



Santa Monica Daily Press

VOTING MADE EASIER
SEE PAGE 3

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE GET OUT AND VOTE ISSUE

Residents to fuel up on biodiesel

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE The fastest growing alternative fuel in the country, embraced by the likes of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, could soon be pumping out of Santa Monica.

After more than two years of planning and searching, City Hall is closing in on a location for a temporary biodiesel fueling station, a vegetable oil-powered commodity that is often difficult to acquire on the Westside.

It's all part of the Biodiesel Demonstration Project which is aimed at educating residents about the benefits of biodiesel while providing a means to obtain the alternative fuel, all with the intention of spurring more stations in the future as a result of increased demand.

There are currently only a handful of stations on the Westside that offer a biodiesel pump, including a gas station in Brentwood and the Pacific Palisades.

"If (the temporary station) was favorable, we will look at identifying a permanent location that could be a larger facility providing biodiesel for people who choose to use it," said Assistant City Manager Gordon Anderson.

Biodiesel is a non-toxic biodegradable alternative fuel used as a substitute for petroleum diesel, made from a process called transesterification which separates the glycerin from fat or vegetable oil, a source often found in biodiesel.

The renewable fuel is considered the fastest growing in the country, with 250 million gallons produced in the United States in 2006. That number ballooned to 500 million in 2007 and roughly 2 billion gallons is estimated by 2015.

"Overall people see biodiesel as more energy-secured fuel and are willing to make sacrifices as far as spending a little bit more to use biodiesel," Amber Thurlo Pearson, spokeswoman for trade group the National Biodiesel Board, said. "It helps our economy and our country as opposed to other countries."

Several locations have been considered as sites for the temporary station, including a

SEE BIODIESEL PAGE 9



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

CHECKUP: Robert Holiday (left) and Patrick Cullin (right) of WorleyParsons Komex, a resources and energy management company, draw water from the city's aquifer on Texas Avenue and Bundy Drive last month to check for toxins, including MTBE, a fuel additive.

Leaving a lasting impression

Water supply threatened by toxins released by former employers

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

OLYMPIC BLVD Along this bustling thoroughfare lined with gnarled coral trees, thousands of people pass by the former Paper Mate facility during daily commutes and trips to Bergamot Station or the baseball field at Stewart Street Park, most with no knowledge of the site's history or the potentially deadly chemicals that now saturate the soil there and have leaked into production wells.

The Gillette Company, which purchased Paper Mate in 1955 and opened new pen manufacturing facilities in 1957 on Olympic Boulevard, recently sent out letters to residents in the area informing them about the ongoing soil and groundwater remediation taking place there over the past two years, with work expected to intensify this summer with the construction of soil and groundwater treatment facilities.

Solvents, primarily perchloroethylene (PCE), were used at the site and leaked into the soil and groundwater, contaminating a series of wells along Olympic Boulevard's grassy median.

And that's not all. While much attention has been focused on MTBE contamination at the Arcadia and Charnock well fields and the subsequent lawsuit filed by City Hall against three major oil companies for failing to keep the gasoline additive out of Santa Monica's largest aquifer, there are other threats to the environment that have city, state and federal officials concerned.

They include numerous gas stations where old storage tanks leaked. Then there are the corporations like Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, businesses that provided financial stability for many families, but also left behind a legacy of pollution.

In all there are roughly 100 sites in Santa Monica where gas storage tanks leaked and chemicals used in manufacturing were

SEE TOXIC PAGE 8

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Calendar

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TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2008

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Taking a trip down the pink carpet

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.

Leslie Jordan, the Emmy-winning star of "Will & Grace," visits the Santa Monica Public Library to chat about and sign his new autobiography, "My Trip Down The Pink Carpet." Seating for this free event is limited so arrive early. This event will be held in the MLK Auditorium at the Main Library.

What did the Buddha really mean?

6512 Arizona Ave., 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

Why did the Buddha teach apparently contradictory things? How can we tell when the Buddha was speaking figuratively or literally? In this four session course Lama Marut will guide you through the essential elements to resolve this and other apparent contradictions in the Buddha's teachings so that followers can use them to stop all the suffering, ignorance, aging and death.

Workouts for teens

3026 Nebraska Ave., 3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.

O2 Max offers two daily classes teaching teens how to exercise and eat properly in a cool and fun environment. They get to hang out afterwards in the wi-fi lounge, play Nintendo Wii, or simply surf the Internet. For information, call (310) 867-1650.

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Kicking it with Kiwanis

1332 6th St., 12 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.

The Santa Monica Kiwanis Club is holding their weekly luncheon at the Santa Monica YMCA. There will be a guest speaker at the event. For information, call (310)613-1249

Family fun with Will Wonka

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Looking for a fun activity for the kids this summer? Head out to the Santa Monica Public Library for their summer-long family film series. This week will feature "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" starring Gene Wilder. The event in the MLK Jr. Auditorium is free to all, but get in early because it is first come first seated.

Emptiness: The ultimate reality

6512 Arizona Ave., 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

What does emptiness, the Mahayana Buddhist name for ultimate reality, mean and how can understanding it transform our lives? Using a text by one of the greatest philosophers on emptiness — Arya Nagarjuna — Lama Marut returns to present the fourth in his extraordinary series of teachings on the way things do and do not exist, in a manner sure to help believers penetrate this complex material and provoke great discussion. This event will be held at the Mahasukha Center. For more information contact Lauren Benjamin at lauren.benjamin@aci-la.org.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.



