...e at smdp.com MAY 31-JUNE 1, 2008 Volume 7 Issue 171



Santa Monica Daily Press

YOUNG TROOPS DRY OUT
SEE PAGE 17

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE MOVING ON ISSUE

BUSINESS



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

MADE FOR SHOPPING: **Shoppers walk down the Main Street sidewalk in front of Patagonia clothing store on Friday afternoon. Main Street property owners are planning to vote for a new assessment district to provide $88,000 a year to pay for sidewalk maintenance and tree lighting.**

Keeping the streets fresh and clean

Main Street landlords consider paying up for area maintenance

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET Property owners in this Ocean Park commercial district, representing a blend of high-end stores and mom and pops, will soon decide whether to chip in more than $88,000 a year to keep the area in tip-top shape.

City Hall will mail out ballots next week to 157 property owners along Main Street between Pico Boulevard and Dewey Street, asking them to establish an assessment district that will bring in enough money to maintain sidewalks and ornamental tree lighting.

The Main Street district is the second commercial center in the city considering an assessment district. Downtown landlords are also voting on forming a new property-based assessment district, which if approved, would bring in more than $3.6 million a year to pay for enhanced maintenance and customer service.

While downtown property owners had to sign off on a petition before voting on the ballot measure, Main Street landlords were able to skip that first step altogether, proposing their assessment district under a different state law.

Both ballots are expected to be counted by the City Clerk on July 22.

The assessment, estimated at approximately $88,632 a year, would continue the current level of sidewalk maintenance and tree lighting along Main Street, made possible at the moment because of a grant the Main Street Business Improvement Association (MSBIA) received from City Hall last year.

The $85,000 grant was used to pay for festoon lighting and sidewalk sweeping as well as a consultant who suggested forming an assessment district.

The walkways along Main Street were swept only twice a year until the MSBIA began contributing money to pay for enhanced services about three years ago. The grant, which will soon expire, allowed the MSBIA to free up some of its contribution.

"The grant itself was an improvement over what existed," Gary Gordon, the executive director of the MSBIA, said.

The association has held several meetings with merchants and landlords to discuss the proposal over the past year, the majority of which have expressed support for the assessment district, store owners pointing to the need for clean streets in order to attract customers.

"If a street looks shabby, you'll lose customers, so I'm willing to chip in if we have to," Susan Amenta, the owner of clothing bou-

SEE MAIN STREET PAGE 12

Talarico receives new job

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Less than two years into her term, Superintendent Dianne Talarico on Friday was tapped to head the Burlingame School District, her departure the latest in an exodus of top administrators over the past few years.

The announcement comes more than a week after Talarico reportedly told a group of parents she received an offer to oversee a district in Northern California, hoping to move to the San Francisco Bay Area where her husband works as a specialist in school business services. The name of the district was withheld pending its governing board appointment, which took place Friday morning.

"It was my intention to obtain a better balance between my professional and personal life and I really wanted to return to a school district that would allow me to live with my husband and get the support that one needs when serving in a leadership capacity," Talarico said. "There are complex and difficult positions that we choose for ourselves as school superintendents, but it always helps to have a listening ear."

Talarico and her husband will reside in between their respective commutes to work — hers being about 15 miles south and his about eight miles north.

Her exit is among a number of resignations by top administrators the past several years, including former Superintendent John Deasy, Chief Academic Officer Donna Muncey and former Santa Monica High School Principal and Senior Director of Secondary Education Ilene Straus in 2006. Mike Matthews, who served as an interim superintendent and left in 2006, returned last year to serve as the assistant superintendent for human services. The most recent departure was Deputy Superintendent Tim Walker, who resigned earlier this month.

Located in San Mateo County, the Burlingame School District is a small K-8 organization with roughly 2,400 students,

SEE DISTRICT PAGE 14

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



SuperSMASH '08
2525 Fifth St., 11:30 a.m. — 5:30 p.m.
Great for the whole family. Kids can enjoy games of skill or luck, rides that are exciting or tame, live music from a number of bands and hands-on art projects. Local vendors will provide food and drinks, while an eclectic silent auction will offer a wide array of lifestyle, dining and travel items. Proceeds pay for educational programs not funded by federal or state governments, such as arts and foreign language programs.
For information, call (310) 396-2640.

Get ready for boot camp
2600 Ocean Park Blvd., 7 a.m. — 8 a.m.
This outdoor fitness boot camp is open to all ages and levels of fitness. Get stronger, build muscle in an all-guy environment. The first class is free at this event at Clover Park. For information, call (310) 454-0506.

Benefit garage sale
2400 Montana Ave., 9 a.m. — 2 p.m.
This proceeds of this multi-family garage and bake sale will go to help the Santa Monica High School Yearbook. For more information, e-mail samohiyearbook@yahoo.com.

'Black and Bluestein'
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Santa Monica Playhouse presents Jerry Mayer's engaging dramedy, set in 1963 St. Louis and based on a true event, explores the ripple effect in the neighborhood when a well-to-do black scientist Dan Black, wants to buy a home in an upscale, all-white mostly Jewish neighborhood from the Jewish builder, Jeff Bluestein. Bluestein always tried to be a good liberal but breaking the color barrier could break his bank account and even his marriage. For information, call (310) 394-9779 ext. 65.

Building self esteem
1401 Olympic Blvd., 3 p.m. — 5 p.m.
In these classes you will have an opportunity to learn why you have low self esteem, how to move past the barriers that keep you stuck, and become the confident, self assured person you want to become. These free classes take place at Memorial Park. For information, call (310) 230-5163.

Sunday, June 1, 2008

'I Gelosi'
3116 Second St., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.
In the late 16th Century, a theater company takes Europe by storm. But can the troupe survive the wrath of the Pope that results when they satirize him in a play? Inspired by true events, "I Gelosi" tells the story of Italy's first great traveling theater troupe, The Gelosi Company. This production takes place at The Powerhouse Theatre.
For information, call (310) 396-3680 ext. 3.

The other Jerry's kids
1348 14th St., 7 p.m.
Cubensis brings the sights and sounds of a live Grateful Dead concert to 14 Below every Sunday. Cubensis is known for whipping its faithful crowd into a swirling psychedelic mass for three hours straight.

Get it while it's fresh
Downtown Mar Vista, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Head out to lovely Mar Vista for the weekly Farmers' Market. Located at the corner of Grandview and Venice boulevards, the market includes fresh fruits and vegetables as well as some prepared foods.

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.

SantaMoniCard swipes national tech award



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

WAVE OF THE FUTURE: **City Hall received a Technology Solutions Award for its SantaMoniCard program, which allows drivers to put money on a debit card and swipe it at any city parking meter, doing away with the need to carry change. City Hall also received honorable mentions in the sustainability and telecommunications and information categories. The Public Technology Institute presented the awards.**

BY ALICE OLLSTEIN
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN The Public Technology Institute presented City Hall with a Technology Solutions Award for the new SantaMoniCard, a debit card that can be loaded with money and swiped at any city parking meter.

PTI further awarded City Hall with three honorable mentions — two in the sustainability category and one for telecommunications and information technology.

The parking meter debit card program won a sustainability award, because, as Chief Information Officer Jory Wolf commented, "Instead of disposing of the card, you can renew the value."

The program has been running for a little over a year and a half, and Wolf believes that there's "a large number of people using it, and it has been widely accepted."

Future plans include expanding the availability of locations to renew the card, as there are currently just two. Others ideas include the use of either the SantaMoniCard or a regular credit card in parking structures in order to alleviate the problem of downtown shoppers being caught cashless as they try to exit.

"People don't carry around cash as much as they used to," Wolf said. "The city has to adjust."

PTI also gave an honorable mention to Santa Monica's Advanced Traffic Management System, which uses a city-wide network to address the serious problem of congested streets. While City Hall has only set up 11 signals on Fourth Street, they plan to reach a total of 178 within the next few

SEE **AWARDS** PAGE 12

Report: UCLA did liver transplants on several Japanese gang figures

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES UCLA Medical Center provided liver transplants to four Japanese gang figures, including one of Japan's most powerful gang bosses, over a period when several hundred Los Angeles-area patients died while awaiting transplants, according to a published report.

SEE **UCLA** PAGE 13

Police looking for hit-and-run driver

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY A 60-year-old homeless man is dead, the victim of a hit-and-run, and police are asking the public for help in finding the driver responsible.

The vehicle involved has been described as a late model Toyota Corolla or Nissan Sentra, dark blue or black in color. Due to the collision, the vehicle should have damage to its front end and possibly its windshield, said Sgt. Renaldi Thruston, public information officer for the Santa Monica Police Department.

The vehicle was last seen exiting the Albertsons parking lot at 2627 Lincoln Blvd. just prior to the collision.

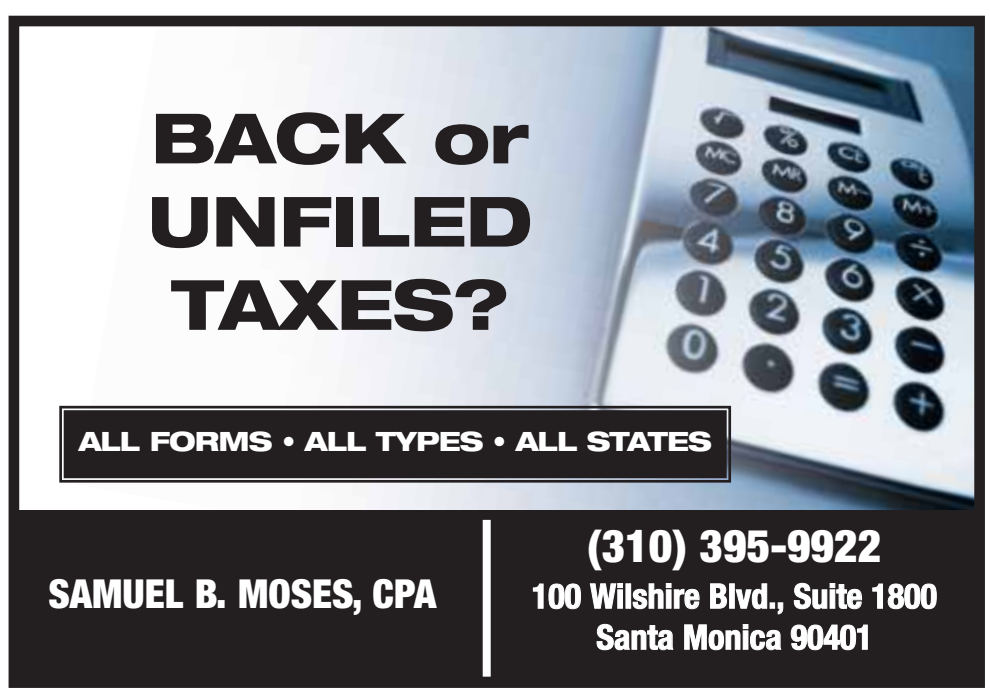
The collision occurred on Wednesday, May 21 at around 12:08 a.m. The 60-year-old homeless man, identified as John Cameron Wallen, was struck while jaywalking across Lincoln, just north of Ocean Park Boulevard. After the impact the suspect's vehicle fled the scene without stopping or rendering aid to Wallen, Thruston said.

Paramedics from the Santa Monica Fire Department transported Wallen to a local hospital where he was listed in critical condition and placed on life support. On Thursday Wallen succumbed to his injuries and died at the hospital.

Anyone with information on the hit-and-run is encouraged to call SMPD investigator Chris Dawson at (310) 458-8954 or the watch commander at (310) 458-8427. Anyone wishing to remain anonymous may call the We-Tip hotline at (800) 78-CRIME.

news@smdp.com





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Get your priorities straight

Editor:

I fully agree with Gera Korte that the issues facing Santa Monicans in regard to transients, crime, traffic, and other grave problems need to be addressed.

However, I disagree with her that only "some thought" should be given to these matters and not necessarily by Jerry Rubin. How about directing her concerns to our wonderful City Council members.

Shouldn't they be giving a great deal of thought to solving these problems, rather than exerting so much energy into removing beautiful trees against the wishes of the majority of Santa Monicans?

Helen Fiske
Santa Monica

A neighborhood no longer

Editor:

The SMDP article "Putting in work," page 1, May 28, outlines the cities big plans for improvements throughout the greater city and more close to home the borderline area which is located at the south end of the city west of Lincoln.

