or should it be the "Armed Farces." Hillary Clinton probably has the most extant military street creds of all of them. Dodging sniper poems and rocket-propelled posies from a schoolgirl at a Bosnian airport nearly interrupted tea time.

And I've included the ladies on my list as I think it sexist of Jack to believe that not serving one's country should be limited by gender differences.

My Dad once told me, "There are two kinds of men, son: Men who serve their country in the military and the ones missing their … . There isn't a third choice, really." By that bit of paleo-conservative logic, there are women currently serving in the military that have a bigger set than B. Hussein Obama. I understand he plays basketball.

Currently, 844,480 officers and enlisted members that serve in the volunteer Armed Forces identified themselves as Republicans. That is nearly 60 percent of our current complement in all five services. Republicans do most of the dirty work. We like it that way.

So why is it that a Republican without a bullet on his military resume is not accorded the same liberal fascist hall pass as his Democrat doppel-gag-me?

Or is it because Democrats find all the suits in their own party closet either empty or a little too big to fill? Seems that the Whine and Cheese Party wants to claim a moral high ground without wrecking their manicure.

Speaking of "gagging me," it is interesting to note that in the same edition of the SMDP, Bubblemeister Tim Dillenbeck had threatened me personally with physical violence after I pugnaciously, yet accurately, impugned the ersatz credentials and vapid validity of B. Hussein Obama's credibility in my column.

The Buster took more issue with my "style" than he did with the substance but to his credit he does seem to agree with me since he offered no serious refutation of the facts presented.

It seems to stretch the bounds of Obamatopianism, however, that a white man can still threaten a man of color, a US Navy vet and career civil servant with the phrase, "… you just want to tie [Breen] to a chair, gag [him], shut the door and walk away…" and then hide like a schoolgirl behind the tired little vignette of "… but hey, freedom of speech; it will test us …" What grade did you get on the test, Bub?

Obamamaniacs like Bub seem to forget that veterans like me and my family, as well as the men and women buried here and abroad, who took an oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, both foreign and domestic, protect the very "freedom of speech" that allows him to threaten those same veterans while he sits blowing bubbles on the beach.

STEVE BREEN is former US Navy Aircrew Cryptologic Korean Linguist and still "the best looking Mailman in the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

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?

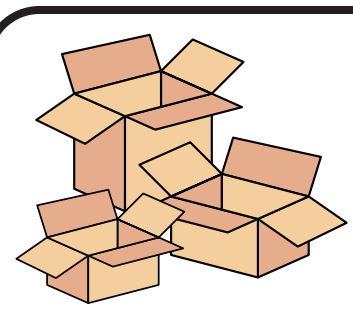
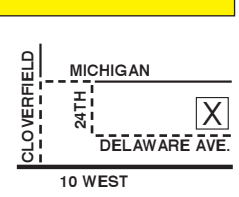
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Lose a camera? This Web site may have found it

BY DANIELA FLORES
Associated Press Writer

Imagine you lost the camera that had those one-of-a-kind vacation photos, or images of a keepsake moment. Now imagine a stranger finding it: Would you feel happy, or somehow that your privacy was invaded, if that stranger put some of your images on the Web to track you down?

A new Web site, www.Ifoundyourcamera.net, aims to do exactly that: Using the power and reach of the Internet, it asks people who find cameras, memory sticks or photos to upload and send a few of the images, which are posted for all to see. The intent is for people who visit the site to scroll through the pictures for their lost memories or for faces they know.

In three months, the Web site has had more than 700,000 hits, according to Matt Preprost, the blog's 20-year-old co-founder and operator. Almost 60 people have sent images from cameras or memory sticks they found, and that's led to eight happy reunions between camera owners and their digital memories, he said.

"I thought that it was something special and unique, but I was unsure of how long it was going to last," said Preprost, a student at the University of Winnipeg in Canada. He said most people are "dumbfounded" such a site exists, and aren't bothered by potential privacy issues.

His site was inspired by a submission to PostSecret.com, where people submit secrets on the Internet via handmade post cards. In early February, one posted "secret" was from someone who found a camera at Lollapalooza and wanted to reunite it with its owner.

Preprost found it compelling that the person was using PostSecret to try to connect with someone and e-mailed site-founder Frank Warren, whom he'd interviewed for his college newspaper. By the end of the day, they'd started www.Ifoundyourcamera.net together.

Preprost runs the blog — a scroll through its submissions takes you to all corners of the globe — while Warren said he serves as his mentor.

"I've been through a lot of the things he's going through in terms of trying to create this community and listen to it and respect everybody's values and allow the community to grow in a self-purposing way," Warren said.

Preprost, who says the site focuses on the stories surrounding the cameras, asks people to send in two pictures that are visually strong, with identifiable people and landmarks. When an owner turns up, he puts them in contact with the person who found their memories.

Brett Moist, a 21-year-old photography student from Crystal Lakes, Ill., lost his memory card at Union Station in Chicago during a trip in January. He thought he lost it in Michigan, and figured it was long gone.

Then a picture of Moist and his girlfriend in front of Wrigley Field turned up on Preprost's Web site.

"A couple of weeks after I lost it my girlfriend's friend randomly stumbled onto the site and went crazy when she saw us," Moist said.

While Preprost hasn't run into any problems with people being upset about their pictures being posted online, the site is in a bit of a legal gray area, according R. Bruce Rich, a lawyer with Weil, Gotshal & Manges in New York City.

Whoever takes a picture owns it and almost any photo is entitled to copyright protection, Rich said. While Rich said an argument could be made that the Web site makes unauthorized copies of pictures, it's clear the intent of the site is to get cameras back to their rightful owners, not to deny the camera's owner any commercial benefit.

Another legal problem could arise, though, if someone who appears in a posted image claims that they had a reasonable expectation of privacy when the picture was taken, Rich said.

Preprost said he'd remove pictures of anyone who objected. He said most people seem to appreciate the site, like George Metz, a 66-year-old Pennsylvania resident who lost his camera during Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

A picture of him during a visit to Fantasy of Flight in Florida was posted on www.Ifoundyourcamera.net and Metz heard about it when a fellow member of a Star Wars re-enactment group spotted it — through his computer in Denmark.

It turns out a student at Tulane University School of Medicine had picked up Metz's camera after standing near him during a parade.

"It was a real godsend to get this message that she was going to send this back to me," he said. "There were a few pictures on there I really cared about."

Preprost hopes his site will inspire even more acts of kindness.

Bush touts economy's potential

BY BEN FELLER
Associated Press Writer

MESA, Ariz. President Bush, sounding upbeat as consumer confidence swooned, said Tuesday that the government's effort to stimulate the economy is just starting to kick in.

"It's going to make a positive contribution to economic growth," Bush declared, referring to a package of rebate checks for families and tax breaks for business. The most tangible part of the deal — checks in people's mailboxes — began arriving this month.

Bush's reassurance came as a new report put consumer confidence at its lowest level in almost 16 years. Soaring gas prices and gloomy job prospects were largely to blame.

Meanwhile, a separate index released Tuesday showed U.S. home prices dropped at the sharpest rate in two decades during the first quarter of 2008. The slump in housing and a related credit crunch, which has resulted in multibillion-dollar losses at large financial institutions, have depressed the economy and raised worries about a possible recession.

The president chose a backdrop of the Silverado Cable Co., a 70-employee business that makes electrical wiring for airplanes and other industrial uses. He trumpeted the new tax breaks that have encourage companies like Silverado to invest in new equipment.