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Six SMC basketballers to transfer to four-year schools

BY MICHAEL MIDDLEHURST-SCHWARTZ
Special to the Daily Press

SMC Six sophomores from the Santa Monica College men's basketball team will announce on Friday their intent to transfer to four-year colleges, according to head coach Jesse Teplitzky.

The players will make their decisions official at a Friday afternoon press conference held at SMC, where they will sign the paperwork for their future schools.

While colleges are still recruiting the players, Teplitzky said he anticipates all of his departing sophomores to play at four year schools.

"We are going to go six for six," Teplitzky said. "A couple of them are still waiting, but

we expect them to sign on Friday."

Although their decisions are non-binding until they sign their letters of intent, several Corsairs have already verbally committed to schools.

None of the six players are likely to move on to Division I schools but three are expected to sign with Division II schools.

Noah Gottlieb, a Venice High graduate, is expected to sign with Chaminade University in Hawaii. Chaminade, which will lose three guards to graduation next year, reached the NCAA Division II semifinals last year.

Forward Art Braswell has committed to New York Institute of Technology. Derrick Thompson and Dennis Twumasi are set to transfer to Stillman College and Whittier College, respectively.

Guards Chris Blackwood and Keivan Cross are undecided but have offers to play for four-year schools, according to Teplitzky, and will join their teammates in Friday's ceremony.

Blackwood had committed to Cal-State East Bay but is still considering opportunities to play at other schools.

The six players helped lead the Corsairs to their first winning season in five years. Santa Monica College also made an appearance in the state playoffs for the first time during that span.

The Corsairs lost to Cerritos College in the opening round of the tournament and finished the season with a 17-15 record.

news@smdp.com

Web site, new ballot helps ease voter concerns

BY ALICE OLLSTEIN
Special to the Daily Press

CITYWIDE Thanks to a technological upgrade, Los Angeles voters can now look up their voting location, view a sample ballot and brush up on voting instructions online, just in time for the June 3 state primary election.

Acting Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Dean Logan announced the addition to the existing www.lavote.net site last week.

While surfing the new site, voters can look up candidate statements, ballot measures, analysis and arguments. The sample ballot can be accessed in English, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog/Filipino and Vietnamese. Another option is the Interactive Voice Response telephone system, which requires voters to enter their zip code on the telephone keypad to obtain information relevant to their district.

Logan also announced last month that this upcoming election would be the debut of a newly formatted ballot designed to facilitate nonpartisan crossover voting. A nonpartisan voter is one who registers as "Decline to State" or who did not register with a qualified political party.

The new ballot eliminates the need for nonpartisan voters to mark an additional bubble to secure their votes for partisan candidates. A voting working group consisting of members of various L.A. County organizations redesigned the ballot.

Participants in the working group included: The California secretary of state, representatives of the county Democratic, Republican and American Independent parties, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), Civic Engagement, California Common Cause, the Courage Campaign, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), the League of Women Voters and the African American Voter Registration and Education Project (AAVREP).

"We are extremely grateful to these organizations for their insights and participation," Logan said. "Our primary objective in presenting the new crossover ballot and instructions is to ensure that all qualified and eligible voters understand their voting options and know their ballots will be accurately cast and counted."

news@smdp.com



WALK THE WALK

Lisa Davis (right), member of the Green Geckos and parent of a Grant Elementary School student, signs off the "Pink Slips" of fifth grader Andrew Flores last Friday morning at "Walk to School Day." The "Pink Slips" given to students who walked allowed them to win prizes later on in the day.

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Propositions 98/99

When voters head to the polls today, they have only to remember this slogan, “Hate 98, but 99 is fine.” The refers to Propositions 98 and 99, which could have huge implications for Santa Monicans. Essentially, Prop. 98 is deceptive; on the surface looks as if it is protecting the little guy from big government, but in reality it would end rent control, which helps the elderly, the disabled and the hard working middle class remain in their homes and off the streets. It would constrain the government’s authority to enact mandatory inclusionary housing programs, tenant relocation benefits and environmental review. Prop. 99, like 98, would prevent governments from using eminent domain to acquire someone’s property and sell it to a private person or business, but it does not go so far as to attack rent control or a governments’ right to restrict development. It is a more sensible solution that protects both property owners and renters. Vote yes on 99.

State Senate - District 23

This is a race between former state Assembly member Fran Pavley and state Assemblyman Lloyd Levine. These are two highly-qualified candidates who are victims of term limits. Pavley served Santa Monica well on the Assembly during her three terms (2000 to 2006). She has been a defender of the environment, is in tune with coastal issues and served as the first mayor of Agoura Hills, meaning she knows how local governments work and how to get them what they need. Levine, who recently moved into the district, is also an environmental watchdog whose legislation to create the nation’s first mandatory plastic bag recycling program will go a long way in protecting our oceans. In the end, Pavley trumps Levine because of her strong ties to Santa Monica and her intense focus on the environment and education.

State Assembly - District 41

Former Santa Monica-Malibu school board President Julia Brownley is running for reelection unopposed. She has been very active in her first two years in Sacramento, fighting for education reform and the environment. She’s not sitting at the back of the class like an insecure freshman. Brownley represents Santa Monica well and deserves a second term.