Some borderline neighbors who have long bemoaned the area for all things any modern city comes to represent, but today in your reporter's article, she links tow truck operations and illicit activities in the same sentence.

Yes it is true that over the years that a particular household near the former AAA contract station hectored the legitimate operators who served the motoring public in all kinds of weather 24-7, 365 days a year from lock outs to very serious accidents.

The area now boasts of no parking anytime and some who live there seem to delight in confronting anyone who dares exercise their franchise as a tax payer using the public streets to park, but alas city government here seems oblivious to the words long enshrined in the great document that states as "We The People," which has come to be we the special interests declare ourselves exempt from forming a more perfect union, with the consent of the city to seize parking on the streets mentioned as borderline? Or equal protection under the law when it comes to shared resources, including parking?

In the piece, remarks are made regarding the side streets as looking like alleys. That's the way the founders of the city laid the streets, and there were no side walks afforded by past owners.

If the boderliners want improvements perhaps they might best afford those improvements on their own, maybe even assess themselves a special tax for their own improvement district.

But I suppose that transcends the borderline collective mentality, as borderliners are more prone to seek land grants that favor them alone at the cost of the rest of us who work hard, play by the rules and pay our taxes?

But honestly, to link tow truck operations manned by blue collar workers, especially AAA, goes beyond mean spirited to down right hostility.

Not satisfied with having destroyed the lively hoods of those employed at the facility and going to no ends to continue the character assassination, it would appear the new guard of SMDP reporters have lost their objectivity by not seeking those who might have a differing perspective of the service once provided but were set upon instead by subsequent new comers intent on destroying the charm and ambiance of Ocean Park itself as it once was, a live and let live community.

Stewart Resmer
Santa Monica







Modern Times

Lloyd Garver — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The United States and France: Vive la difference? Oui! Oui!

IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO THAT THE relationship between France and the United States was, to say the least, a bit chilly. This was the era of "Freedom Fries" and calls to boycott anything that was French. For many Americans, the enemy was the rhyming two-headed monster of Chirac and Iraq. Now the two countries are friends again. Times have changed. France has a president with an extremely low popularity rating, they have huge economic problems, and … no wonder we're getting along so well.

I went out on the not particularly mean streets of Paris and the Dordogne area to ask the French people some questions. I thought my survey might help us better understand the French and learn what the French people think of us. Interestingly, I found no difference in the opinions of those who live in rural France and those who live in Paris.

If getting used to all of the anti-smoking laws was a huge adjustment for smokers in Santa Monica to make, imagine what it was like for French smokers. That's right. France recently passed legislation outlawing smoking in restaurants and cafes. When asked if they were happy about the new law, 100 percent of those I surveyed said they were. This even included people who were smoking while they answered my questions.

On my survey, I asked, "Who do you think will be the next president of the United States: Hillary Clinton? Barack Obama? Or John McCain?"

Only 7 percent thought that John McCain will be our next president. Hillary Clinton was second with 38 percent, and Barack Obama was the "winner" with 54 percent. Because of this outcome, I assume that Hillary Clinton will vow to continue to campaign until I question every person in France.

I should point out that before our last presidential election, according to my French survey at the time, almost no one in France predicted that George Bush would win a second term.

Despite the unpopularity of both countries' current presidents within their own country, 100 percent of those surveyed felt that the president of France was a better president than President Bush. In sports parlance, they'd "rather have their bum than our bum."

When asked if they thought the war in Iraq would be over soon, about 11 percent, said, "oui." In some ways, the French are more optimistic than we are.

When I asked, "Who's your favorite American actor or actress?" every person gave me a different answer. Some of them were: Dustin Hoffman, Tom Hanks, Bruce Willis, Denzel Washington, Clint Eastwood, Samuel Jackson, Brad Pitt, Edward Norton, and Tyrone Power. Tyrone power? I guess France really is an old-fashioned country.

I asked, "Which of the following foods do you prefer to eat: Pizza, hamburger, or foie gras?" Nobody chose pizza, and while 80 percent preferred foie gras, perhaps the 20 percent who like hamburgers indicates a bond they have with Americans. Or it just shows that even in France, there are people who don't know good food when they eat it.

One hundred percent of the people interviewed said they would like to visit the United States someday. Let's just hope it's not all on the same day, or we'll really have an immigration nightmare.

When asked what is there about France that is better than the United States, the answers included food, history, and a slower — and therefore, better — pace of life. When asked what the United States has that they wished they had, answers included a positive frame of mind, more possibilities of advancing at work, and cheaper gasoline. That's right. Even if you adjust for the euro/dollar difference, gasoline is much more expensive in France. So we have that to look forward to.

I got some interesting answers when I asked which country they thought was the strongest country in the world today. Nobody chose the United States or France. Understandably, China was one of the answers. However, so was Norway. Norway? And no, this wasn't from the guy whose favorite actor is Tyrone Power.

I asked which government they thought was more dishonest, that of the United States or that of France. By only one vote, the United States edged out France. It's nice to be No. 1 in something, isn't it?

The preceding is by no means a scientific survey. Because of my selection methods and the fact that I asked the questions in French — my French — the margin of error might very well be in the neighborhood of 90 to 100 percent. But in France, that's still a charming neighborhood.

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. You can contact him at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his Web site at lloydgarver.com



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STRAY talk

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

"The other modes can consider Santa Monica's noncompliance on the airport issue when deciding whether to award their own grants to the city, or to award grants that other agencies would pass along to the city."

— FAA spokesman Ian Gregor, regarding the city's ban on certain jets at Santa Monica Airport.

"This past Wednesday, Pacific Park unveiled their new Ferris wheel with music and a pyrotechnic show. With its 160,000 LED lights the wheel can probably be seen from space. Andy, a doctor friend, worries it's so intense it's going to cause seizures. The wheel cost $1.5 million but it may need a 49-cent dimmer switch. For those interested, the old wheel sold on eBay for $130,000 to a man who had it shipped to Oklahoma. I'm trying to picture the giant FedEx envelope."

— SMDP columnist Jack Neworth writing in "Laughing Matters."

"I think with the busy lives we all lead these days it is increasingly difficult to cook at the end of the day. This may be why one of the largest growing areas of the food business is prepared foods."

— SMDP columnist Amanda Cushman writing in "Real Simple Food."

"WE ARE NOT HERE TO ADVOCATE FOR ANYTHING, WE ARE HERE TO GET YOUR OPINIONS."

Adam Radinsky,
The head of the Consumer Protection Unit with the City Attorney's Office, said regarding a possible ban on smoking in residential common areas.

"The city misdirects the owners on purpose so that you lose your property. One inspector said that everything was up to code in 1980, and 30 years later they tell me it's not up to code. They contradict each other. They have no social skills, no communication skills and they have no class. All they have is evil minds."

— Santa Monica landlord Guillermo Gonzalez regarding a decade-long legal battle against the city.

"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."

— SMDP columnist Kenny Mack writing in "Word In Edgewise."

"(People) want to be able to not get sick when they swim. We really need to hunker down."

— Councilmember Bobby Shriver regarding potential storm drain replacement projects.

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."

— SMDP columnist David Pisarra writing in "What's the Point?"



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The Q Line

Looking for a new leader

This past week, Q-line asked:
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent Dianne Talarico is widely expected to leave her post at the end of the school year. What should the Board of Education look for when selecting her successor?

Here are your responses:

"THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT IS supposed to be transparent and honest with everyone. The current superintendent should be fired."

"HOW ABOUT HONESTY, INTEGRITY AND the ability to listen to all sides of the problem?"

"THEY SHOULD GET SOMEONE WHO has absolutely no connection whatsoever with the school district and who has no idea what the City Council is like so they have no idea what they're getting into."

"FOR MANY REASONS, LIFETIME dedication to a school district is not often seen today. Educators, businessmen and ordinary individuals are searching for greener pastures. I suspect the pot will have to be sweetened to make the position more palatable."

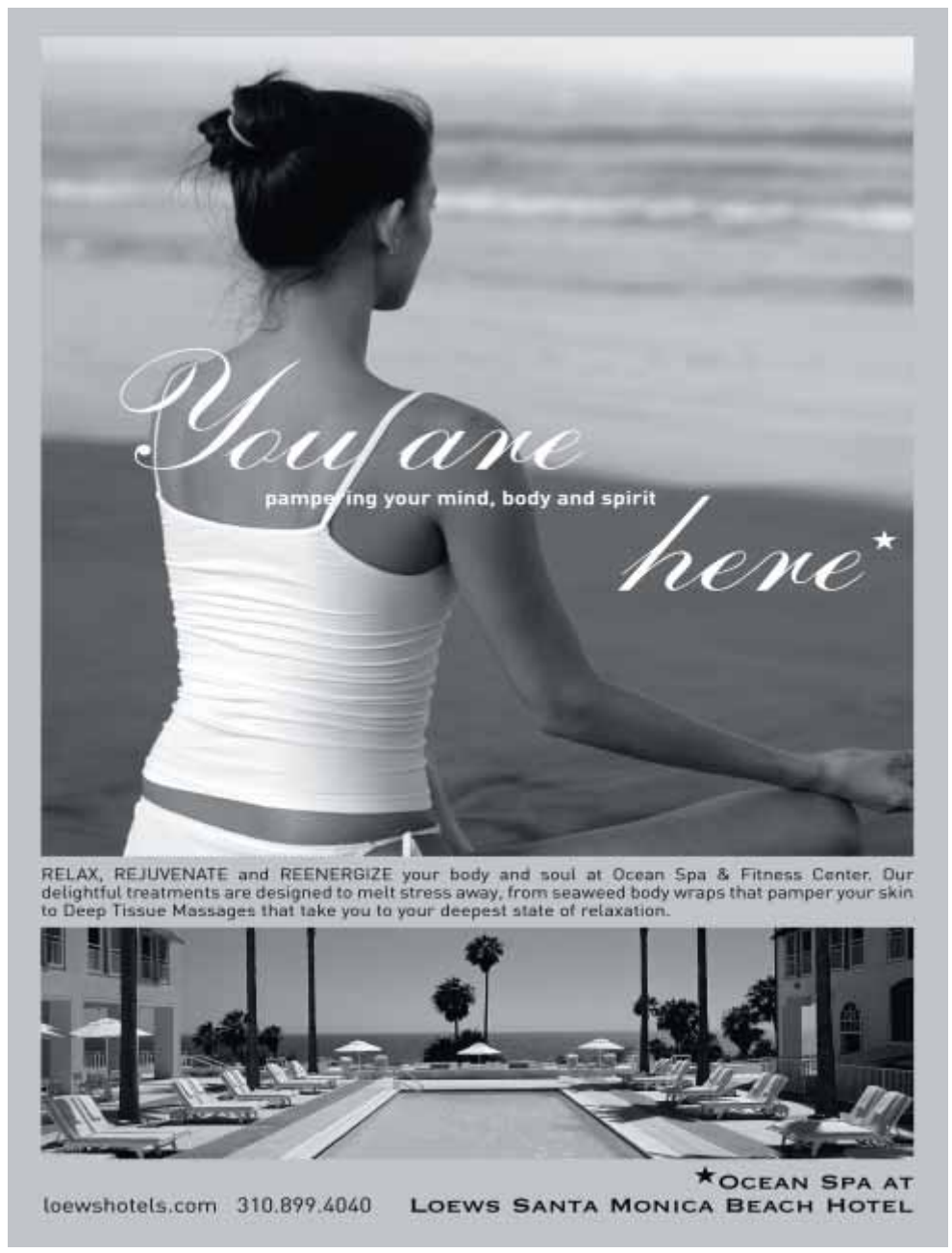
"ALL THE MAJOR POSITIONS IN OUR town – School Superintendent, City Manager and Police Chief – should be people raised and who went to school here. They are the only ones who really know our town or even care."

"I THINK THE PERFECT QUALITIES WILL be those of Data, the android on Star Trek. He has superhuman patience, never lies, and faces all problems with a calm, commonsense approach. There will be no hugging or sitting around the intellectual campfires, holding hands and massaging the giant egos for him. But when you have the deceptive, politically correct, affirmative gender and racial action weak sisters on the School Board, you can't have a strong superintendent. How can you blame the board when Santa Monica is full of whining parents who feel no amount of tax dollars are enough to teach their children. Data, even with his positronic brain, would have a difficult time educating the intellectual dullards in this town."