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Simon Says

Simon Salloom
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Looking for foreclosures? Look for 'short sales' instead

This article is the second and final part of a series focusing on foreclosures.

MANY PEOPLE ARE UNDER THE misguided perception that there are a lot of foreclosures on the Westside. They also tend to be under the impression that these are the best deals around.

Not only are there rarely any good buys in foreclosures, there just aren't a lot of bank owned properties period. Brentwood had six residential property foreclosures in 2007. Santa Monica 90402 had zero foreclosures. Santa Monica 90403 had three, 90404 had five, 90405 had eight and 90401 had one.

There has not been any particular situation where I have seen more good deals than another. Sometimes a bank-owned REO is a steal, sometimes a plain old under-priced property owned by a motivated seller is a fantastic buy.

However, if you are looking for a good buy (who isn't), one of the opportunities right now is in "Short Sales." A short sale is when a seller sells their home for less money than what they owe the bank. The bank has the option to accept the final sales price or not. Often, instead of going through the time and expense of foreclosing on a property, a bank will option to accept a small loss and approve the short sale.

The opportunity for you is that a seller engaged in a short sale has no incentive to achieve a high sales price. So, the agent lists the property usually at a price below the competition and then submits the low ball offers that come in to the bank. The bank then decides whether they want to accept the offer or not. What usually results is a final sales price that is below the current market value.

This hurts the bank but usually less than a foreclosure and adds a low priced comparable sold into the neighborhood.

This lowers the public perception of value and eventually affects a banks appraised values.

The increase in the number of short sales, in my opinion, has had a far greater affect on the real estate market than foreclosures.

This rise in short sales lies in the amount of financially strapped homeowners who are aware of this option. Not everyone knows this is an option for them.

Another element that has contributed to their increase is a banking industry that puts little effort in discerning the difference between the real estate market in Inglewood and that of north Santa Monica.

The way the banks view the different regions of L.A. County parallels the way national news coverage draws no distinction between Riverside County and Beverly Hills. It all gets thrown together as L.A. County, Southern California, or California.

Therefore, if a bank thinks all of Los Angeles has gone down 20 percent, instead of the 5-10 percent that the lower end properties on the Westside have actually gone down, they are more likely to accept a low offer on a short sale.

REMEMBER, ONCE EVERYONE BEGINS THINKING IT'S AN OK TIME TO BUY, IT WON'T BE A BUYER'S MARKET ANYMORE.

This negative misinformation and sloppy analysis eventually becomes part of a self-fulfilling prophecy. When cash strapped sellers start hearing about short sales as an option, more sellers begin doing short sales. And the more the banks accept low-ball offers on short sales, the lower the comparable sales data goes and short sales happen with greater and greater ease.

In many instances, if the bank and/or the sellers hired a good agent to sell their homes, this course of action would be unnecessary. From what I have seen I would estimate that at least half of the short sales would have sold for 5-10 percent more if they were marketed better.

So, the current market, pleasant for a natural optimist like me, no. A fun and gratifying environment for the pessimistically inclined, yes.

However, if you are currently looking for foreclosures go to Realtytrac.com, don't call a Westside real estate office. And know this — if you are hoping for Santa Monica and Brentwood real estate values to go down 30 percent, stop immediately. If this did happen, it would be because the economy and the state of our entire country was in disastrous shape.

So, as a buyer, enjoy the modest leverage you have right now and find a good deal. Remember, once everyone begins thinking it's an OK time to buy, it won't be a buyer's market anymore.

SIMON SALLOOM is a local Santa Monica and Brentwood based realtor with Coldwell Banker. Research local real estate and comment on this article at his Web site, www.WestsideSimon.com

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Official: California gay weddings a go for some

BY LISA LEFF
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO Same-sex couples in some California counties will be able to marry as soon as June 14, the president of the California's county clerks association said.

Stephen Weir, who heads the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials, said Monday he was told by the Office of Vital Records that clerks would be authorized to hand out marriage licenses as soon as that date, which is a Saturday and exactly 30 days after the California Supreme Court ruled that gay marriage should be legal.

The court's decisions typically take effect after 30 days, barring further legal action.

"They are shooting for the 14th," said Weir, adding that the state planned to give California's 58 counties advice this week for implementing the historic change so local officials can start planning.

Suanne Buggy, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Public Health, which oversees the vital records office, would not confirm Monday that state officials have settled the matter of when counties can or must start extending marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

"We will be getting guidance out to the counties soon," Buggy said.

"JUST BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN SO CLOSE TO IT, AND SO FAR, I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO BE FIRST."

Stephen Weir
California Association of Clerks and Election Officials

According to Weir, it would be up to each county clerk to decide whether to open their offices to gay and lesbian couples on that Saturday or to wait until the following Monday.

Some clerks have said they would try to accommodate couples at the earliest possible date, depending on their staffing and anticipated demand, he said.

If the court's decision does take effect on June 14, couples could, in theory, plan to obtain their licenses and take their vows at 12:01 a.m. that day, he said.

As it happens, Weir's office in Martinez already holds open hours on the second Saturday of each month, so serving couples who want to get hitched as soon as possible won't be a problem, he said. He and his partner of 18 years hope to be the first ones to tie the knot.

"Just because we have been so close to it, and so far, I would really like to be first," Weir said.

An effort, however, is under way to stay the Supreme Court's decision until voters can decide the issue with an initiative planned for the November ballot. The measure would overrule the justices' decision and amend the state constitution to ban gay marriage.

Justices have until the ruling's effective date to weigh the request, but could give themselves longer to consider it, attorneys have said.

Another complicating factor is that the Supreme Court also directed a midlevel appeals court that upheld the state's one man-one woman marriage laws a year ago to issue a new order legalizing same-sex marriage, and it's not clear when the appeals court would comply.

Massachusetts is the only other state to legalize gay marriage, something it did in 2004. More than 9,500 same-sex couples in that state have wed.

NTSB recovers engine from fatal helicopter crash on Catalina

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Federal investigators have recovered the engine from a commercial helicopter that crashed on Santa Catalina Island, killing three people and injuring three during a weekend flight.

The turboshaft engine of the Island Express Eurocopter AS350D was being shipped to the manufacturer for a "teardown" analysis, National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Terry Williams said Tuesday.

Medical examiners, meanwhile, worked to complete identifications of the dead.

Pilot Emeric Maillet, 33, of Lakewood was killed when the helicopter crashed Saturday morning on the west end of the island, Los Angeles County coroner's Investigator Jerry McKibben said. Another male employee of Island Express and a female passenger were burned beyond recognition and would require dental records to be identified, the coroner's office said.

Friends and colleagues, however, identified the dead woman as Tania Hurd, 46, a culinary arts teacher at John Burroughs High School in Burbank. Hurd taught there for about five years and her son is a ninth-grader there, Principal Emilio Urioste said.

Hurd and family liked to visit Catalina and this time she chose to go by air, Urioste said.

"She had wanted to ride a helicopter ... that was something that she always wanted to do," he said.

Names and conditions of the survivors, two women and a man, have not been released. They were flown to mainland hospitals after the crash.

The Island Express Helicopters Web site said the company has operated since 1982, offering Catalina tours and charters, as well as serving all of Southern California. It also services offshore oil platforms.

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Governors get final Tahoe fire report

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. Emergency declarations for five counties ringing Lake Tahoe were signed Tuesday by California and Nevada governors to help speed fire-protection efforts in the scenic mountain resort area hit by a catastrophic blaze last summer.