U.S. Representative - District 30

Congressman Henry Waxman is running unopposed for the Democratic nomination and deserves to be reelected. Waxman has been a representative since 1974 and has worked tirelessly to defend the U.S. Constitution and protect taxpayers by holding Washington accountable. His role as chair of the Committee of Government Oversight and Reform and member of Energy and Commerce puts him in the position to influence policy. Plus, he is familiar with Santa Monica’s issues. He has put pressure on the FAA and James Oberstar, chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, to come to a fair solution regarding the Santa Monica Airport. He has also pressured the postal service to fix problems locally, sending letters to the post master at a time when Santa Monicans were not receiving pay checks, letters from loved ones and college acceptance letters.

District Attorney

Steve Cooley, a Republican, has a reputation for being tough on crime. He’s a former LAPD officer and veteran prosecutor. He takes on challenging cases and goes across the border to get murderers trying to hide from the law. That said, he is even-handed when it comes to three strikes, dishing out the right punishment to fit the crime.



What’s the Point?

David Pizarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The career trap for men

THIS IS FATHER SEASON, IT’S THAT TIME of year when Hallmark, Mervyn’s and Sport Chalet all promote their wares to guilty sons and daughters. It is the season when we try to make up to our fathers for the sins of our teenage years. This is the first column, in a three part series on fathers.

Pop. Dad. Father. Whatever you call him, the man in your life who helped give you life is a frequently misunderstood, underappreciated, overtaxed fellow who is trying his best to be a man in a world that doesn’t provide us gents with an easy to follow road map to fatherhood.

My clients frequently start off interviewing me with this question, “Men always take it in the shorts, in court — don’t they?” This is a very common sentiment among the husbands and fathers who are entering into the arena of battle called Family Court.

It is an extremely unfamiliar playground for most men, because the rules of the game run contrary to what we as young boys are taught.

As a child, a boy is taught to be tough, don’t let your emotions show, and conquer the other side with overwhelming strength. In the adult world of business and careers, those are exactly the skills that one needs to succeed.

As a new husband and father, men are taught to be a good provider, which means to bring home a big paycheck to buy a big home, to pay for daycare and after-school activities like gymnastics, ballet, little league and soccer. This drive for career success provides men with a sense of accomplishment as they become the stereotype of “American dad.”

Then the divorce comes. Custody battles start, and the fight over money to support the child begins.

This is where most men lose the battle before they even go into court. Not because the court is inherently against them, but because they don’t know the rules, and more importantly the goal of the game.

The game has a goal of providing for the “best interests” of the child. What those are, however, is not defined beyond having a stable home, food, clothing and a regular school schedule.

In the early years of child development, when it appeared that the kids needed mom more, dad went to work, to make it possible for mom to stay home. His career improved. But now when the kids are older, and dad can do more with them, the divorce happens.

This is where it gets interesting; because dad has painted himself into a corner by working hard in the previous years and being a good provider.

Now, when he wants to have more time with his kids, mom says he’s only doing it so that he doesn’t have to pay as much child support.

Which is where the career trap bites dad. If he doesn’t want to change his career obligations, and keeps working as much as he did previously, the court will not give dad more custody. Because if mom is

working a part time job, and is providing day to day parenting to the children, dad is required to pay enough child support to make that happen.

So what’s a dad to do? When the goal of the game is “best interests” of the child, a court will view a father who is sincerely willing to take a cut in pay, in order to spend more time with his child, favorably. If dad comes into court with a deep desire to parent his kids, then a court will respect that, and is likely to allow more custodial time.

WHEN THE GOAL OF THE GAME IS “BEST INTERESTS” OF THE CHILD, A COURT WILL VIEW A FATHER WHO IS SINCERELY WILLING TO TAKE A CUT IN PAY, IN ORDER TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH HIS CHILD, FAVORABLY. IF DAD COMES INTO COURT WITH A DEEP DESIRE TO PARENT HIS KIDS, THEN A COURT WILL RESPECT THAT, AND IS LIKELY TO ALLOW MORE CUSTODIAL TIME.

Dads can get an even break, once they know the goal, and the rules, of the game. Men are just as capable of being good parents as women, and in many of the cases that I’ve worked, are better. But they have to convey that information to the court in order to win. This is why dads have to learn new rules.

Men who want to parent, have to communicate that to a judge, but for a man who is used to communicating by his professional success, that can be a difficult transition to make.

When a dad starts telling a judge his feelings, and more importantly, backing them up with actions, that’s when he gets to have more of those Hallmark moments. Those moments that make memories for both child and dad.

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

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pizarra,
Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack,
Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver,
Seth Barnes, Taylor van Arsdale,
Dane Robert Swanson, Ryan Hyatt,
Steve Breen, Elizabeth Brown, Maria
Rohloff, Merv Hecht,
Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp
Mariel Howsepian and Cynthia Citron

NEWS INTERNS
Alexandra Bissonnette
news@smdp.com

Alice Oilstein
news@smdp.com

Michael Middlehurst-Schwartz
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Geoffrey Dunn
news@smdp.com

Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Julie Martinez
juliem@smdp.com

Robert Hertel
roberth@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessie
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Robert Summa
summa@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Oswaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
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410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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That Rutherford Guy

John H. Whitehead

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Is God a cosmic monster?

IN MYANMAR, FORMERLY KNOWN AS Burma, the death toll from a killer cyclone stands at 78,000, with 56,000 people still missing. At least 1.5 million are hungry, hurting, homeless and in desperate need of supplies.

In China, the death toll is equally staggering. Some 80,000 people have been confirmed dead by the 7.0 scale earthquake, and at least 20,000 are missing.