"SOMEONE WHO HAS NOTHING TO DO with Arnold Schwarzenegger in any way, shape or form. Period."

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Kitchen Vixen

Elizabeth Brown
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Bread isn't the enemy of the health conscious

IT IS TRUE THAT WHEN YOU CUT BREAD out of your diet you will lose weight, in part because you limit your food choices. It's just too easy to throw things on bread and call it a meal. But, do we all have to live a life without bread?

Bread adds options plus an extra 150-200 calories for two slices. Cut out that bread and you are looking at possibly consuming 3,500 fewer calories per month which equates to one pound. In a year, that's twelve pounds which is more than a five percent weight loss for a 200 pound individual. Five percent weight loss means a significant reduction in the risk of chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, stroke and heart disease. Not only that, eliminating bread increases your chances of acquiring a six pack — abdominals, not beverages.

Sometimes bread can spur reasons to eat. You say to yourself, "I am hungry. What do I have to eat?" There may be salad greens in your fridge which you can top with a variety of shredded and chopped colorful vegetables, perhaps some heart healthy nuts and a nice tangy dressing. But a PB&J sounds much more palate pleasing, reminiscent of childhood school lunches or after school snacks. Depending on how you assemble it, that sandwich can actually be healthy and bread may find a new place on your plate, perhaps not as a dietary staple but as an occasional snack

There are times when bread is great. If you are an active, on-the-go type person then bread can allow you to take fuel for the future. If you are trying to cut calories by cutting sweets, an occasional slice of bread with nut butter and dried fruit can stave off cravings and consumption of empty calories. Bread can be a part of your diet, no matter who you are. Only you can decide when enough is enough.

Since summer is upon us and some of you may want a washboard, not for scrubbing shirts but for attracting others, then I will include a bread free recipe. Wrap your favorite sandwich fixins in leaves.

Choose the greenest ones you can find; mustards, collards, rainbow chard or romaine and stuff them with colorful veggies plus a protein source and a sauce or spread. A green wrap is a perfect way to take salads on the go.

For the endurance athletes of the bunch, you need carbs for replenishing muscle glycogen after a hard day of training. Although a sandwich may not always suffice, it certainly is a good start toward refueling for future activities. For you I will share my favorite nut butter energy snack, perfect for post workout pick-me-ups or preventing empty calorie splurges. This sandwich will leave you feeling full, satisfied and youthful, like the kid you are at heart.

ELIZABETH BROWN is a registered dietitian and certified holistic chef specializing in weight management, sports nutrition, disease prevention and optimal health through whole foods. She can be reached at eat2liv@earthlink.net.

Lettuce Wrap to Go-Go

4 large leaves, you choice; Mustards (spicy), Collards (hearty), Rainbow Chard (colorful), Romaine (familiar)
1/2 yellow pepper, finely diced
2 inches cucumber, finely diced
4 ounces tuna, salmon, chicken or tofu

HUMMUS SPREAD:
16 oz. can garbanzos (reserve liquid)
Juice of one lemon
2 cloves garlic, diced
1/4 cup tahini (ground sesame paste)
1 tsp ground cumin
1/4 tsp sea salt (optional)

TO MAKE HUMMUS SPREAD:
Combine all ingredients in a blender or food processor. Add more liquid as needed to reach desired consistency, creamy, but not runny. Store in a jar in the fridge for 3-4 days. You can also freeze in small quantities to be thawed and consume in the future.

TO ASSEMBLE LETTUCE WRAPS:
Wash and dry leaves. Spread with 2 tablespoons hummus and add 1 tablespoon each of chopped peppers, cucumber and tomatoes. Add chopped tuna, salmon, chicken or tofu.

Per Wrap: 134 calories, 3g fat, 9g carbs, 4g fiber, 18g protein.

Nut Butter Bring Back Energy Sandwich

2 slices sprouted grain bread or brown rice bread (gluten free)
1 Tbsp natural organic nut butter
4 thin apple slices
2 dates, pitted and opened
1 cup almond milk (to consume with sandwich)

Toast the bread if you like, spread with nut butter and apply apple slices. Place opened dates on top of apples so that they lie flat and cover the other sandwich fixins

May use three dates in order to get ample coverage. This is the only time the three date option applies; otherwise take it one date at a time.
Take a bite and wash down with almond milk or organic milk of your choice.

Per serving (sandwich plus 1 cup almond milk): 340 calories, 13g fat, 52g carbs, 8g fiber, 11g protein.

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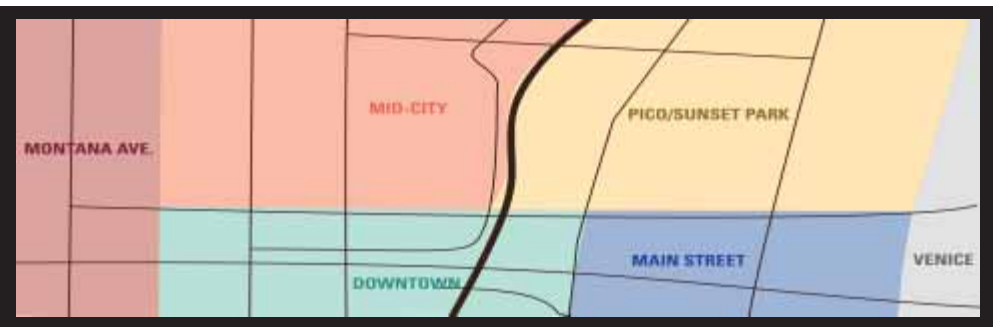
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Stroh's Gourmet 1239 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 450-5119
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Uncle Darrow's 2560 S Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 306-4862
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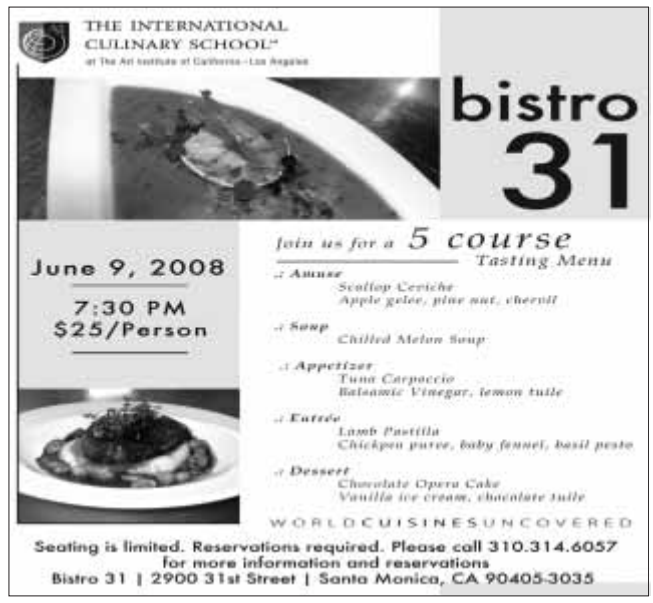
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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Publisher makes 5,000 more books available for sale

Amazon.com said Friday that publisher Simon & Shuster will make 5,000 more books available electronically for the Amazon Kindle, bumping to 125,000 the number of titles available for the wireless device that lets users download and read books.

The announcement came ahead of an address by Amazon.com Inc. chief executive Jeff Bezos at the BookExpo America convention in Los Angeles.

Bezos has said Kindle e-books now account for 6 percent of sales among the 125,000 titles available on the site in both electronic and print formats. The company did elaborate on that figure.

On Tuesday, the online retailer cut the price of its Kindle by $40 to $359 but still isn't disclosing how many of the devices have sold.

The company also refuses to divulge the actual number of e-books sold on the site.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO

Pelosi stresses Dems must unite after primaries

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is calling on the Democratic party to unite after Tuesday's final primaries, saying any attempt to continue the race would be "a scorched earth" approach.

Pelosi says the primary battle between Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama can't continue until the Democratic National Convention in August.

She says it "would be harmful to the party" and is "a luxury that I cannot afford."

Pelosi made the comments during a visit to the San Francisco Food Bank on Friday.

Obama is within 42 delegates of clinching the nomination and leads Clinton by roughly 200 delegates. He stands to gain a minimum of 20 delegates in remaining primaries in Puerto Rico, Montana and South Dakota.

AP

WASHINGTON

FTC clears Icahn to purchase Yahoo shares

Federal antitrust regulators have cleared activist billionaire investor Carl Icahn's purchase of another $1.5 billion of shares of Internet company Yahoo Inc.

Icahn launched a proxy fight last month to remove Yahoo's board of directors after the Sunnyvale, Calif.-based company rejected Microsoft Corp.'s last takeover bid of $47.5 billion bid. He has called Yahoo's actions "irrational" and nominated an alternate slate of 10 directors, including himself.

To gain leverage in the fight, Icahn has spent more than $1 billion to buy 59 million Yahoo shares and options to give him a 4.3 percent stake in the company. He has sought approval from the Federal Trade Commission to acquire up to $2.5 billion in Yahoo stock, including his current holdings.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Hunter gets on Hollywood Walk of Fame

"Saving Grace" star Holly Hunter has been immortalized in concrete, receiving the 2,363rd star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Director Steven Spielberg and tennis great Billie Jean King were among those on hand Friday as Hunter's star was unveiled on Hollywood Boulevard.

Spielberg directed Hunter in the movie "Always" and the actress portrayed King in a 2001 TV movie.

Hunter has won an Academy Award for her role in the 1993 movie "The Piano" and two Emmys for TV movies.

She called it "an unbelievable honor" for her star to share the same boulevard with those of Spielberg, Marlon Brando and other movie greats.

AP

MURRIETTA

Small plane crash in Riverside County kills two

Two people were killed Friday when a small airplane crashed after takeoff from a small airport in southwestern Riverside County, authorities said.

The single-engine experimental plane appeared to lose power and came down in a field north of French Valley Airport, said Stephanie Smith of the Murrietta Fire Department.

Identities of the victims were not immediately known.

The crash, which occurred in the vicinity of businesses and a shopping center, was reported at 11:49 a.m.

The aircraft was a Lancair Legacy, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor. He did not know the destination of the flight.

The Legacy is a type of plane built from a kit.

AP

HANFORD

Suspect booked on suspicion of wife's murder

The man once named the prime suspect in the murder of his ex-wife nearly two years ago is behind bars.

Police arrested 49-year-old Dave Hawk on Thursday and booked him into the Kings County jail on one count of first-degree murder in the death of Debbie Hawk.

The 46-year-old woman disappeared in June of 2006. Her body has never been found.

Prosecutors say Dave Hawk is accused of committing the murder for financial gain. They did not elaborate during a news conference announcing the arrest Friday.

Dave Hawk's attorney says he maintains his innocence.

AP

LOS ANGELES

LAPD officer opens fire at suspected drunken driver

A Los Angeles police officer has opened fire at an alleged drunken driver's car after the motorist failed to stop.

Police Capt. Mark Olvera says the incident happened Thursday night when a motorcycle officer began following a man believed to be driving drunk.

AP

Torture trial exposes family horror stories

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

MURRIETA For weeks, the three wives of Mansa Musa Muhummed and most of their 19 children have been telling a jury countless stories of torture and starvation that they kept to themselves for years.

Muhummed sat in a desert courthouse with a hand over his face, shaking his head in denial as family members described being beaten, strung up by their feet and forced to eat vomit and feces.

"It is the worst case we've ever heard of," prosecutor Julie Baldwin said last week.

The alleged atrocities went undetected by social service agencies, and police now have Muhummed, 55, facing up to seven life sentences if convicted of a raft of abuse charges.

Muhummed, whose given name was Richard Boddie, is on trial at Riverside County Superior Court after more than nine years of legal wrangling in which he changed lawyers four times and represented himself for more than two years.

He has pleaded not guilty to charges of torturing seven of the children, abusing 12 of them and falsely imprisoning two wives.

The trial delays may have hurt his case because his children — once reluctant to talk to authorities — are now telling strangers of extreme deprivation, physical abuse and starvation.

Standing just 4-foot-6 and weighing about 98 pounds, Sharon Boddie, 27, told jurors last week that she had grown and gained weight since her father was arrested nine years ago and the children were sent to foster or group homes.

But she still has scars from beatings and burns. She said she was taken out of school in second grade because she kept running away and teachers no longer wanted her there because she stole other children's lunches.

"I'd go like a week without eating, not even water," she said in a flat, unemotional voice. She said she would be beaten when she tried to steal food from the refrigerator.