The declarations were among more than 70 recommendations by a special panel formed by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Nevada Gov. Jim Gibbons after the Angora Fire destroyed 254 homes and caused $140 million in property damage in South Lake Tahoe.

"We will not rest until this natural crown jewel is as safe as it is beautiful," Schwarzenegger said prior to the signings that affect California's El Dorado and Placer counties and Nevada's Carson City, Douglas and Washoe counties.

"Many of these recommendations can be implemented swiftly, and I hope that everyone with the power to make these changes does so quickly," Gibbons said, referring to the California-Nevada Basin Fire Commission's report.

U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who joined the governors, commission members and firefighters at the conference, said that saving Lake Tahoe "is going to be a continuing work in progress. One thing is clear, it's not going to be done in 10 years, it will be ongoing."

The fire commission wants the state and federal governments to free up money quickly, primarily to cut thick stands of trees. Many of its recommendations are intended to resolve the bureaucratic infighting among overlapping agencies that has hampered fire-prevention efforts for years.

The report also recommended higher taxes for property owners, requiring home owners to replace wood shingles and upgrading the Tahoe basin's water systems, which together could cost more than $300 million over 20 years.

The commission said thinning overgrown forests around communities should be completed within five years and within a decade throughout the entire Tahoe basin.

The Angora Fire exposed long-standing rivalries between the local, state, federal and regional agencies that are charged with protecting Tahoe's environment or promoting fire protection.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

'Andy Griffith' composer Earle Hagen dies at 88

The musician who composed and whistled the memorable theme for "The Andy Griffith Show," has died. Earle Hagen died last night in Rancho Mirage at age 88.

During his long musical career, Hagen performed with the top bands of the swing era, composed for movies and television and wrote a definitive textbook on movie composing. He composed themes and music for about 3,000 hours of TV, including "I Spy," "That Girl," and "The Dick Van Dyke Show"

Hagen also co-wrote the jazz standard "Harlem Nocturne." He and Lionel Newman were nominated for an Oscar for best music scoring for the 1960 Marilyn Monroe movie "Let's Make Love." ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO

Free California road trips guide out

If you're planning a vacation in California this summer, you may want to get a copy of a free new guide called "California Road Trips 2008," published by the California Travel and Tourism Commission. The guide includes maps, itineraries and ideas for places to stop, including historic sites, wineries, parks, beaches and lakes. You can order one by calling 877-867-3748 or view an electronic version at http://www.VisitCalifornia.com/roadtrips. New this year, the guide divides the state into 12 regions and list things to do and see along suggested three-day driving routes.

Featured attractions include waterfalls and rivers in the Shasta Cascade area, eco-friendly attractions along the North Coast, a family guide to San Francisco, splashing otters in the Central Coast, the natural beauty of the High Sierra, and exploring the history of gold and mining in Gold Country. Stops in Central Valley include places to sample fresh produce, while other sections of the guide cover Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego, the state's desert region and the rugged landscape of the Inland Empire. AP

SAN CLEMENTE

Sheriff's officials identify 5 bodies found in OC home

Authorities have identified the five decomposed bodies found in an upscale San Clemente home as three generations of one family. A sheriff's spokeswoman says the dead are 58-year-old Manas Ucar, his 49-year-old wife and the couple's 21-year-old twin daughters, Grace and Margo. Also found was Margrit Ucar's 72-year-old mother, Fransuhi Kesisoglu. The family was found in a downstairs bedroom and attached closet on Sunday after relatives broke a window to enter the home. Sheriff's officials believe the family had been dead for two to three weeks. Officials say no suspects are being sought at this time, adding neither homicide nor suicide have been ruled out. AP

TRINIDAD

Man arrested for assault on 2 people with rocks

A Trinidad man is under arrest on suspicion of assaulting two people by repeatedly throwing rocks at them. Humboldt County Sheriff's spokeswoman Brenda Godsey says Lorenzo Erickson was involved in a fight with his girlfriend and her brother. She says he struck the woman with a rock-filled T-shirt, then knocked her brother down with a large stone. Both victims were treated for their injuries at a local hospital. Erickson was booked on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon, domestic violence and vandalism. AP

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Neighborhood streets in Ocean Park to get safer

FROM CIP PAGE 1

year … but for the most part, they stay the same," Patterson said. "It's really to provide more of a long-term planning document for larger capital expenditures."

The CIP budget includes $28.7 million for the Downtown Santa Monica parking enhancement program, $4.3 million for annual street repair and $1.1 million for the expansion of Memorial Park.

Among the more notable recipients in the next fiscal cycle will be the Santa Monica Municipal Pier, which will see about $3.2 million in infrastructure improvements. The project includes the replacement of 76 timber pilings with pre-stressed concrete pilings from the high tide line to the concrete portion of the pier. Another $2 million is being set aside to enhance the viewing deck, upgrade utilities and replace the necklace lighting adorning the pier.

"It's to ensure the pier will be preserved and well-maintained into the future," Ben Franz-Knight, the executive director of the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corp., said.

The pier is celebrating its centennial in September 2009. One of the more historic pieces on the pier — the carousel onion dome — is also scheduled for replacement at $50,000.

"The centennial is an important milestone and we want the pier to be at its best," Franz-Knight said.

BIG BLUE IMPROVEMENTS

Among the changes expected for the Big Blue Bus in the next fiscal year are amenity upgrades at some of the high and moderate volume bus stops, adding new signs, benches and transit information kiosks. Several vehicles older than 12 years — the average life span for a bus — as well as a handful of Mini Blue Buses are scheduled for replacement. The buses will be replaced with 40-foot liquefied natural gas vehicles, others with the 60-foot-long articulated buses.

The bus replacement program is estimated to cost more than $21 million next year.

"In order to maintain the highest standard of quality in our system, we need to maintain the infrastructure we have," Negriff said. "The buses and the benches and signage are all routine replacement."

A BETTER NEIGHBORHOOD

Two line items in the proposed CIP budget will see the realization of long-time neighborhood improvement efforts in Ocean Park.

The Borderline Neighborhood, which is a cluster of several residential blocks west of Lincoln Boulevard, will receive about $250,000 to begin designing streetscape and pedestrian improvements along Longfellow Street and some of the connecting roads.

Residents in the Borderline Neighborhood have long complained about safety concerns and traffic circulation along Longfellow, which with the absence of sidewalks visually appears like an alley.

The street has been a popular stop for tow trucks and illicit activity in the past. Another $450,000 is being set aside over the next few years to begin making streetscape improvements along Ocean Park Boulevard west of Lincoln, residents along the strip complaining about the wide barren roadway being an attraction for speeding motorists.

Residents along Ocean Park Boulevard have petitioned City Hall for nearly 15 years to fund street improvements, lobbying for more trees and safer bike lanes.

"We're obviously elated to see this happen, no question about it," Bob Taylor, one of the advocates who lives off the corner of Lincoln and Ocean Park Boulevard, said. "It's been a long process to get to this point."

melodyh@smdp.com



Alexandra Bissonnette *news@smdp.com*

GRAY DAYS: **Roughly $450,000 is being set aside over the next few years to begin making streetscape improvements along Ocean Park Boulevard west of Lincoln, residents along the strip complaining about the wide barren roadway being an attraction for speeding motorists.**

City of Santa Monica

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



Dear Affordable Housing Provider:

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://www.smgov.net/housing/nofa/htf-guidelines.pdf.