Countless more are without shelter, food or medicine.

How do we explain such tragedies in light of the fact that in most churches it is taught that there is a God who is loving and all-powerful?

If this is true, why is there so much excruciating pain and unspeakable suffering in the world? Is God simply a cosmic sadist or a monster who visits mayhem, destruction and death on innocent people?

Natural disasters have wreaked havoc on the planet since its beginning. But all the pain people have had to endure has not come by way of so-called acts of God. People hurting people accounts for much of the suffering of humanity.

It is people, not God, who produced the wars, bombs, guns, whips, racks, prisons, torture and so on. It is people who pollute and destroy the ecological environment, thus helping to create more adverse weather patterns. And it is human avarice and stupidity, not the workings of nature, that explains much of the poverty and suffering which exists.

Nonetheless, there remains much suffering that is unexplainable. According to reports released by the United Nations, approximately one in seven people in the world — that's 850 million — don't have enough food to eat. Every five seconds, a child dies of starvation.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases estimates that between 400 and 900 million children, almost all of them in Africa, contract an acute case of malaria every year. And an average of 207 million people die of it every year.

That's more than 7,000 a day, 300 every hour, 5 every minute. The list goes on and on.

The question is, why is there suffering of any kind? And why would a so-called "good" God allow suffering?

If there is a good God, according to theologian C. S. Lewis, then he is no less formidable than a cosmic monster. And if God hurts only to heal, as traditional Christians believe, there is little hope in avoiding the

pains of life.

Thus, according to Lewis, if there is a good God, then pain and suffering are necessary. If they are unnecessary, then there is no God or a bad one. And how do I (or anyone, for that matter) expect to escape the same? After all, God, according to Christian tradition, killed his own son.

Likewise, disasters such as recently happened in Myanmar and China show us that, in an age of cosmic alienation, we really do not understand God. "What reason have we, except our own desperate wishes, to believe that God is, by any standard we can conceive, 'good'?" wrote Lewis. "Doesn't all the prima facie evidence suggest exactly the opposite?"

Applying the word good to God is meaningless. Obviously, what God considers good — at least by the standards of some theologians — is radically different from our perception. In fact, maybe we are so intellectually and morally depraved that we cannot fathom what a good God is.

We are not the commanders of our fate. We are not gods.

We are frail, vulnerable beings hoping (and praying) that somehow we can communicate to that one who determines our fate. So many questions remain. But as C. S. Lewis recognized: "When I lay these questions before God I get no answer. But a rather special sort of 'No answer.' It is not the locked door. It is more like a silent, certainly not uncompassionate gaze. As though He shook His head not in refusal but waiving the question. Like, 'Peace, child; you don't understand.'"

Where does this leave us? Suffering just comes, and we need to deal with it the best we can.

As professor Bart D. Ehrman writes in his book on suffering, "God's Problem" (2008), we should "work hard to make our world the most pleasing place for others — whether this means visiting a friend in the hospital, giving more to a local charity or international relief effort, volunteering at the local soup kitchen, voting for politicians more concerned with the suffering in the world than with their own political futures, or expressing our opposition to the violent oppression of innocent people."

Constitutional attorney and author JOHN W. WHITEHEAD is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org. Information about The Rutherford Institute is available at www.rutherford.org.

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The Q-Line

The new face of marriage

The California Supreme Court recently ruled and upheld that gay and lesbian couples can now legally tie the knot in the state.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think gays and lesbians should have the right to get married or do you believe that marriage should be limited to unions between a man and a woman?

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



Kate Bransfield
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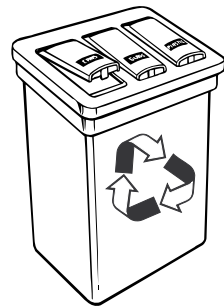
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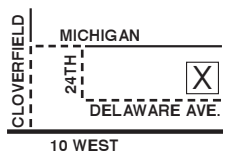
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Certain local races draw most attention in primary

BY JULIET WILLIAMS

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO With California's earliest-ever presidential primary already behind them, many voters are finding today's primary election something of a snoozer.

There are no statewide races on the ballot and just two initiatives — both related to eminent domain.

A handful of hot legislative and congressional races has managed to generate interest in certain areas. A state senator from the Central Valley faces a recall vote, Republicans are vying to replace a party stalwart in Northern California and the Sacramento mayoral campaign has turned dirty as a former NBA star seeks to unseat the city's two-term mayor.

Secretary of State Debra Bowen reported Friday that the state's voter rolls have climbed to 16.1 million. The highest registration number since 2005 is due in large part to the interest in this year's presidential election, which led to a 58 percent turnout of eligible voters in February.

Yet no one is expecting turnout anywhere near that today, save for a few local elections with contested races.

Steve Weir, head of the state registrars' association, expects about 32 percent of California's registered voters to cast ballots. That would be slightly less than the turnout for the June primary two years ago, when 33.6 percent of voters went to the polls.

Among the areas where turnout is expected to be heavy is the 4th Congressional District, which stretches from the Sacramento suburbs east to Nevada and north to the Oregon border.

Former Rep. Doug Ose has spent more than \$2 million of his personal fortune in his campaign against state Sen. Tom McClintock, who is running for the Northern California seat even though he represents a Southern California district in the Legislature.

The Republicans are vying for the seat now held by GOP Rep. John Doolittle, who has been caught up in a lobbying scandal and is not seeking re-election.