One son caught sneaking food testified that he was forced to eat what he took until he regurgitated. Then he was forced to eat his vomit. Another daughter said she was ordered to hand feed her father while she was denied food.

Doctors said the children were extremely malnourished. A 19-year-old daughter was 4-foot-1 and weighed 56 pounds.

After moving to rural Riverside County, they lived for about three years in a van at a Muslim campground, Sharon Boddie testified. The van had no running water or gas for cooking. Baldwin said Muhummed had no known occupation.

The now-adult children have testified that Muhummed forced them to beat each other when he wasn't doing the hitting.

His lawyer has suggested some of the children abused each other and he is challenging testimony as exaggerations. Baldwin said she expects the defense to accuse the wives of being responsible for abuse.

Muhummed has told authorities he believed his Muslim religion allowed him to have multiple wives.

Marva Lewis Barfield, 53, the first of Muhummed's three wives and mother of 14 of his children, testified that she beat some of her children with a boat oar at his instructions because she feared he would kill her if she disobeyed.

Barfield said she married Boddie when she was 18 and that she was repeatedly beaten and threatened with death during 26 years of marriage.

Barfield was jailed for 17 months in the case and pleaded guilty to one count of child endangerment as part of a plea bargain to testify against Muhummed.

Another wife, Laura Cowan, said that he took control of her bank accounts and finances. She and other members of the family also collected public assistance.

It was Cowan who finally got the attention of authorities when Muhummed took her with him to a post office and she slipped a 13-page letter about the abuse to a postal clerk.

The letter was sent to the county social services agency and to sheriff's deputies, who found the family living in a filthy garage in a gated community. Cowan presented authorities with tapes she secretly recorded of some beatings.

Sharon Boddie said social workers had checked on their welfare before, but her father put food boxes in cupboards before they arrived and the children were taught to lie.

"I told them everything was OK because my dad had coached us what to say," she recalled. "I'd say my dad treated us really good — that he was the best parent in the world."

When they were removed from his Muhummed's home, most of the children said they could not read or write and had not been to school.

The brothers and sisters have said they were denied use of a bathroom and could not bathe for weeks at a time or wash their clothes. Sometimes, Boddie took them in the yard and hosed them down.

Sharon Boddie said she was strung upside down by her feet and left in a dark basement for hours at a time.

Baldwin said many of the children were unwilling to talk to authorities when their father was first arrested in 1999.

Even when her father was handcuffed to a car outside their home, Sharon Boddie wouldn't speak because she feared he wouldn't go to jail. She said he once waved a gun around and said, "I can kill all of you and nobody will ever know."

She said she decided to tell her story when her father was behind bars and she realized she was "finally going to have a life."





City awarded for being innovative

FROM **AWARDS** PAGE 3

years and have cameras monitoring traffic on the major arteries.

"With this software, if there's an accident, construction or just bad weather, we can adjust the signals to help traffic," Wolf said. "It's very flexible."

Further honorable mentions were given to the Mobile Work Management System, which allows Water Resource Division work crews to enter data from laptops in the field, and CityNet, a city project to distribute unused fiber optic bandwidth to local business in need of intensive communication services.

"We are generating additional revenue by renting out a significant amount of unused dark fiber throughout the city," Wolf explained. "We're helping local business get affordable broadband services, especially high tech, entertainment and new media companies. Through this, we're improving their ability to communicate large amounts of data throughout the region and the world. They've been using CityNet to transmit large amounts of video from Santa Monica to their offices in London, Paris, New York and Melbourne."

"THE CITY IS A LEADER IN IMPLEMENTING TECHNOLOGY TO BEST SERVE THE COMMUNITY."

Jory Wolf,
Chief information officer

The program, Wolf noted, is part of City Hall's larger effort to attract and maintain environmentally friendly businesses.

"We like to nurture the green businesses in Santa Monica while making good use of a city resource," he said. "These companies are about not polluting the environment. They're green because they use broadband to transport goods and information instead of vehicles."

These honors, given to local governments across the country for technological innovation, are specifically for city projects that improve communication, lower costs and generate revenue. Santa Monica has won 11 PTI awards and 6 honorable mentions over the past seven years, earning a record four awards and three honorable mentions last year.

"We seem to continue to win quite a bit," Wolf said. "The city is a leader in implementing technology to best serve the community."

news@smdp.com

Rents may be on the rise

FROM **MAIN STREET** PAGE 1

tique Suji, said. "You have to maintain the street like you'd maintain a store or a home. You have to keep up your own standards."

Kathy Carlson Matulich, who owns home furnishings and gift store Casa Allegra, expressed concerns with the effect that the assessment could have on rent. While the assessments will be levied on property owners, the tax can be passed down to its tenants.

"Our rents are so high now that there are going to be stores closing in the next few years," Carlson Matulich said. "If the (tax) is passed on to the renter, it's just putting people out of business."

The assessments will be levied according to the benefit to the property. City Hall and the Parking Authority, which represents about 8.88 percent of the total assessment, were already authorized by the City Council to vote in favor. Their contribution will total about $7,800 annually.

Among the supporters for the assessment district are some of the newer businesses along Main Street.

Stacy Bernstein, the owner of children's boutique Harper Lane, moved into the district less than a year ago. Bernstein said while she's only been on Main Street for a short time, she thinks that beautification and cleanliness are vital to the vibrancy of the street.

"The lights enhance the mood and attract people with their charm," Bernstein said. "It's important to keep them in order to keep our clientele and maintain the integrity of Main Street."

Alice Ollstein contributed to this report

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LIGHTING THE SKY

Jamie Budge *photos@jamiebudge.com*

Resident and professional photographer Jamie Budge was in a prime position to snap photos of the fireworks display accompanying the debut of the new Pacific Park Ferris wheel this week.

FBI looks into liver transplants at UCLA

FROM UCLA PAGE 3

The surgeries were performed by world-renowned liver surgeon Dr. Ronald W. Busuttil, executive chairman of UCLA's surgery department, the Los Angeles Times reported in a story posted on its Web site Thursday night. The Times cited a person familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The surgeries were performed between 2000 and 2004, and in each of those years more than 100 patients died awaiting liver transplants in the greater Los Angeles region, according to the Times.

There is no indication UCLA or Busuttil knew any of the patients had ties to Japanese gangs, known as yakuza, the Times reported. The hospital and Busuttil said in statements they don't make moral judgments about patients, but treat them according to medical need.

U.S. transplant rules do not prohibit hospitals from performing transplants on foreign patients or those with criminal histories.

Tadamasa Goto, who had been barred from entering the United States because of his criminal history, was the most prominent transplant recipient. He leads a gang called the Goto-gumi, according to the Times.

With help from the FBI, Goto obtained a visa to enter America in 2001 in exchange for leads on potentially illegal activity in this country by Japanese criminal gangs, Jim Stern, retired chief of the FBI's Asian criminal enterprise unit in Washington, told the Times. The FBI did not help Goto arrange his surgery with UCLA.

The FBI didn't get much out of Goto, Stern said.

"I don't think Goto gave the bureau anything of significance," Stern said. Goto "came to the States and got a liver and was laughing back to where he came from. ... It defies logic."

Stern said he was not involved with the deal, and learned of it when he became unit chief in 2004. He said he continues to be troubled by it.

After the transplant, Goto was again barred from re-entering the U.S., the Times said, citing a law enforcement official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and requested anonymity.

Busuttil performed liver transplants at UCLA on three other men now barred from entering the U.S. because of their criminal records or suspected affiliation with Japanese organized crime groups, the Times said, citing a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The LUCE @ City Council



IT'S HERE!

The opportunity is here for an introduction and overview to the

LUCE Strategy Framework.
(Land Use Circulation Element)

Over the last few years, the Community and the City have worked intently together to develop a cohesive and inclusive vision for the future of Santa Monica.

Please join us at the upcoming City Council meetings to share your thoughts on the LUCE strategy.

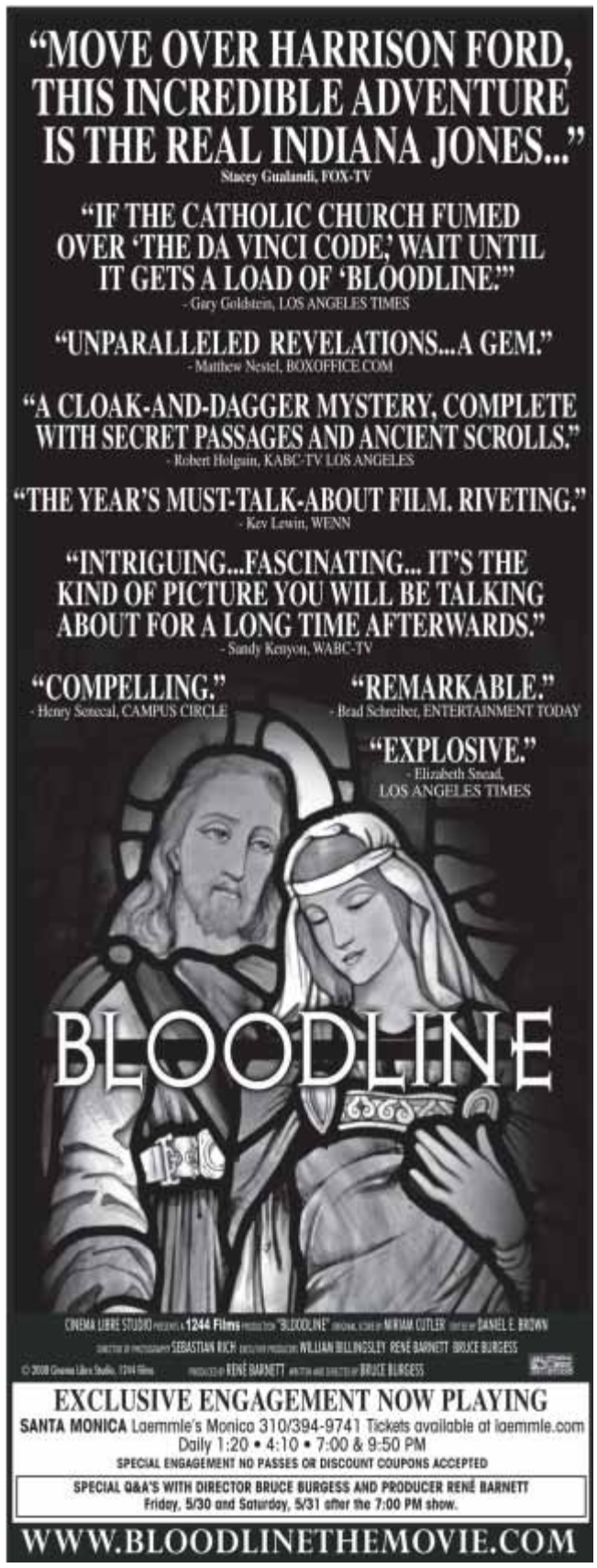
City Council Meetings

Tuesday, June 10th
6:45 pm
City Council Chambers
Presentation & Public Comment

Tuesday, June 17th
6:45 pm
City Council Chambers

The LUCE Strategy Framework will be available at:
www.shapethefuture2025.com







File photo

NEW GIG: **Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District Superintendent Dianne Talarico on Friday was selected to head the Burlingame School District, her departure the latest in an exodus of top administrators over the past few years.**

Search is on for interim super

FROM **DISTRICT** PAGE 1

spread out over five elementary schools and one middle school. Considered a high-performing school district, four out of the five schools have a high academic performance index score.

Talarico was named as Deasy's successor in July 2006, coming to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District from the Canton City Schools in Ohio where she served in a similar capacity for five years. She also held several positions in the San Francisco Unified School District for nearly two decades before moving to Canton, including associate superintendent and teacher of special education.

She was among approximately 46 candidates who applied to replace outgoing Burlingame Superintendent Sonny Da Marto who will serve as the head of the Turlock Unified School District on July 1, the same date in which Talarico's three-year contract will take effect in Burlingame. Da Marto announced his resignation in February after serving nearly nine years.

Burlingame was one of two districts with superintendent openings sought by Talarico, the other — Newark — located about 25 miles south of Oakland. Newark was taken out of consideration when the district decided to look within the organization for a superintendent, hiring its associate superintendent for educational services.