The mission of the Housing and Economic Development Department is to promote affordable housing opportunities and a sustainable economy in Santa Monica. The Housing Division is responsible for increasing and preserving the supply of affordable housing units, and accomplishes this primarily through financing strategies.

One of California's most coveted urban coastal communities, Santa Monica offers a diverse array of residential neighborhoods, vibrant commercial districts, numerous recreational and art venues, high profile corporate headquarters, a substantial hi-tech and entertainment sector, small entrepreneurial start-ups and an exciting mix of retail businesses. Santa Monica is home to 86,000 residents and 16,000 businesses. The City Council serves as the governing body.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Kemper at (310) 458 –8702.

Cordially,

Barbara Collins, Housing Manager

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Regional fire dispatch center resulting in slower responses

FROM DISPATCH PAGE 1

relayed to the SMFD.

The lengthened response time, estimated at 30 seconds longer than when the calls were handled directly by the SMFD, is attributed to a different system utilized by the regional center, which runs an Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) program.

The EMD requires the dispatcher to run through a series of preset questions to determine the nature of the medical emergency, providing the caller with some instructions for patient care while help is on the way.

The dispatchers at the SMFD were not EMD-certified when the transition to the regional center occurred.

"They're taking a certain amount of time to do a certain amount of (questioning)," Hone said. "They're dispatching quickly as they process."

The EMD system also raises another concern with the accuracy in the type of the calls being reported back to the SMFD. Several members of the fire department have complained that the current system is too vague.

"If a caller has a history of heart problems, this becomes the descriptor used by the call taker even if that is not the current problem," according to a staff report by the fire department.

"IF A CALLER HAS A HISTORY OF HEART PROBLEMS, THIS BECOMES THE DESCRIPTOR USED BY THE CALL TAKER EVEN IF THAT IS NOT THE CURRENT PROBLEM."

Staff report

A review of the system for a one-month period found that there is a 78 percent accuracy rate.

The regional dispatch center is in the process of resolving the problem by employing a new software program.

The SMFD is proposing to form a committee to reevaluate the other eight dispatch options, comparing them to the level of service and capabilities of the Los Angeles regional dispatch center.

The evaluation is expected to take up to a year.

"It's good to evaluate where you are to make sure what you're doing what is best for the community," Hone said.

Fire officials point out that operational costs would be higher if the SMFD continued to handle calls from its own Communication Center, estimating the budget would've been around $700,000.

"Either way we're still financially ahead of what we would have been, and with more capability," Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Davis said.

Several City Councilmembers have raised concerns about the evaluation's estimated duration.

"I've heard anecdotal concerns that our historically superlative level of fire and paramedic dispatch service, of which our firefighters are justifiably proud, may not be matched by the regional system," Councilmember Kevin McKeown said. "When resident safety and even lives hang on matters of seconds, I want to make sure routing calls regionally doesn't invite confusion about local addresses, or other potential delays."

melodyh@smdp.com

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**

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Can women alone make 'Sex and the City' a box office hit?

BY JOCELYN NOVECK
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Can a pure chick flick become a hit? Yes, if it draws a diverse enough swath of female moviegoers. For "Sex and the City," that will be the big question.

There are indications that the film, which opens Friday, is attracting a lot of interest from women of all ages — not just the age of the four lead actresses, who range from their early 40s to just over 50.

"We can't remember the last time a movie has created so much anticipation among female moviegoers from their 20s through their 40s," said Harry Medved, a spokesman for Fandango, the online movie ticket site.

Medved said many women seem to be planning to go in groups. "We are getting a surprising number of requests for group ticket sales from women planning 'Sex and the City' get-togethers," he said.

It's not just the ticket sellers who are noticing the trend. Abbey Greenberg, co-owner of a specialty cookie company, says she's been getting calls by the dozens for her stiletto-shoe creations.

"It's been crazy," says Greenberg, of The Flour Pot, which is based in Ambler, Pa. "They start out by saying they want the shoe cookies. Then they say they need them for May 30th. Of course it turns out it's for a 'Sex and the City' party."

Often, the hostesses say they'll be drinking Cosmpolitans before the movie, too _ the favorite drink, as fans of the HBO series well know, of sex columnist Carrie Bradshaw and her pals, Miranda, Samantha and Charlotte. Sometimes the hostesses add that they'll be dressing up in high style, as well.

"This movie just calls out for a girl's night out," says Greenberg, 27, who herself plans to see the film with a group of women, although not opening night, and not specially attired. "I'll wait until it's less crazy," she says.

Fandango, which is the largest online ticketing service but still represents a fairly small percentage of total sales, surveyed buyers who'd just purchased tickets for the film.

As of Friday, 67 percent of more than 2,800 who filled out the survey — a self-selecting group, to be sure — planned to see the film in a group of women. Only 6 percent said they were going with a man, and 16 percent said they were going with one other woman.

Oh, and asked their gender, 94 percent of ticket buyers said they were women.

You only have to look back two years to "The Devil Wears Prada," another female-oriented film heavy on fashion (with the same costume designer) and juicy female characters, to find a movie that scored big despite an overwhelmingly female demographic.

But there's a difference: "Prada" was rated PG-13, whereas "Sex and the City" is rated R, with good reason, as any fan of the often explicit series knows. That will severely limit the teen audience (those under 17 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian).

"This movie really will be a paternity test for R-rated female-driven romantic comedies," said analyst Jeff Bock of box office tracker Reel Source. "There haven't been a lot of movies like this."

Bock predicts the movie will have a strong opening weekend, then a big drop-off.

"There's no getting around that this is a film oriented to women and gay men," he said. "It will be very hard to get past that, especially with a lot of testosterone-driven films out there this summer."

"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" drew families in droves to achieve the second biggest Memorial Day weekend opening ever, with an estimated $151.1 million in the U.S. and Canada from Thursday to Monday (and $160 million overseas.) By contrast, industry projections have "Sex and the City" bringing in from $25 to $40 million in its first three days.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

HONOLULU

Parents concerned about possible school closures

Parents from a small Big Island school are concerned about a bill that passed the Legislature and could lead to closure of their school.

They're asking Gov. Linda Lingle to veto the bill that would set up a nine-member commission to identify schools that could be closed or relocated.

Laupahoehoe High and Elementary has only 200 students in all grades, down from as many as 800 before the demise of Big Island sugar cane.

The remaining families are concerned about where they would send their children if the rural school closed.

Education officials say they have a surplus of 356 classrooms because of declining enrollment. The system has 10,000 fewer students than a decade ago.

Lingle has said she's examining the legislation which she has until July 8 to sign or veto.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER

Fed report: Climate change affecting crops, livestock

A federal report says climate change already is affecting the nation's water resources, crops, livestock, forests and wildlife and will for at least the next 25 years.

Tuesday's report by the Department of Agriculture says a buildup of greenhouse gases driving up temperatures is increasing the risk of crop failure and outbreaks of invasive species and insects. It's also decreasing water resources, and livestock productivity in the arid West.

The report by 38 scientists is part of the federal government's ongoing assessment of climate change.

AP

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City of Santa Monica
THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FOR THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2008-09
AND ADOPTION OF GANN RESOLUTION

The City Council, Housing Authority, Redevelopment Agency and Parking Authority of the City of Santa Monica will hold a public budget hearing on June 17, 2008 at 5:45 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California. All citizens are invited to attend and provide the Council with written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the City's entire proposed budget. At the meeting on June 17th, the City Council will also adopt a resolution for the determination of the GANN Appropriation limit for fiscal year 2008-09. A copy of the documentation used in calculating the limit is presented in the proposed FY2008-09 Proposed Budget.