While Ose has relied on his personal wealth, McClintock has nearly doubled him in fundraising. McClintock owes that to the anti-tax group Club for Growth, which raised hundreds of thousands of dollars by "bundling" contributions from supporters and runs television and radio ads on McClintock's behalf.

In San Diego, Duncan D. Hunter is running to succeed his father, Duncan Hunter, who is retiring after 14 terms in Congress and a failed presidential bid. Hunter has far outpaced his GOP opponents in fundraising. He faces the president of the San Diego County Board of Education, Bob Watkins, and Santee City Councilman Brian Jones.

Recent polls have found two statewide eminent domain measures, Proposition 98 and 99, trailing with voters. Both aim to rein in governments' use of eminent domain to seize private property for development.

Proposition 98 is far more restrictive, and voters appear poised to reject it handily. It also would phase out local rent-control ordinances for apartments, duplexes and mobile home parks and eliminate tenant protection rules, potentially making it easier for landlords to evict renters.

Two mayoral races have drawn interest, too. Both are primaries, so the winner needs to get at least 50 percent of the vote or face a run-off in November.

In Sacramento, former Phoenix Suns point guard and NBA All-Star Kevin Johnson has challenged two-term incumbent Mayor Heather Fargo's record on crime and stalled redevelopment projects.

Johnson returned to his native Sacramento after his basketball career to work in the inner city, converting his alma mater, Sacramento High School, into a successful charter school.

But he has not been able to divert attention from separate police reports in Phoenix and Sacramento in which he was investigated for inappropriately touching two teenage girls. No charges were filed in either case, but Johnson has refused to discuss the claims in depth.

The Sacramento Bee said it obtained a draft legal document that showed Johnson paid the Phoenix girl \$230,000 in a confidential settlement after the 1995 incident.

In San Diego, the founder of a hospital staffing company is challenging Mayor Jerry Sanders.

The race has generated little heat, except for an expletive Sanders directed toward his opponent, Steve Francis, after a debate. And a fringe candidate revealed that the mayor's campaign manager gave him a script of "gnarly" talking points trashing Francis. The campaign manager promptly resigned.

In the San Francisco area, state Sen. Carole Migden faces a primary challenge from fellow liberal Democrats who see her as vulnerable. Migden drew a record fine for campaign finance violations and unfavorable public scrutiny after a bizarre ride down Interstate 80 that ended when she rear-ended a car carrying a woman and her young daughter.

Assemblyman Mark Leno of San Francisco and former state Assemblyman Joe Nation of San Rafael are looking to move in.

The race has split San Francisco's gay community — both Migden and Leno are gay — and divided much of California's Democratic establishment. Both California's U.S. senators back Migden, while Leno has the support of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom and Assembly Speaker Karen Bass of Los Angeles.

In the Central Valley, Republican state Sen. Jeff Denham is trying to fend off a recall challenge, after angering Democrats during last year's lengthy budget impasse. Democratic Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata orchestrated the drive to unseat Denham, but later tried to call it off after it already had qualified for the ballot.

If voters give Denham the boot, he would be replaced by the only candidate on the ballot, former Democratic Assemblyman Simon Salinas. That would bring Democrats in the Senate within one vote of being able to pass a state budget without Republican support.

The rise in absentee voting could lead to late ballot tallies in many counties. Nearly a third of California voters are registered as permanent absentee.

The secretary of state's office is urging voters who did not mail their ballots by Friday to drop them off in person at polling places today. The absentee votes are a headache for county clerks, who must check them against voter rolls and certify them before they can be counted — typically after all the regular votes are tallied.

Clerks try to count absentee ballots that are received before today and include those in Election Night counts. Those received after that are held until all other ballots are counted.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

WASHINGTON

Obama nears delegate victory

Barack Obama crept close to victory in the marathon Democratic presidential race Monday on the eve of the final primaries amid signs that Hillary Rodham Clinton was preparing to acknowledge defeat once he gained the final delegates needed. Said a confident-sounding Obama: "I told her that once the dust settled I'm looking forward to meeting with her at a time and place of her choosing." He was disclosing the contents of a conversation the two rivals had on Sunday night but did not describe her response. The former first lady has given no hint of quitting the race, and she has said repeatedly she may continue her candidacy even beyond the end of the primaries. But her husband, former President Clinton, strongly suggested otherwise. "This may be the last day I'm ever involved in a campaign of this kind," he said as he worked for his wife in South Dakota. That state, and Montana hold the final primaries of the campaign on Tuesday. Obama, bidding to become the first black major party nominee in history, was 42.5 delegates shy of the 2,118, needed to clinch the nomination at the party's convention in Denver. He gained 4.5 during the day Monday, and one member of the House leadership, Rep. Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, readied an endorsement for Tuesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DURHAM, N.C.

Doctor says operation on Sen. Kennedy was a success

After investigating his options with his trademark intensity, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy underwent 3 1/2 hours of risky and exquisitely delicate surgery Monday to cut out as much of his cancerous brain tumor as possible. "I feel like a million bucks. I think I'll do that again tomorrow," the 76-year-old Massachusetts Democrat was quoted by a family spokeswoman as telling his wife immediately afterward. Dr. Allan Friedman, who performed the surgery at Duke University Medical Center, pronounced the operation a success and said it "accomplished our goals." Up next: chemotherapy and radiation, aimed at shrinking whatever is left of the tumor. "The main goal is to remove as much of the tumor as possible to give any other therapy that we do a better chance of working," said Dr. John Sampson, associate deputy director of Duke's brain tumor center. The sole surviving son of America's most glamorous and tragic political family was diagnosed last month with a malignant glioma, an often lethal type of brain tumor discovered in about 9,000 Americans a year. Details about Kennedy's exact type of tumor have not been disclosed, but some cancer specialists said it might be a glioblastoma multiforme — an especially deadly and tough-to-remove type — because other kinds are more common in younger people.