"I was very selective about where I applied in terms of trying to determine a school district that would be a good fit and match for my passions and what I thought I could contribute for the children and the school district," Talarico said. "(Burlingame) thought I would be a good match for them and they definitely are a great match for me."

Michael Barber, the president of the Burlingame Board of Trustees, said Talarico stood out from the competition for her strong curriculum background, work in special education and experience as superintendent in other districts.

"A lot of it was about the right fit and we as a board felt she was a good fit for the district," Barber said.

The district used management search firm Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates to assist in the hunt for a superintendent, the Chicago-based company the same one that recruited Talarico for the Santa Monica-Malibu position. The board interviewed Talarico earlier this month and several trustees were in Santa Monica on Thursday interviewing district staff.

Talarico's short stay in Santa Monica-Malibu was marked by one controversy after the next, many of the issues preceding her administration but boiling over in the past two years.

The issues started popping up about six months into her stay after former Chief Financial Officer Winston Braham resigned, continuing over into the confidentiality clauses in special education and most recently, a sexual molestation scandal involving an ESL teacher at Lincoln Middle School. Many school community members say that Talarico inherited the problems.

Barber said the trustees were aware and concerned over some of the issues at SMMUSD, but recognized that every district has problems.

"We learned the school district had its share of issues over the years preceding Dianne," Barber said. "From that perspective, every school district has its own personality."

The controversies did not play into the departure, Talarico said. Instead, the outgoing superintendent said she believes the challenges have only made her stronger.

"Through the many trials and tribulations here, I reflected back to the saying my father said to me — fall down seven times and get up eight — and I live by that philosophy," Talarico said. "Regardless of how intense things were sometimes, I was able to stand back up and face whatever adversity I had to keep us focused on our core mission."

Talarico said despite some of the challenges experienced by the district in the past several years, she hoped that the community will be able to focus on some of the positives, understanding that children have to be the first priority.

She pointed to accomplishments such as the strong academic performances at many of the schools, the awards won by student organizations at the high schools and the successes of several tax measures, including Measure R in February, which combined two existing parcel taxes that were set to expire in the coming years. Measure R is a critical funding source for the district, providing roughly $10 million a year to schools, education advocates said.

"We are award-winning in so many ways that it behooves our community to accentuate the positives, focus on the successes and really celebrate all of the outstanding achievements that our students are making," Talarico said.

Talarico will spend the next week in Burlingame meeting the staff and conducting some transitional work, returning to Santa Monica in time for the high school graduation ceremonies. Her last day will be June 20.

The SMMUSD Board of Education plans to meet on Wednesday to talk about the search for an interim superintendent, which school officials say will not come from within the district.

Board President Oscar de la Torre said while the interim superintendent will most likely be named in the next few months, the search for a permanent replacement will not begin until after the November election.

"We want to make sure the board is settled and in place," de la Torre said.

Three board members — Jose Escarce, Maria Leon-Vazquez and Kathy Wisnicki — are up for reelection. Former board member Emily Bloomfield's half-term seat, currently occupied by Ralph Mechur, is also up for grabs.

De la Torre said the search process for both the interim and permanent superintendents will be a public process, adding that the board plans to hold a community workshop in which parents can comment on the qualities they would like to see in Talarico's successor.

"It's a change from the past and the reason is because we are striving for a great level of transparency and accountability," de la Torre said.

melodyh@smdp.com

States grapple with fuel costs for school buses

BY WHITNEY WOODWARD
Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH, N.C. The reality of rising fuel prices cost students in a Tennessee school district their bus ride to school this week on the last day of the year.

That's a minor inconvenience compared with what might happen this fall in Minnesota, where a district west of Minneapolis plans to eliminate classes every Monday to come up with the extra $65,000 it needs to fill its buses' tanks.

"I know $65,000 may not sound like a lot, but it's more than one teaching position," said Greg Schmidt, the superintendent in the 700-student MACCRAY district.

And in North Carolina, Nash-Rocky Mount Public Schools teachers have scaled back the number of field trips this spring to save fuel, transportation director Binford Sloan said.

The skyrocketing costs at the pump are forcing educators nationwide to trim programs, curb spending and cut down on fuel consumption. Schools are employing unusual cost-savings measures to salvage busted budgets, while lawmakers grapple with how to pay for popular classroom initiatives threatened by the need to pour more money into the fuel tank.

Nash-Rocky Mount schools burned through about $729,000 in fuel in the last fiscal year — nearly twice as much as in the previous year, Sloan said.

The fleet gets about 7 miles to the gallon, which means the district burns through 7,500 gallons every 3½ school days, Sloan said. Recent buys have cost him close to $29,000.

"We've tried pretty much all that we can to save and improve efficiency," Sloan said.

North Carolina Gov. Mike Easley wants to give teachers a 7 percent raise, but the lawmakers who write the state's budget are also on the hunt for tens of millions to cover school fuel bills. Rising diesel prices prompted Oklahoma's Education Department to ask legislators there to increase the schools operations budget, while Texas lawmakers have said they will re-evaluate their state's school funding system, which has been criticized as ill-equipped to handle sudden spikes in costs such as fuel.

In Tennessee, students who attend Putnam County Schools east of Nashville went without bus service Wednesday, saving the district the $2,300 it costs to operate its fleet each day, said district director Kathleen Airhart. Only a fraction of the student body usually takes the bus on the final day, and Airhart said she received no complaints from parents.

"I think everyone realizes what's happening," Airhart said. "Everyone's pocketbook is being affected by this gas cost."

Schmidt said most of the feedback to the plan to cut back to a four-day school week in his district, which covers the towns of Maynard, Clara City and Raymond, has been positive, although he said he realizes it will inconvenience those parents who will have to find child care on Mondays. The change will mean students will attend 23 fewer days of school a year, and the length of the regular school day will be extended by a little more than an hour to compensate.

"I think the parents, most of them are supportive because they understand our situation," Schmidt said.

Not every cost-saving measure has been so draconian. Drivers in the Fairport Central School District outside of Rochester, N.Y., have been instructed to not make special trips back to schools if students forget their coats or lunches on their morning rides, said superintendent Jon Hunter.

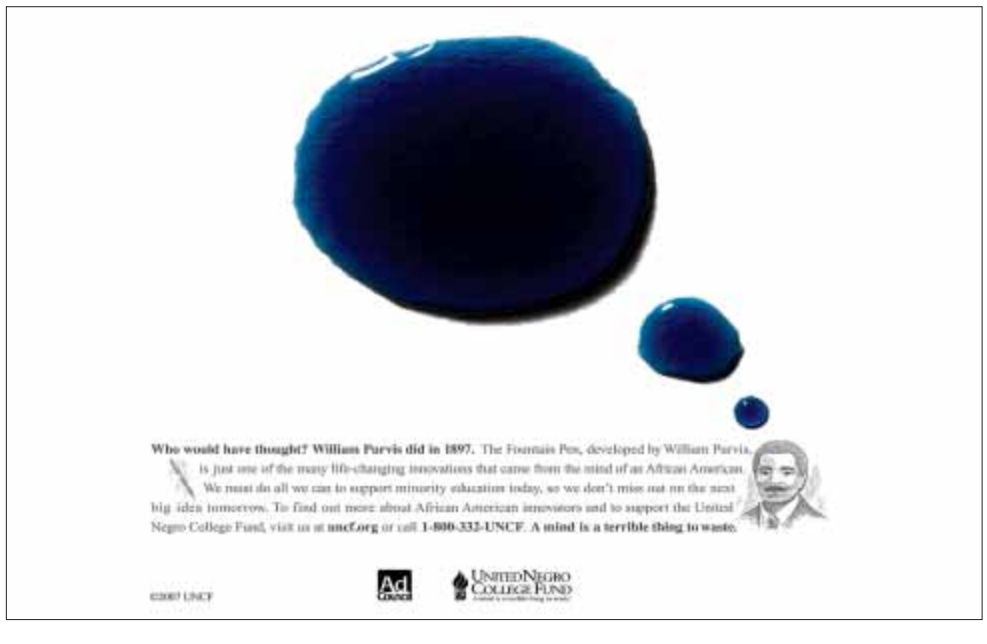
"We're certainly more cognizant of what it costs to run a 60-passenger bus back to school to accomplish that," Hunter said. Drivers instead are returning to the bus depot and using a smaller vehicle to ferry the item to the student's school.

This month, the Mississippi High School Activities Association approved a plan to cut the number of varsity games by 10 percent beginning this fall for all sports except football. The districts will save by driving their basketball, softball and baseball teams to three fewer games a season, said Booneville, Miss., schools superintendent Rickey Neaves.

"When you take into account the number of buses you have to go to a game and the mileage, it mounts up pretty quick," Neaves said.

When North Carolina lawmakers drafted the state's current two-year spending plan, they estimated a gallon of diesel would cost $1.69 this school year and $1.83 starting this fall. Those estimates proved to be woefully low, forcing state education officials to scramble for an extra $27 million to get the state's school bus fleet through the end of this school year.

Legislators have already set aside about $46 million for fuel this coming year, and they're planning to add $45 million more. Districts have "got to have that money from the state," said Leanne Winner, a lobbyist with the North Carolina School Boards Association, "or that will essentially cripple their operations for next year."



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CITY OF SANTA MONICA

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

Parking Structures 1 - 6 Facade Improvements

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **Monday, June 9, 2008,** to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Contract Documents.

Mandatory Meeting:
Monday, June 2, 2008; 10:OOAM
Parking Structure #2
Ground Floor - 2nd Street Elevator Lobby
1235 2nd Street
Santa Monica, CA

ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE: $3,200,000
CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS: 270
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,200 PER DAY
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $500 PER DAY

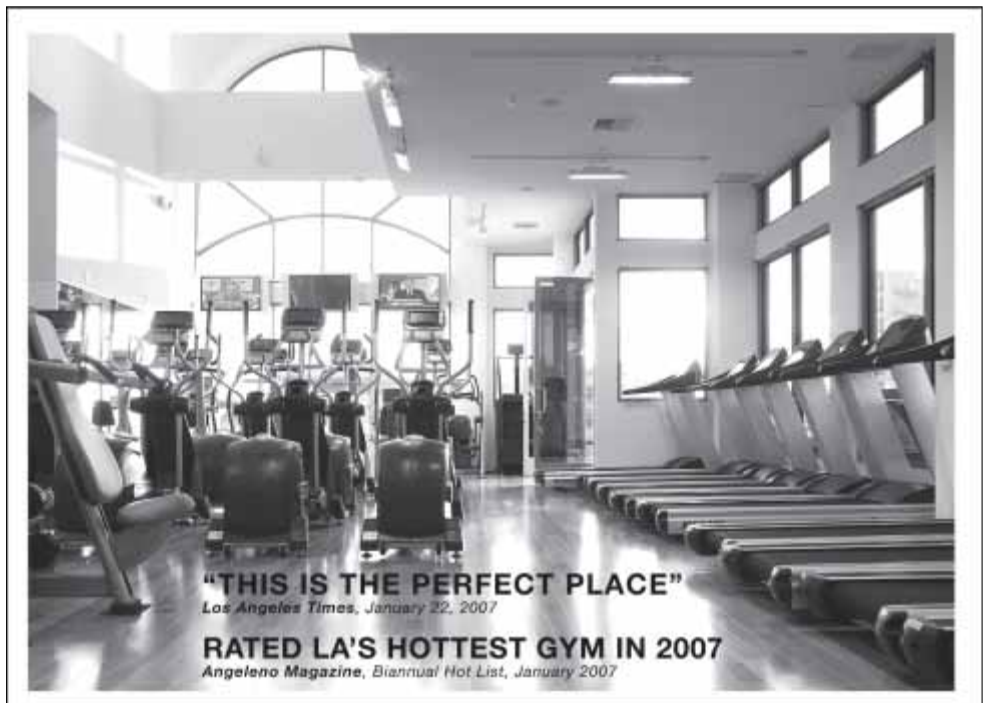
Contract Documents may be obtained at the Office of the City Engineer or by mail for an additional mailing charge (check or money order payable to the City of Santa Monica). Cost of the documents shall be **$60.00**. Additional mailing charge shall be **$10.00**. Contract Documents may also be examined in City Hall, at the Civil Engineering and Architecture counter, phone number (310) 458-8721. Additional information may be obtained on the City's website at www.santa-monica.org/engineering. The Contractor is required to have a **Class B** license at the time of bid submission.