The entire proposed City Budget can be inspected by the public in the City Clerk's Office at City Hall or viewed on the Internet at www.smgov.net. City Hall is open from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 30th and June 13th. City Hall is closed on Friday, May 23rd and June 6th. Copies of the proposed FY2008-09 City Budget are also available at the City's Main Library located at 601 Santa Monica Boulevard and branch libraries at 1704 Montana Avenue, 2101 Ocean Park Boulevard and 2601 Main Street.

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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 60°**

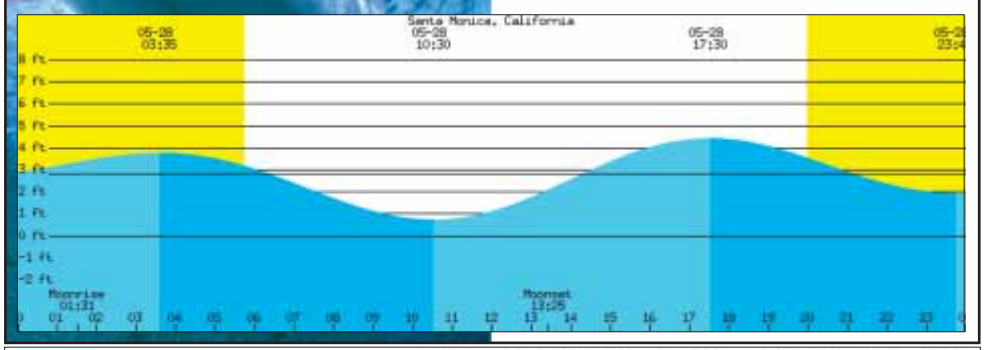
SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)

The swell looks rather small, perhaps waist high at best at south facing breaks, but much smaller at west facing spots. Winds look light but with an onshore trend for the early AM hours. Tide runs very low midmorning.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

NW WIND SWELL DUE THIS WEEKEND...

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 20, 2008**

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 -- 2
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 3
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 41 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, 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
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	C	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa 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	D	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	F	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	D	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	B	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (paint 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.

MLB

Dodgers' Jones has knee surgery, out 4-6 weeks

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Andruw Jones will likely miss the next four to six weeks after undergoing surgery to repair torn cartilage in his right knee Tuesday.

Jones, who is hitting .165 with two home runs and seven RBIs in the first year of a $36.2 million, two-year deal, went on the 15-day disabled list Saturday.

"They fixed what they thought they had to fix," Manager Joe Torre said before the Dodgers' game against the Chicago Cubs. "He'll start in the next day or so with the rehab that he's going to have to do."

Torre added that there was no additional damage found in Jones' knee during the procedure.

The Dodgers got some more good news when right-handed pitcher Jason Schmidt, working his way back from shoulder surgery last season, threw 3 1-3 innings in a rehab start with the team's Class A affiliate. Schmidt threw 45 pitches and gave up three runs — two earned — and three hits while striking out three.

"He was good. He came out of it fine," Torre said. "Next time he'll probably go to 60. I don't think they've set the exact date but there will be and there was nothing to keep him from still going forward."

Torre said Schmidt was throwing in the low 90s and used all his pitches.

In other injury-related news, shortstop Rafael Furcal likely won't return in time for the four-game series in New York against the Mets that starts on Thursday. He has been on the 15-day disabled list since May 6 with a sore lower back.

Nomar Garciaparra, who was moved to the 60-day disabled list on Sunday with injuries to his right hand and left calf, will undergo further testing later this week.

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MOVIETIMES

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Ave.
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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

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

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13) 2 hrs.
12:15 p.m., 1:45, 3:15, 4:45, 6:15, 7:45, 9:15, 10:45
The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG) 2 hrs 20 min
1:15 p.m., 3, 4;20, 6:10, 7:35, 9:20, 10:40
The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian
Digital Presentation (PG) 2 hrs 20 min
12:30 p.m., 3:40, 6:50, 10
Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) 1hr 51min
2:05 p.m., 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
Speed Racer (PG) 2hrs 15min
1 p.m., 4:05, 7:05, 10:10

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

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

Son of Rambow (PG13) 1hr 38min
1:50 p.m., 4:40, 7:30, 9:55
Bloodline(NR) 1hr 53min
1:20 p.m., 4:10, 7, 9:50

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Iron Man (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
11:00 a.m., 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:05, 5:00, 6:00, 7:10, 8:00, 9:00, 10:10, 11:00, 12:00 a.m.
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

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

Pisces, talk it up

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ If you wake up on the wrong side of the bed, you might want to call in. Try a retake, or simply don't have great expectations. You are your own perfect companion right now; you won't irritate yourself, as others could. Tonight: Get as much personal time as possible.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Aim high. If someone says no, though he thinks he means what he says, know that time is your ally. Try again another time. Bring friends together. Meetings and groups star in success. Tonight: Let a late-day meeting evolve into a fun happening.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ A must appearance allows you to take a stand or make a change that will enable other opportunities. Listen to feedback that heads in your direction. Responsibility could feel heavy. Just start doing. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Let your imagination soar. In fact, what you conceptualize could happen in the near future. Make calls and consider a getaway. You might recharge more with some time in another place, not always home. Tonight: Surf the Net for the right weekend retreat.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Work with others, but avoid groups if possible. You do best with one-on-one contact. Allow greater give-and-take with individuals. Clearly not everyone has the same idea. Listen rather than react. Tonight: In the game of life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Defer to others. What seems unclear can be clarified. Could the perspective you are coming from be the problem? Free up your mind from past pictures if possible. You could gain a new picture. Tonight: Let someone else choose.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Understand your limitations. You might be overtired and need to eliminate anything frivolous or unnecessary. A walk or maybe a power nap could help. Remember to take care of yourself! Schedule a long-overdue doctor's appointment. Tonight: Call it an early night.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your imagination fills in the gaps. There are pros and cons to this type of processing. You could gain a very different picture from those who wait for the facts. Use time as your ally. Give up impatience. Tonight: Ever playful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Stick to the basics, and you'll get way ahead. Allow greater flow and understanding by walking in a close friend's or loved one's footsteps. Seriously consider a home-based business. Tonight: While heading home, buy a treat for yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Your creativity surges and allows new perspectives and vistas. Your ability to get to the bottom of a problem allows new possibilities. You often see what others don't. Be willing to share your perspective. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Curb spending if you feel uncomfortable. Allow yourself greater flow and give-and-take. You will be happier, as will the people you deal with. Tonight: Ever playful.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your imagination fills in the gaps. Be willing to explore ideas with a new passion. Others absolutely love your openness. The timing is right if you want to start down a new path. A familial relationship could be tangled right now! Tonight: Talk up a storm.

Happy birthday

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

What appears on the horizon right now could take until winter to realize. Plans that are loosely thought out or not tight will backfire this year. Work on creating more security in your life. Home and family could play unusually significant roles. Sometimes your actions contradict your words. As a result, people respond to you in odd ways. Clarify your communication, and your life will run better. If you are single, this coming winter you will meet someone who could make your head spin and give your stomach butterflies. If you are attached, together you might decide to make a major change on the home front. PISCES can hold you back or rain on your parade.