AP

SAN ANGELO, Texas

Polygamists begin emotional reunions with children

More than 400 children taken from a polygamist sect's ranch two months ago began returning to the arms of their tearful parents Monday, hours after a judge bowed to a state Supreme Court ruling that the seizure was not justified. "It's just great day," said Nancy Dockstader, whose chin quivered and eyes filled with tears as she embraced her 9-year-old daughter, Amy, outside a foster-care center in Gonzales, about 65 miles east of San Antonio. "We're so grateful." Her daughter and four other children were among the roughly 430 children ordered released after two months in state custody, much of it spent in foster care centers. Because siblings were separated at facilities hundreds of miles apart, it will probably take several days for all the families to be reunited. Judge Barbara Walther responded to a state Supreme Court ruling last week by signing an order that cleared the children to be released from foster care. Walther allowed parents to begin picking up their children Monday, ending one of the nation's largest child-custody cases. Dockstader and her husband, James, were headed to Corpus Christi and to Amarillo to pick up their other children. "We'll get the rest of them," said Dockstader, who was clad in a teal prairie dress and clinging to Amy, who wore a matching dress.

AP

WASHINGTON

FEMA may use new trailers this hurricane season

The government may house disaster victims in trailers this hurricane season as a last resort, despite promises never to use them again because of high levels of formaldehyde found in trailers used after the Katrina catastrophe. Only the head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency could approve the use of such trailers, and they would have to meet the agency's standard for low formaldehyde levels, according to a draft of the agency's five-page 2008 hurricane-season plan, obtained by The Associated Press. Also, disaster victims could stay in the trailers for only six months. Hurricane season started June 1 and will last through November. Forecasters predict the 2008 Atlantic season will be busier than average, with a good chance of six to nine hurricanes forming, including two to five major ones. The Bush administration and FEMA came under heavy criticism for the response to Katrina in 2005. About 1 million people were displaced because of the hurricane, and thousands were sent to emergency travel trailers. It was later discovered that the trailers had high levels of formaldehyde — a preservative commonly used in building materials. Prolonged exposure can lead to breathing problems and is also believed to cause cancer. Complaints began popping up shortly after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, with residents of FEMA-issued trailers reporting frequent headaches, nosebleeds and other ailments.

AP

WASHINGTON

Medal of Honor given to soldier who jumped on grenade

President Bush on Monday presented the nation's highest military award to a 19-year-old soldier who died saving the lives of four comrades in Iraq by jumping on a grenade tossed into their military vehicle. The honored soldier, Army Pfc. Ross McGinnis, "gave all for his country," the president said somberly. "No one outside this man's family can know the true weight of their loss. But in words spoken long ago, we are told how to measure the kind of devotion that Ross McGinnis showed on his last day: 'Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.'" The president spoke in the East Room at a ceremony attended by Vice President Dick Cheney, prior recipients of the Medal of Honor, military leaders, McGinnis' parents, Tom and Romyne, and his two sisters, Becky and Katie. The four soldiers protected by McGinnis' actions were all in attendance.

AP

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Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

CLEANSSED: Gil Borboa, the water resources manager for City Hall, talks with Andrew Cherene (right) and Guy Davis (center) of WorleyParsons Komex at Santa Monica's water treatment plant on Wilshire Boulevard last month. A storage tank at a nearby gas station leaked several years ago, exposing the city's drinking water to a toxic fuel additive.

Officials say water safe to drink

FROM TOXIC PAGE 1

released into the air, the soil and groundwater.

Aggressive steps are being taken to clean up the mess left behind, with 54 of those sites free from contamination. In the meantime, residents are forced to pay more for imported water from the Metropolitan Water District, and development, which includes much-needed housing, is put on hold until the area is purified.

For a city that prides itself on being sustainable, the inability to use local aquifers is posing a serious problem.

In a letter sent to the City Council in January by Mark Gold, executive director of Heal the Bay and the chair of the city's Task Force on the Environment, he and members of the task force urge the council to be more aggressive in cleaning up groundwater contamination. Gold recognized City Hall's work with the well fields, but said the remediation of groundwater beneath the Olympic corridor is progressing slowly.

"The Sustainable City Plan has a numeric target of reducing imported water supply to 30 percent of city water use by 2010," Gold wrote in the letter. "Currently, over 90 percent of the city's water supply is imported from MWD.

"Moving Santa Monica towards drinking water sustainability was one of the highest priorities in the Sustainable City Plan," Gold wrote. "Despite the fact that the city has proactively utilized treated runoff to reduce the reliance on imported water, the city has not made significant measurable progress toward meeting the goal of relying on a local, sustainable water supply."

TAKING A SIP WON'T HURT

City officials, along with representatives from the state Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, said they are on top of it and have been able to

WE HAVE TAKEN ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT SANTA MONICA DRINKING WATER IS ALWAYS SAFE TO DRINK AND MEETS THE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS."

Gil Borboa

water resources manager for City Hall

close many cases in the last few years. The problem is that the type of contamination found in Santa Monica takes years to remove.