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





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Texas, polygamists reach tentative deal on children

BY MICHELLE ROBERTS
Associated Press Writer

SAN ANGELO, Texas More than 400 children removed from a polygamist sect's ranch will be returned to their parents beginning Monday, Texas officials chastened by a state Supreme Court ruling said Friday.

The children won't be able to leave Texas but they will be allowed to move back to Yearning For Zion Ranch, where child-welfare officials have alleged that underage girls were pushed into spiritual marriages with older men. The parents say there was no abuse, and two courts ruled that the state overstepped its authority in removing all children from the ranch, from infants to teenagers.

Texas Child Protective Services took custody of the children from the west Texas ranch after a raid nearly two months ago. A court order that a judge restore custody to parents applies to only 124 of the children, but state officials said about 300 others taken under identical circumstances also will be returned.

A draft agreement released by CPS attorney Gary Banks says the parents can get their children back after showing identification and pledging to take parenting classes and remain in Texas.

The agreement was reached with 38 mothers of 124 children who filed the complaint that prompted the Texas Supreme Court's ruling Thursday.

The agreement does not specify that the fathers must stay away, and it allows the children to return to the ranch run by the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Eldorado, about 40 miles south of San Angelo.

Texas District Judge Barbara Walther made revisions to the deal, and attorneys on both sides were reviewing them Friday afternoon.

The high court affirmed a decision by an appeals court last week and said CPS failed to show an immediate danger to nearly all the children swept up from the ranch.

"On the record before us, removal of the children was not warranted," the justices said in their ruling issued in Austin.

The Texas high court let stand the appeals court's order that Texas District Judge Barbara Walther return the children from foster care to their parents within a reasonable time period.

Walther ruled last month that the children should be placed in foster care after a chaotic custody hearing involving hundreds of lawyers representing the individual children and parents.

FLDS elder Willie Jessop said Thursday that parents were excited about the court's decision but would remain apprehensive until they get their children back.

"We're just looking forward to when little children can be in the arms of their parents," he said. "Until you have your children in your hands, there's no relief. But we have hope."

The Third Court of Appeals in Austin ruled last week that the state failed to show that any more than five of the teenage girls were being sexually abused, and had offered no evidence of sexual or physical abuse against the other children.

The FLDS, which teaches that polygamy brings glorification in heaven, is a breakaway sect of the Mormon church, which renounced polygamy more than a century ago.

Texas officials claimed at one point that there were 31 teenage girls at the ranch who were pregnant or had been pregnant, but later conceded that about half of those mothers, if not more, were adults. One was 27.

Roughly 430 children from the ranch are in foster care after two births, numerous reclassifications of adult women initially held as minors and a handful of agreements allowing parents to keep custody while the Supreme Court considered the case.

Under state law, children can be taken from their parents if there's a danger to their physical safety, an urgent need for protection and if officials made a reasonable effort to keep the children in their homes. The high court agreed with the appellate court that the seizures fell short of that standard.

The justices said child welfare officials could take numerous actions to protect children short of separating them from their parents and placing them in foster care, and that Walther could put restrictions on the children and parents to address concerns that they may flee once reunited.

Texas authorities, meanwhile, collected DNA swabs Thursday from sect leader Warren Jeffs in an ongoing criminal investigation separate from the custody dispute.

A search warrant for the DNA alleges that Jeffs had "spiritual" marriages with four girls, ages 12 to 15.

Jeffs, who is revered as a prophet, is serving a prison sentence for a Utah conviction of being accomplice to rape in the marriage of a 14-year-old girl to a 19-year-old sect member. He awaits trial in Arizona on similar charges.

Everything looks good for launch

BY MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. With good weather in the offing and no bumps in the countdown, NASA pushed ahead with Saturday's planned launch of space shuttle Discovery on a delivery trip to the international space station.

The mission has taken on new urgency — the seven shuttle astronauts will take up a new pump for the space station's malfunctioning toilet.

They're also ferrying a $1 billion Japanese space lab that has been more than 20 years in the making.

Dozens of Japanese journalists and space program officials jammed NASA's launch site Friday, their excitement growing with every passing hour of the countdown. As many as 400 Japanese were expected for the late Saturday afternoon launch.

Their enthusiasm was catchy.

"We are on the verge of a very historic event, the launch of this amazing spacecraft, the first major manned element for the Japanese Space Agency," said NASA payload manager Scott Higginbotham.

The Japanese lab — named Kibo, which means hope — will be the biggest room at the space station once it's installed. It's 37 feet long and more than 32,000 pounds, and fills Discovery's entire payload bay.

The first part of the lab flew up in March.

The Russian toilet pump, on the other hand, is a mere 1½ feet long and tucked into the crew cabin.

NYC crane collapses into street, kills two workers

BY AMY WESTFELDT
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK A construction crane snapped and smashed into an apartment building with a thunderous roar Friday, killing two workers in the city's second such tragedy in 21/2 months and renewing fears about the safety of hundreds of cranes towering over the New York skyline.

The collapse happened despite stepped-up inspections and a shake-up in the city Buildings Department after the earlier accident, which killed seven people in March.

City officials could not immediately say how the 200-foot crane fell apart on Manhattan's Upper East Side, where contractors were building a 32-story luxury condo complex.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg called the accident "unacceptable and intolerable" but added: "Having said that, we do not know at the moment what happened or why."

With the city going through a supercharged building boom and an estimated 250 cranes in operation as of mid-March, New York has seen a series of deadly construction accidents. Nine people have died in crane accidents so far this year. None died in crane accidents last year; two were killed in 2006.

"Construction of buildings is out of control in this city," City Councilman Tony Avella said. "How many people have to die before the mayor decides enough is enough?"

City Councilwoman Jessica Lappin, who represented the neighborhood affected by the March collapse, said: "People shouldn't live in fear walking near a construction site — and certainly shouldn't feel fear sitting in their living rooms."

Building Department records said officials halted work at the Upper East Side site after the crane failed a "load test" on April 22. However, the crane passed a second test the next day, and no violation was issued.

Department records also indicate several neighborhood complaints about cranes at the site in recent weeks. At least two callers had expressed concerns about parts of the crane extending past safety barriers. One complained that workers were hoisting heavy metal and concrete over the heads of pedestrians.

Inspectors found most of the concerns were unwarranted, and Building Department officials said the crane had been inspected frequently.

The crane toppled just after 8 a.m., destroying a penthouse apartment across the street and knocking off balconies on the apartment building as it plunged more than 20 stories into a heap of twisted steel. The city said in a statement that the cab where the operator sits had separated from the crane's tower.

Base becomes last facility to allow underage drinking

BY ALICIA A. CALDWELL
Associated Press Writer

FORT BLISS, Texas This military base in the far West Texas desert stood as the last Army post in America where if you were old enough to fight and die for your country, you were old enough to drink a beer.

But the party is over at Fort Bliss.

Citing too many drunken-driving crashes and arrests and too many fights, the new commanding general has raised the drinking age on base from 18 to 21, bringing 17,000-soldier Fort Bliss into line with what has been the law in the rest of Texas since 1986.

And not only that, but all Fort Bliss soldiers are barred from slipping across the Mexican border to Ciudad Juarez, the city of famously loose morals where young Americans have been getting drunk — and getting into trouble — for generations. From now on, no passes to Juarez will be issued.

The new policy took effect May 22.

Pfc. Walter Iverson, a babyfaced 19-year-old, said he will miss grabbing a beer after work: "It's like my parents say, I'm old enough to join the Army, but I'm not old enough to drink."

"I don't know why they changed it. I never had a problem with drinking," he said. A few guys "ruined it for everyone."

Other Army bases around the country raised their drinking age to 21 over the past 20 years or so. Many states went to 21 under federal pressure beginning in the mid-1980s, and 21 is now the law in all 50 states.

For the past 28 years, however, Fort Bliss let young soldiers drink. For most of that period, it was peacetime, and things were calm on base. Also, commanders figured that letting soldier drinks at the base club would discourage them from going to Juarez.

But now units are routinely shipping back and forth to Iraq and Afghanistan, and base officials say young men and women have been using alcohol to blow off steam — too much steam.

Maj. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg, who took over in January, cracked down after a review of base crime statistics showed that in late 2007 and early 2008, sexual assaults, domestic violence and traffic accidents by soldiers 18, 19 or 20 involved alcohol more often than not.

Before the war, "we didn't have a large number of incidents involving younger soldiers," said Fort Bliss spokeswoman Jean Offutt. "We weren't in a wartime situation, which made for a difference in behavior upon returning."

One combat veteran said that is all the more reason the soldiers deserve a drink.

"They are under a lot of pressure when they come back from wars," said 71-year-old Navy veteran Ramon Segura, commander of a Veterans of Foreign Wars post just outside the 17,000-soldier Fort Bliss. "I just don't think that at the post that it should be 21."

The way Segura sees it, post bars could easily serve underage soldiers low-alcohol beer and make sure that they stay at Fort Bliss after drinking.

Pvt. Katie Perkovich, who turned 21 in January, said that when she was underage, she liked the safety of being able to have a few beers, bowl at the base bowling alley and walk home.

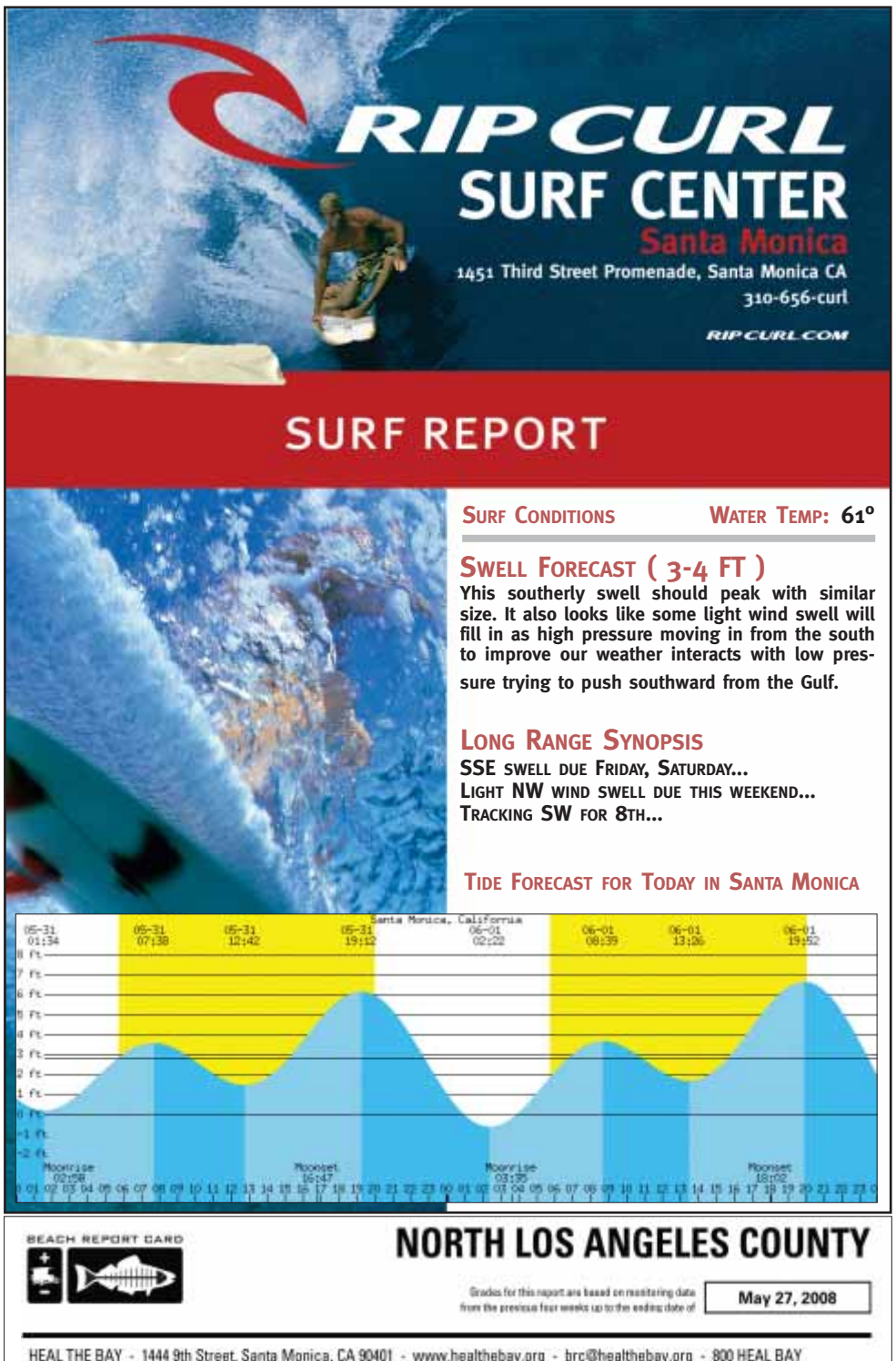
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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 61°**