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

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Bus: 310-315-1955
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Saturday 10am-2pm

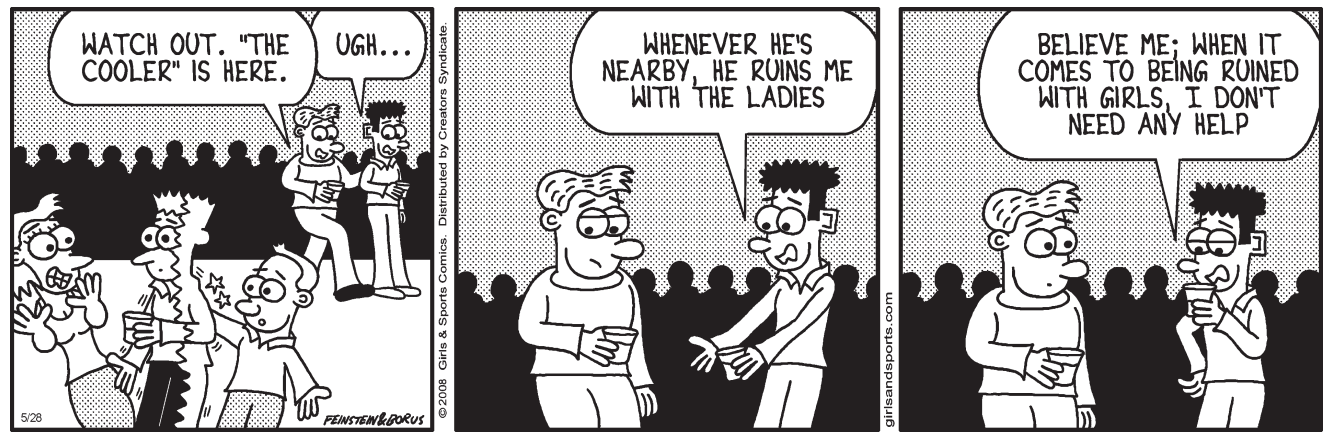
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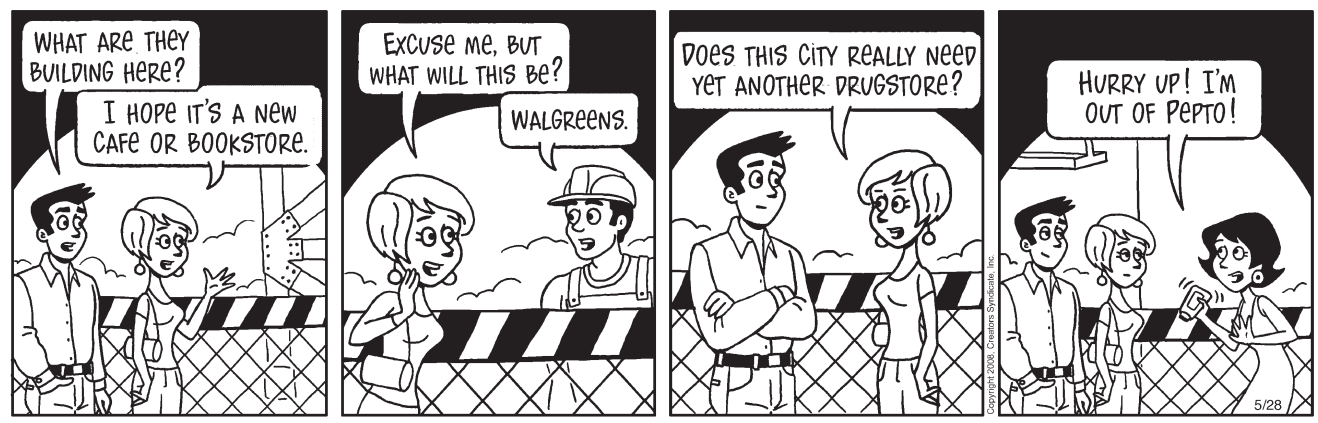
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



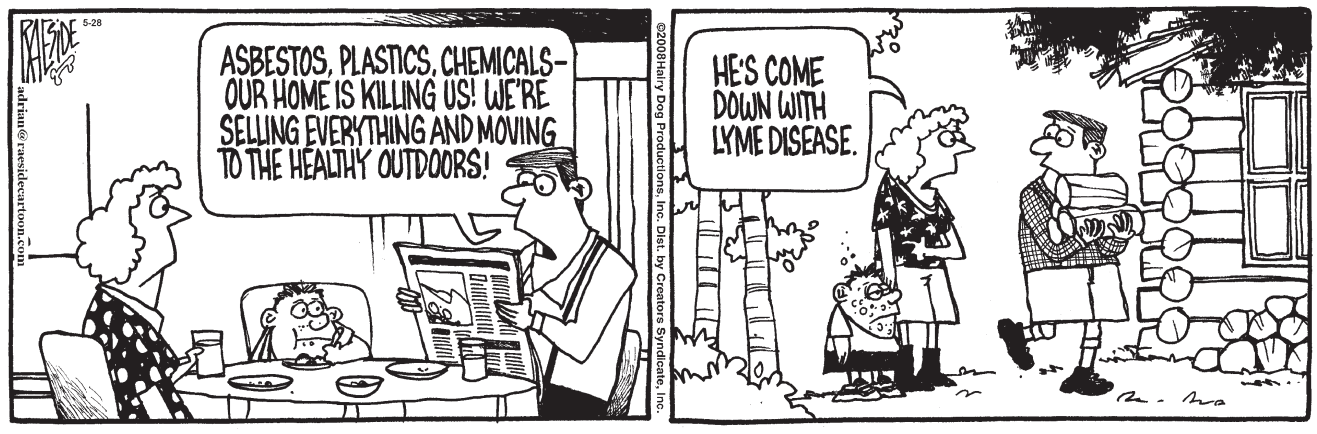
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



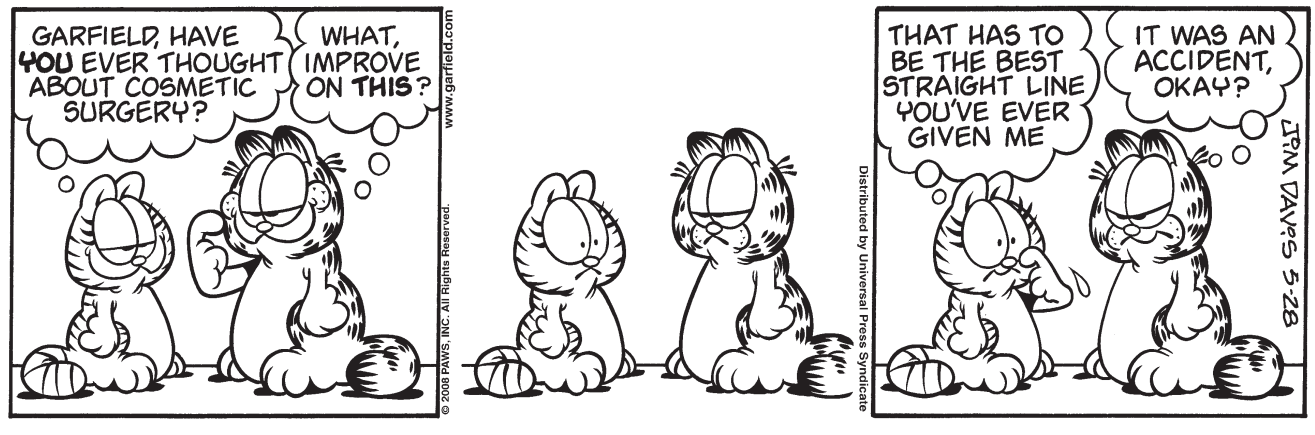
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