That said, the water Santa Monicans are drinking today is safe, said Gil Borboa, water resources manager for City Hall, whose job is to monitor treatment facilities and keep residents informed of water quality.

"We have taken all possible steps to ensure that Santa Monica drinking water is always safe to drink and meets the drinking water standards," Borboa said. "When we find contamination, we move quickly to clean it up accordingly.

"It's hard to say we know all of the issues that are out there, but when we do the city has always been very active in cleaning up and protecting the environment."

City Hall acts as an observer while the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the state Department of Toxic Substances and the Environmental Protection Agency act as the regulatory agencies that impose fines on those companies that fail to comply with state and federal law.

Sometimes City Hall is at fault, as is the case with contamination found underneath the Big Blue Bus Maintenance yard on Colorado Avenue in Downtown Santa Monica, or the City Yards, which is located adjacent to Stewart Street Park and Bergamot Station. In both locations underground storage tanks failed.

City Hall is actively investigating roughly

28 sites, mostly small ones where a gas station once operated. Many of them were discovered during the '90s when underground storage tanks had to be replaced, said Dean Kubani, director of the Environmental Programs Division for City Hall.

Kubani is overseeing cleanup of the BBB site and believes it will be free of contaminants within a year. Remediation work has been underway for the last 15 years.

"Any kind of industry that stores on site and uses volatile chemicals has the potential to have contaminants on site," Kubani said, explaining why in a city the size of Santa Monica, there is a high concentration of potentially toxic sites.

"Many of these businesses were operating at a time when we knew very little about the potentially damaging effects Times have changed."

CHANGING FOR THE BETTER

Awareness seems to have kicked in during the late '60s and early '70s when Americans saw footage on the evening news of the heavily polluted Cuyahoga River ablaze, or protests by mothers of children living in the Love Canal, a neighborhood in Niagra Falls that sat atop toxic waste.

Then there was the work of Rachel Carson, who is credited with helping launch the environmental movement with her book "Silent Spring," which raised concerns about the widespread use of pesticides.

From there, laws were passed to protect

public safety, including the Clean Water Act, which celebrates its 35th anniversary this year.

As properties were sold, environmental testing was done to determine if the area was contaminated. That is how most toxins are discovered. As more development is directed to the old industrial and light manufacturing corridor of the city, more instances of contamination could be revealed.

"The Los Angeles region is historically one of the more industrialized, commercial regions of the state, particularly in areas where you had companies like Lockheed and Boeing, World War II and Cold War-type industries. That is where the problems creep up," said David Bacharowsky, assistant executive officer of groundwater mediation for the Quality Control Board.

As for Gillette, executives with the company said they are using a technique that heats the soil and groundwater to clean up the area. When the soil and groundwater are heated, the toxic vapors are collected and treated.

Groundwater treatment facilities will be built this summer and the remediation is expected to take nine months.

Making sure the groundwater is free of contaminants could take several more years. The extent of the contamination is not yet known. It is a multi-million dollar clean-up effort, the full cost of which is being borne by Gillette, said Robyn Schroeder, a spokesperson for Gillette.

"P&G has a long-standing commitment to environmental responsibility," Schroeder said. "We are conducting our own investigation to understand the source, location and nature of the chemicals in order to properly design and implement remediation measures. We will continue to invest heavily in our research to understand our responsibility and what action needs to be taken."

kevinh@smdp.com

Biodiesel presents its share of problems

FROM BIODIESEL PAGE 1

privately-owned piece of property on High Place and Delaware Avenue, and an old nursery at the corner of Delaware and Frank Street.

The Santa Monica Fire Department ruled out both sites, finding them insufficient to accommodate the large 12,000 gallon above-ground tanks proposed for these stations. But city officials are taking a second look at the nursery, which sits on city-owned property.

Green Depot, a Santa Monica-based non-profit organization, has been working with City Hall the past few years on the demonstration project, helping city officials find a location for the temporary station.

"We're looking for a space where we could put an above ground tank but have it be at a non traditional gas station," Joe Gershen, the founder of Green Depot, said. "Ultimately, it (permanently) would be best at a gas station. I think there are only one or two in all of LA County today that have biodiesel."

City Hall is expected to begin seeking an operator for the station this summer. A project cost has not yet been determined.

While biodiesel costs are comparable to petroleum diesel, the alternative fuel is lauded for its positive influence on the environment, its only vice being the emission of nitrous oxide, which is higher than in regular diesel, according to Dean Kubani, the environmental programs manager for City Hall.

"Most residents who are interested in this have pretty much changed over and are out there buying drums of the fuel themselves and having it delivered to their house," Kubani said. "The biggest encouragement is to make it easier to get the fuel."

"By opening a fueling facility to the public in Santa Monica, it would encourage a lot more people to change to biodiesel," he said.

City Hall is among the biggest fans of biodiesel, its municipal fleet consisting of 81 vehicles using B50 fuel, a mixture of 50 percent biodiesel and 50 percent petroleum. Some of the older Big Blue Buses are running on B20, according to Rick Sikes, the fleet supervisor.

There are differences between the biodiesel used on the city fleet and the fuel



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

FILL IT UP: Gino Sesto fills up his Ford Crown Victoria at the CNG station on Stewart Street on Monday. City Hall wants to build a biodiesel station to promote eco-friendly transit.

used commonly by the average consumer, which Sikes said is reclaimed vegetable oil and can spell bad news for the car.