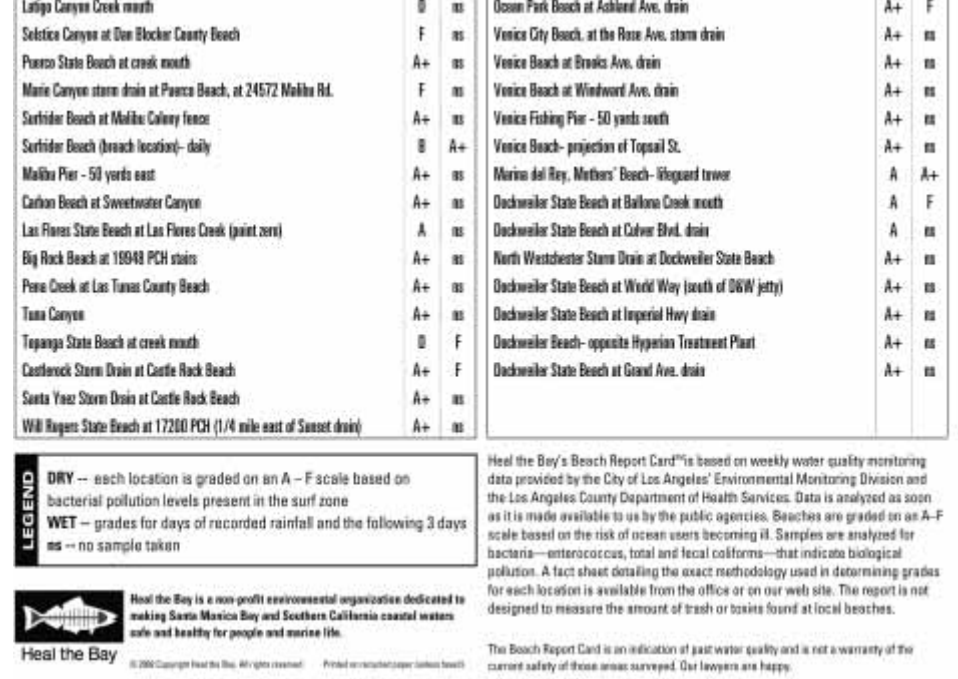
SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)

Yhis southerly swell should peak with similar size. It also looks like some light wind swell will fill in as high pressure moving in from the south to improve our weather interacts with low pressure trying to push southward from the Gulf.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

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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 27, 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 -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 3
- Number of wet days -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / 2
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 8 / 6

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los 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	D	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	F	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	B	A+
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	D	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	F
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+	B
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	D	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	C
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	F
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	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	F
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 DBW 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

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

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

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BASEBALL

Minor leaguer traded for 10 bats seeks redemption

BY CHRIS TALBOTT
Associated Press Writer

ALEXANDRIA, La. An umpire teasingly calls him "Bat Man." His teammates consider it an embarrassment and a "slap in the face." His former ballclub sees it as a bit of harmless fun.

Sure, it sounds like the punchline of a cruel joke, or maybe an episode from baseball's more colorful past.

But minor league pitcher John Odom sees the trade that sent him from the Calgary Vipers to the Laredo Broncos for 10 baseball bats as a shot at redemption.

And that opportunity for the 26-year-old right-hander begins Saturday, when he's scheduled to pitch against the Edinburg Coyotes of the independent United League.

"I'm still in shock from this phenomenon, I guess," Odom said as his teammates warmed up Wednesday for their game against the Alexandria Aces. "I don't know how to describe it. It's mind-boggling."

The deal that sent Odom to Laredo in exchange for the load of high-quality lumber is part of a baseball journey for a man not yet willing to give up the idea that he can pitch at a high level.

The trade has made Odom the butt of jokes, yet he's not angry.

"What's up, Bat Man?" umpire Dewey Larson said as he walked past Odom, who was sitting for an interview. The pitcher just smiled and said, "If he wasn't my umpire ... "

"In all honesty, he has been the bigger man in the situation, the bigger man," said Odom's roommate, Nathan Crawford. "What's happened to him — I'm going to go ahead and say it — it's pretty low. It's kind of like a slap in the face. And it could taint your career if people don't know who you are."

Maybe expectations about Odom are low, but three Broncos players who were in the San Francisco Giants' minor league system say they've seen him throw in the 93 mph range.

"I don't know why he got traded for bats," Broncos pitcher Benny Cepeda said. "That ain't right. He's a good guy. He has really good stuff."

"I was a lost youth," he said. "I was a very troubled kid. I was just lost is all I can say."

He moved to Tallahassee, Fla., got in touch with the coach at a community college and threw in the high 80s and low 90s in a tryout observed by a major league scout.

"They were like, 'Oooh, wow, who the heck is this kid?'" Odom said.

San Francisco drafted the 6-foot-2 Odom in 2003, but he was beset by injuries — a chipped bone in his foot, elbow surgery in 2005. He pitched a full season in low Class A ball in 2006 before dislocating his left shoulder and missing 2007.

He was 9-8 in parts of three seasons with the Giants' Class A teams, striking out 113 and walking only 36 in 140 innings with an ERA of 4.05.

Odom knows he's five years past the age most prospects are reaching their prime. But with all the setbacks, Odom can't shake the feeling he hasn't made his best effort yet.

The Giants invited him to spring training this year, but his first batting practice pitch nearly hit the batter and the second ended up beyond the outfield wall.

He was released and then signed with Calgary of the Golden Baseball League but couldn't get into Canada because of a minor but unspecified charge on his juvenile record. So he asked Calgary to trade him, and a few days later the deal was struck, sending Odom to the Broncos for 10 Prairie Sticks maple bats, worth about $650.

"You hear of players traded for bats. That's not unusual," said Laredo interim manager Jon Hinkel. "Baseballs, uniforms, oysters, side of beef. It happens all the time. Nine out of 10 times when someone's traded and it's not for a particular player, they usually put in there, 'For future considerations.'"

Calgary Vipers president Peter Young said he never intended to embarrass Odom.

"We're a little crazy," Young said. "Our motto is, 'Minor league baseball is supposed to be fun.' So if there's anything else you can do to make it more fun, you go ahead and do it."

The bats were to be auctioned for charity, but Ripley Entertainment bought them for $10,000 and will use them in a "Believe It or Not" exhibit that will likely include a lifelike wax reproduction of Odom.

"This may not be the most bizarre trade ever done, but it certainly ranks up there, said Tim O'Brien, a Ripley's spokesman.

Hinkel said if Odom can pull the pieces of his career back together, the scouts will notice.

"If he comes out here and does his job, takes command of the strike zone and puts up good numbers, his name's already out there enough, he shouldn't be here very long then," Hinkel said.



MOVIETIMES

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AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull 2 hrs (PG-13)
11:30 a.m., 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00
Made of Honor (PG-13) 1hr 41min
11:35 a.m., 2:20, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
Baby Mama 1 hr 36 min (PG-13)
11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40

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

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13) 2 hrs.
10:45 a.m., 12:15, 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
11:45 a.m., 1:00, 3:00, 4:10, 6:25, 7:20, 9:30, 10:30
The Strangers (R) 1hr 47min
10:30 a.m., 12:35, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:35
Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) 1hr 51min
11:15 a.m., 1:50, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45
Speed Racer (PG) 2hrs 15min
10:40 a.m., 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 Second St.
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Up the Yangtze (NR) 1hr 33min
1:40, 4:30, 7:10, 9:35
The Visitor (ZPG-13) 1hr 48min
1:30 p.m., 4:20, 7:20, 10
Wonders are Many (NR) 1hr 34min
4:40, 9:55
Son of Rambow (PG13) 1hr 38min
1:50, 7:30
Bloodline(NR) 1hr 53min
1:20 p.m., 4:10, 7, 9:50
The Cool School (NR) 1hr 26min
11:00 a.m.
Jellyfish (Meduzot) (NR) 1hr 18min
11:00 a.m.
Standard Operating Procedure (R) 1hr 58min
11:00 a.m.
Tuya's Marriage (Tuya de hun shi) (NR) 1hr 36min
11:00 a.m.

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Iron Man (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
12:10, 1:10, 3:10, 4:10, 6:10, 7:10, 9:10, 10:10
Sex and the City (R) 2hrs 15min
10:40 a.m., 11:20 a.m., 12:20, 1:50, 2:40, 3:40, 5:10, 6:00, 7:00, 8:30, 9:20, 10:20, 11:45
What Happens in Vegas (PG-13) 1hr 39min
12:00, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:30

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

Split early this weekend, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Curb a tendency to go overboard. Excess frequently marks your actions. You exhibit a flair for the dramatic. Your creativity flourishes. Plans show this type of ingenuity. Be spontaneous. Tonight: Split early.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Plan on a quiet day, perhaps lunch or a hike with a friend. A talk presents many options; the biggest problem will be deciding in which direction to go. Think positively about a new friend. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You could be overwhelmed by others who want this or that or simply your company. You might bring others together. Choose a movie, adventure or a day trip to relax your mind and open new doors. Tonight: Where you want to be.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Bring family or friends together for a spontaneous happening. Whether catching up on someone's news or perhaps investing time in a key partnership, you set the pace. Trust your judgments. Tonight: Go for what you want.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Hop in the car with a friend, explore a favorite spot or go to a flea market or perhaps an art show. Let your mind wander in this very different setting. You'll discover just how much fun you can have if you let go. Tonight: Oops -- do you have to be somewhere?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might be surprised by what heads down the path if you allow a partner to make the call. Plans might not suit you 100 percent, but on the other hand, there is nothing wrong with what is happening. Learn to flow with this person. Tonight: Follow the music.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might want to try another approach or do something very different. If you let others make the decision, you could be surprised by what happens. Put 100 percent into what goes on. Tonight: Someone appears to be far more interesting than before.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might want to do a better job of listening or handling a project. Your ability to relate emerges when dealing with people who are quite different. Smile at an unseen opportunity that knocks on your door. Be prepared to live differently. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Let your full personality express itself. Others are drawn to the magnetic Winged Horse. Humor, wit and creativity merge together. Tonight: Play until you can't anymore.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Stay close to home. Add that vital spark to whatever you do, even if it is as simple as painting a room. With imagination and a sense of fun, you can make any chore an adventure. A child or roommate cannot help but join in. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Catch up on news. Return calls. You might be surprised by what you hear. Allow more vitality into your life by being more responsive to a new acquaintance or a casual friend. Your instincts go on overload. Tonight: Get together with friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Curb a tendency to spend. Some goal or special purchase might cost a lot. See how you might be able to trim the costs. A friend could demand a lot of attention. Tonight: Go with a mood change.

Happy birthday

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

You make waves this year, and others notice. You might change the very nature of a partnership. Although one of you might not be happy at first, it will work out for the better. Listen more often to what is being shared. Be sensitive to the group. You are a natural leader -- knowing what to do and when could define your success. Remain goal-oriented, and network. Success could appear by your next birthday. If you are single, you understand what it takes to make a relationship work, but finding the right person will take talent. If you are attached, frequently stop and relate as a couple.

How much is your time worth?