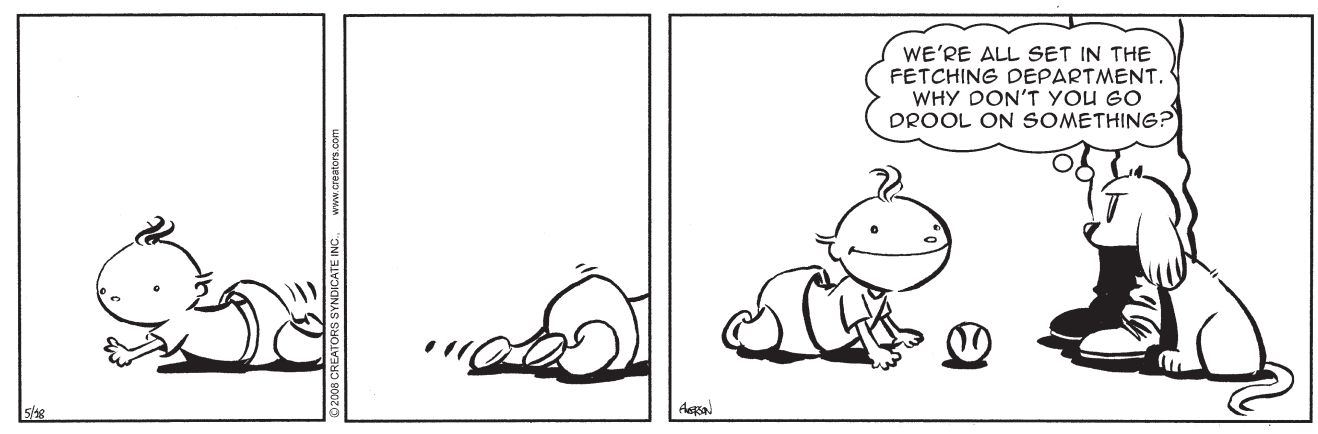
Garfield

By Jim Davis

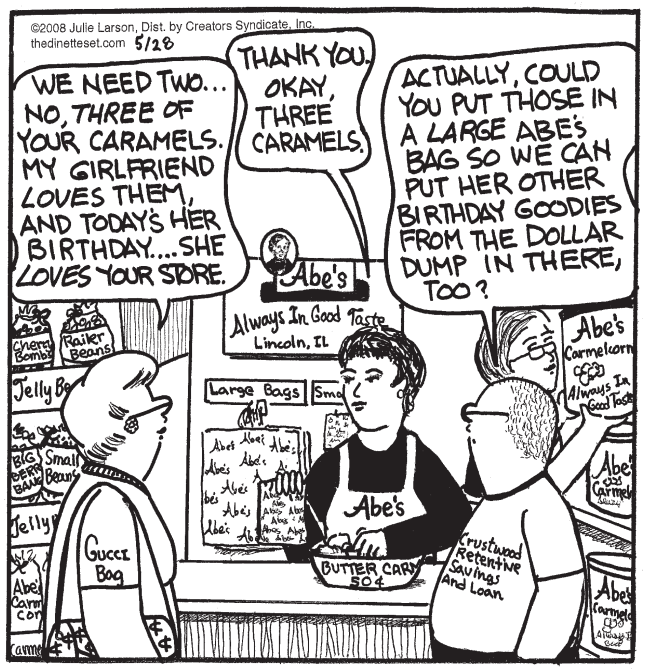


Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



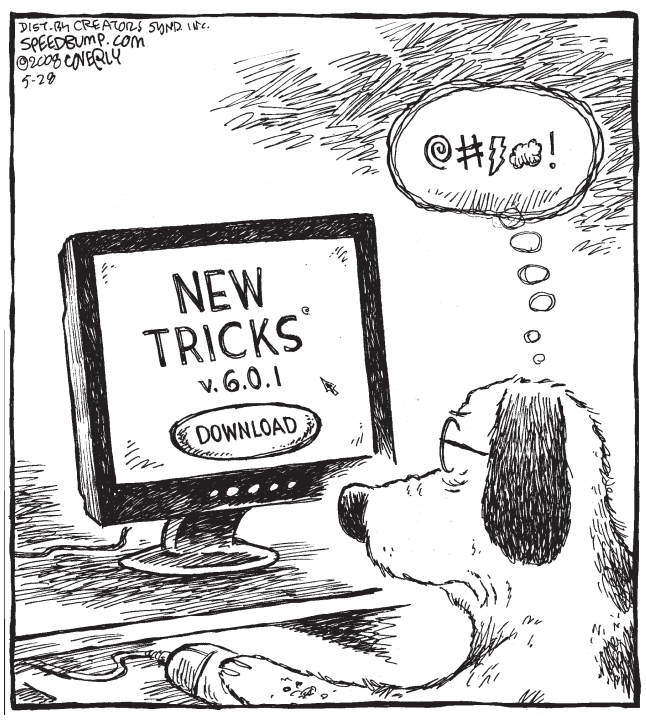
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Big Blue Bus employee and frequent Mystery Photo winner Benjamin Steers has done it again, correctly identifying this photo of a sculpture located at the corner of Olympic and Cloverfield boulevards. Steers will receive a prize from the Daily Press.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Breakfast choice
7 Without repair
11 Immediately
12 Quite fond of
13 Handout seeker
14 Rough voice
15 Highway entrance
17 Trial
20 Survives
23 Unlucky
24 Scott classic
26 Dam-building org.
27 Roadster
28 Need to pay
29 It prevents chapping
31 The Cratchit boy
32 German steel city
33 Fast jets
34 1962 John Wayne film
37 Tons
39 Fighting
43 Fly catcher
44 Living cell
45 Wee
46 In need of the body shop

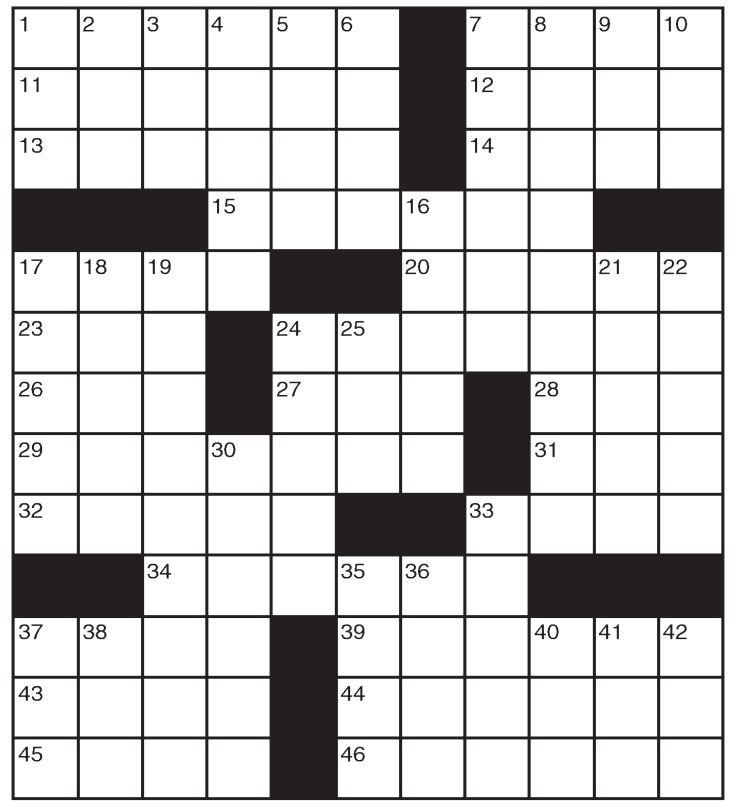
DOWN

1 Short stroke
2 Eroded
3 Seasonal drink
4 Silver bar
5 Read over
6 Frau's spouse
7 Pilot
8 Pics
9 "— a deal!"
10 Bribe
16 Morning sound
17 Owner's paper
18 "Hound Dog" singer
19 Hockey plays
21 Namely
22 Appears
24 Defeatist's words
25 Kilmer of "The Doors"
30 "Bugsy" star
33 "Graceland" singer
35 Mil. sch.
36 Vatican surrounder
37 Paris pal
38 Set afire
40 Wager
41 Mr. Lincoln ...
42 ... and his son

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

Yesterday's answer

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5-28

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 8 11 22 30 Meganumber: 4 Jackpot: $17M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 2 4 19 31 42 Meganumber: 12 Jackpot: $34M

Fantasy 5: 8 9 17 29 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 6 0 EVENING: 1 5 9

DAILY DERBY: 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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A provision in Switzerland's constitution recognizes the "dignity" of "animals, plants and other organisms," and a federal Ethics Committee on Non-Human Gene Technology declared in an April report that vegetation has "inherent worth" and that humans cannot exercise "absolute ownership" over it but must treat it morally, measured case-by-case. For example, the committee said a farmer's mowing his field is acceptable, but not the arbitrary severing of a wildflower's bloom. The committee would permit genetic engineering of flora, since plants would still retain the "autonomy" to reproduce on their own.

■ After officials in Batu, a tourist town in East Java in Indonesia, asked its massage parlors to make clear to customers that they are not houses of prostitution, one parlor owner created uniform pants for his women with a padlockable zipper, and "locks in" each masseuse in front of the client at the beginning of a session. Other parlor owners have followed along. A local women's group representative complained that it is the customers, not the women, who need restraining.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1533 the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, declared the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Anne Boleyn valid.

1863 the first black regiment from the North left Boston to fight in the Civil War.

1892 the Sierra Club was organized in San Francisco.

1908 British author Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond as well as "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," was born in London.

1934 the Dionne quintuplets – Annette, Cecile, Emilie, Marie and Yvonne – were born to Elzire Dionne at the family farm in Ontario, Canada.

1937 President Roosevelt pushed a button in Washington signaling that vehicular traffic could begin crossing the just-opened Golden Gate Bridge in California.

1937 Neville Chamberlain became prime minister of Britain.

1972 Prince Edward, Duke of Windsor died in Paris at age 77.

1977 165 people were killed when fire raced through the Beverly Hills Supper Club in Southgate, Ky.

WORD UP!

ribald \RIB-uhld; RY-bawld\, *adjective*:
1. Characterized by or given to vulgar humor; coarse.

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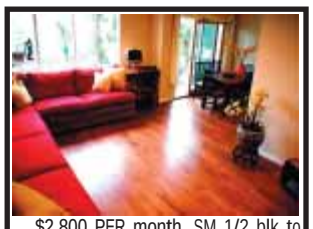
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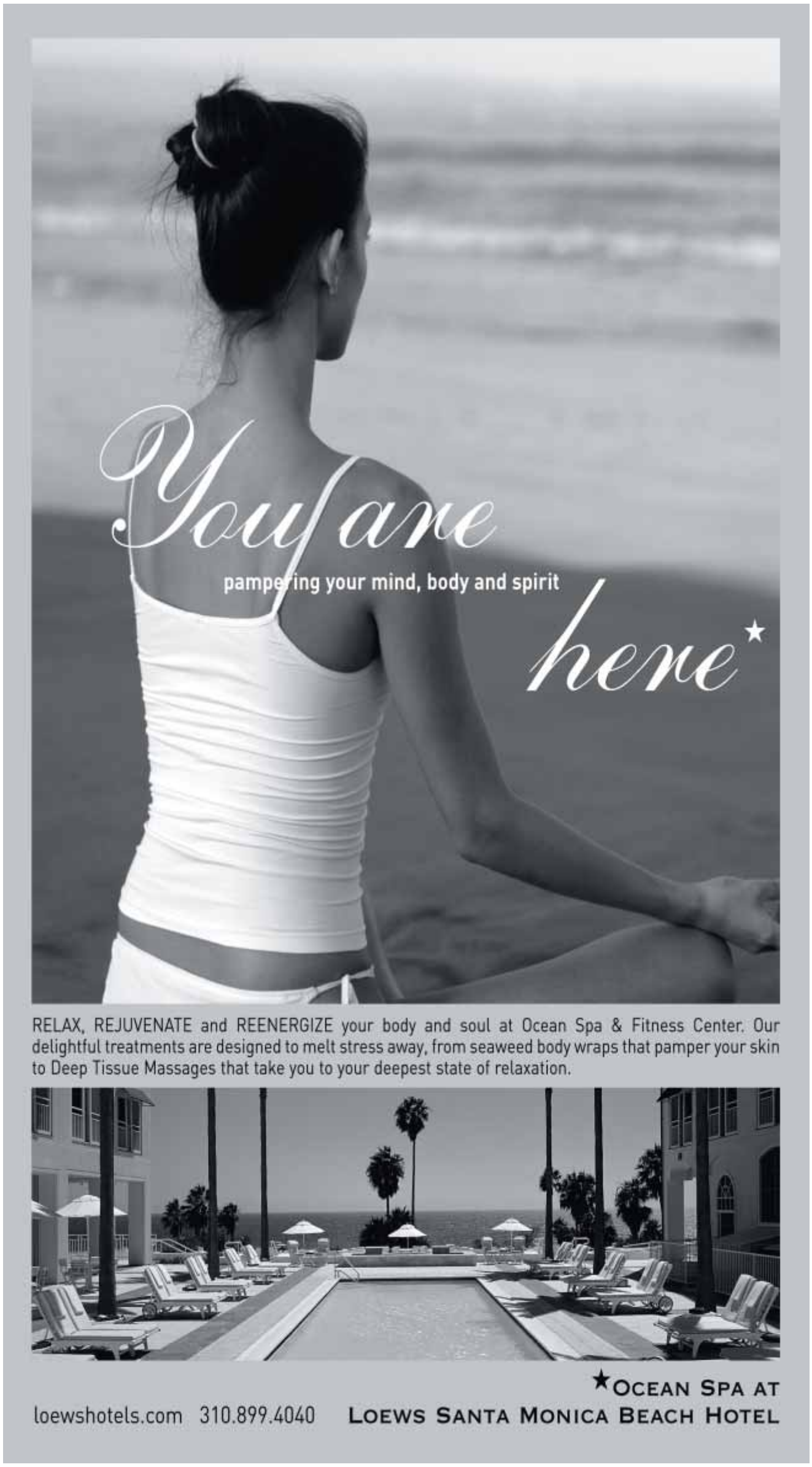
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North of Montana	=	$ 4,108,148	$ 1,671,111
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 3,160,091	$ 992,700
South of Wilshire	=	$ 1,059,539	$ 738,756
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Ocean Park	=	$ 1,866,667	$ 1,349,523

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