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CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS TO CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The Santa Monica City Council is now accepting applications for appointment of members to the following City Boards and Commissions:

Board/Commission	No. of Appts.
Airport Commission	1
Architectural Review Board (One participant must be a Licensed Architect.)	2
Arts Commission	6
Bayside District Corporation	1
Building and Safety Commission	2
Commission for the Senior Community	2
Commission on the Status of Women	2
Disabilities Commission	3
Housing Commission	1
Landmarks Commission (One participant must be a Registered Architect and one participant must be a California Real Estate Licensee.)	2
Library Board	1
Personnel Board	1
Planning Commission	2
Recreation & Parks Commission	3
Social Services Commission	2

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income that may be materially affected by their official action. The applicant appointed to serve in this position will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications and information on Board/Commission duties & disclosure requirements are available from the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 1685 Main St., Rm. 102 (submit applications at this same location), by phone at (310) 458-8211 or on-line at http://www.smgov.net/cityclerk/boards/appt_boards.htm. All current applications on file will be considered.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, June 17, 2008.
Appointment to be made by City Council, June 24, 2008.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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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

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

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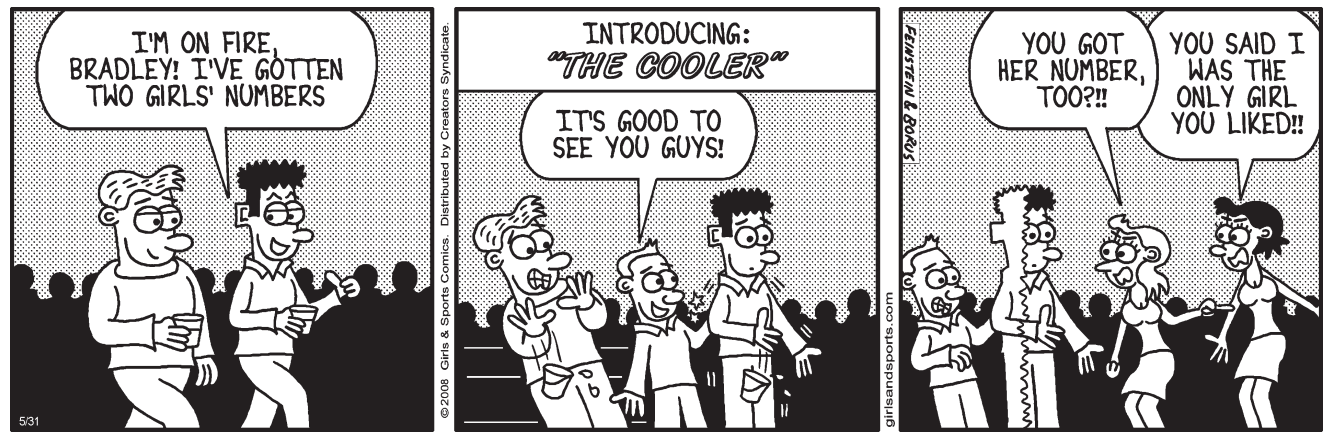
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The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



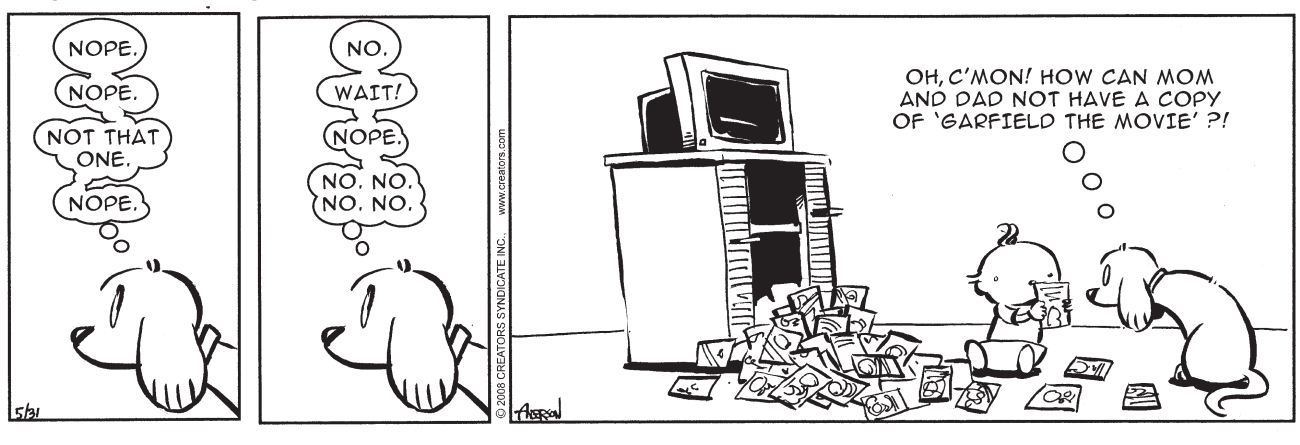
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Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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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 Writes hastily
5 Join, in a way
9 Indian coin
10 First sign of spring
12 Lifeless
13 Peace goddess
14 Seedy bar
16 Fade out
17 All the rage
18 "Piece of cake!"
20 Game fishes
22 Woody's son
23 Traveler's stop
25 Small group
28 Hour follower
32 Kind of thinking
34 One of the Bobbseys
35 Altar promise
36 Disputed
38 Lama's land
40 Aspect
41 Catch
42 Foot parts
43 Diploma holder
44 Some sheep

DOWN

1 Pop's namesake
2 Interested in hearing
3 Service period
4 Attack
5 Cries of grief
6 Slip
7 German songs
8 "Wasn't me," e.g.
9 Proper
11 Handle
15 Missed opportunities
19 Mural spot
21 "I'm in trouble!"
24 Astronomical event
25 Ninnies
26 Equestrian activity
27 Weather-map line
29 Reduced
30 Things to fight for
31 Place for padding
33 Destined
37 Exhibit
39 Pitcher's stat

H	A	C	K			L	O	G	S	
O	C	H	E	R		I	M	E	A	N
S	T	A	G	E		S	I	N	C	E
T	I	N		S	E	T	T	E	R	S
S	O	N	A	T	A	S		T	E	T
	N	E	V	E	R		A	I	D	S
		L	I	D		V	I	C		
R	A	M	S		P	A	L	M	S	
E	T	A		M	I	S	S	A	L	S
G	O	R	G	O	N	S		R	E	O
I	N	K	E	D		A	S	K	E	W
S	C	E	N	E		R	E	E	V	E
	E	R	A	S			C	R	E	D

Yesterday's answer

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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				

5-31

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MEGA MILLIONS: 14 24 32 45 49
Meganumber: 17
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SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 3 4 10 28 39
Meganumber: 26
Jackpot: $40M

Fantasy 5: 4 6 16 29 30

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 0 0
EVENING: 4 7 5

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1.49.14

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A 2007 decision of New York City's Civil Service Commission reinstated a police officer even though NYPD has ruled him unfit for duty, in large part because he admitted to a "fear of dead people," which the department had thought would make his job difficult. (However, in March 2008, a New York City judge overturned the commission ruling.)

■ Angelique Vandeberg, 28, was arrested in May in Sheboygan, Wis., and charged with felony child abuse after her 8-year-old daughter reported that Vandeberg had intentionally shot her in the leg with a BB gun, leaving her unable to walk without difficulty, in order to win a $1 bet with her boyfriend. (Police said alcohol was involved.)

■ A high-ranking official in Britain's prison guards union said in a radio interview in April that the jails are so understaffed and poorly managed that in one (Everthorpe Prison, East Yorkshire), drug dealers actually put up ladders at night and come over the walls in order to sell drugs, and inmates routinely comment that drugs are easier to get inside than on the street.

■ The British government in January acknowledged that inmates in 2007 had been awarded the equivalent of over $250,000 in education "maintenance" grants, intended to provide such expenses as room and board for recipients of education loans. (The ministers said they would soon close that loophole.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1809 Composer Franz Joseph Haydn died in Vienna, Austria.

1819 Poet Walt Whitman was born in West Hill, N.Y.

1908 Actor Don Ameche was born in Kenosha, Wis.

1910 The Union of South Africa was founded.

1916 During World War I, British and German fleets fought the naval Battle of Jutland off Denmark; there was no clear-cut victor, although the British suffered heavier losses.

1961 South Africa became an independent republic.

1970 Tens of thousands of people died in an earthquake in Peru.

1976 Martha Mitchell, the estranged wife of former Attorney General John N. Mitchell, died in New York.

1977 The trans-Alaska oil pipeline, three years in the making, was completed.

WORD UP!

grandee \gran-DEE\, noun:
1. A man of elevated rank or station.
2. In Spain or Portugal, a nobleman of the first rank.

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MAR VISTA 2bdrm/1bath, 11461 Washington Place.Unit C, upper, stove, blinds, carpet, laundry, street parking, no pets $1350 (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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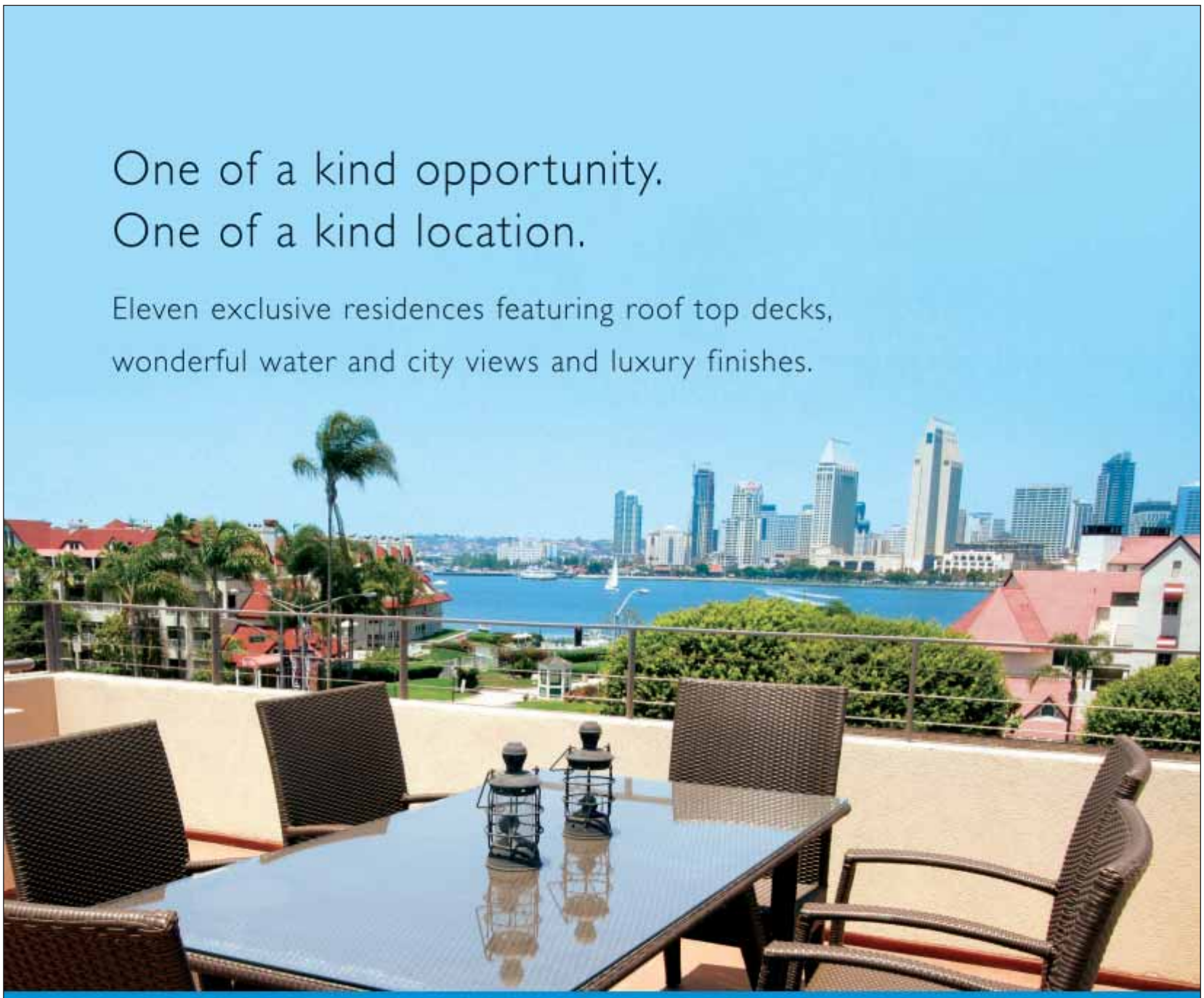
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Remodeled, Bright
2 + 1.75 Condo
w/ Sunny Patio





Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Late May 2008

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$ 2,123,100	No Listings
North of Montana	=	$ 4,032,200	$ 1,673,111
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 3,278,200	$ 1,001,156
South of Wilshire	=	$ 1,059,539	$ 737,325
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,497,045	$ 667,778
Ocean Park	=	$ 1,936,667	$ 1,526,263

Statistics updated every Wednesday

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This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.