"I don't recommend doing that because the whole idea is to use petroleum and save energy and resources," Sikes said. "If you're damaging the engine, you're not saving much in resource."

Santa Monica-based Taxi Taxi, debut a line of biodiesel Mercedes S-Class vehicles in 2006. The company purchased several diesel luxury vehicles and converted them to biodiesel at a Los Angeles-based biodiesel and vegetable oil conversion company.

Taxi Taxi spokeswoman Wendy Radwan said the company eventually spent approximately \$15,000 to purchase and convert eight vehicles, all of which lasted for only several months before they were replaced by eight Toyota hybrids.

The problem centered on the load and mileage of the vehicles, Radwan said, pointing out that the average biodiesel car isn't used for commercial purposes. The lone biodiesel-converted vehicle is running on petroleum diesel and will soon be phased out.

"With gas prices approaching \$4.50 and diesel over \$5, we couldn't be more thrilled with the direction of the hybrids," Radwan said.

melodyh@smdp.com



JAMMING

Nina Furukawa nina@smdp.com

Jackson Browne (left) performs with Venice singer Kipp Lennon while Santa Monica High School principal Dr. Hugo Pedroza kept the beat at Barnum Hall last Saturday night. The concert was a fundraiser presented by the Education Foundation of Santa Monica and Malibu and the Artists for the Arts Foundation. The event also featured Nancy and Ann Wilson of Heart, and proceeds went to fund the endowment for the Arts in the Santa Monica Malibu School District. The concert has raised over \$100,000 and they're still counting.

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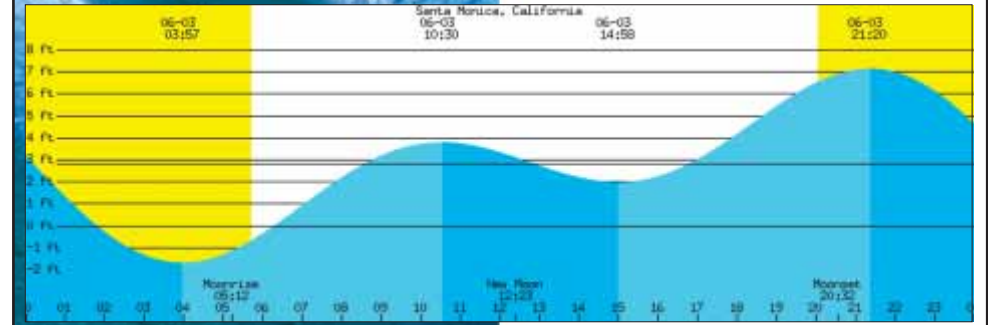


SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 60°**

SWELL FORECAST (3-5 FT)
Waist to chest NW wind swell, knee to perhaps waist high SW swell. Winds should start out light and variable, but become onshore by midmorning, and to 20 mph in the afternoon. Tide will be rather low for the dawn patrol.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
NW WIND WIND SWELL INCREASES THIS WEEK...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **May 27, 2008**

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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 -- 29 / 2

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 8 / 6

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

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain 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	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Cienegas Beach, at Arroyo Sepul Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Palms Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Locks and Las Aliso creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Tennesson Canyon drain	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chatsworth)	A+	B
Bread Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	D	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wilshire Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	C
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	D	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Venice storm drain	A	F
Escandido Creek, just east of Escandido State Beach	F	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A+	ns
Lafita Canyon Creek mouth	D	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	F
Seleucia Canyon at San Blocker County Beach	F	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Puente State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brook Ave. drain	A+	ns
Marin Canyon storm drain at Puente Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Sunridge Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	ns
Sunridge Beach (beach location)- daily	B	A+	Venice Beach- projection of Topaz St.	A+	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	ns	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (joint zero)	A	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 15048 PCH stairs	A+	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pine Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of OGW jetty)	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	D	F	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hygienic Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	F	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17260 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset 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.

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

Leslie, Parker headline women's Olympic team

BY DOUG FEINBERG
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Candace Parker was 10 years old when she watched Lisa Leslie win her first Olympic gold medal in Atlanta. Twelve years later, Parker gets a chance to help her Los Angeles Sparks teammate win an unprecedented fourth straight gold in the Beijing Olympics.

"I was sitting on my couch watching the 1996 Olympics with tears in my eyes saying I'm going to be there one day," Parker said.

They were two of the nine players placed on the U.S. women's basketball team Saturday. The announcement came before Los Angeles played Washington in a WNBA game.

Also on the team are Olympic veterans Katie Smith, Tina Thompson, Diana Taurasi and Sue Bird. This will be Smith's third Olympics. Cappie Pondexter, Seimone Augustus and Sylvia Fowles will make their Olympic debuts.

"These nine players are no-brainers," U.S. Olympic coach Anne Donovan said. "It's so exciting to have these nine players officially named to the team. It's such a great mixture of Olympic gold medalists with some really tremendous young talent."

Choosing the last three players won't be as easy. They will be chosen from the remaining pool of 20 and possible candidates include Kara Lawson, Swin Cash, Lindsey Harding and Lindsay Whalen.

"We're hoping to add a tough defensive stopper on the perimeter who can also score for us, as well as at least another post player," said Renee Brown, the USA Basketball vice president for senior women and chair of the selection committee.

One player the committee would love to have is Tamika Catchings, who has recovered slowly after tearing her right Achilles' tendon last September. Catchings was part of the 2004 Olympic team in Athens.

"We'll wait and see when Catchings gets back on the floor," Brown said. "She's very important to USA basketball."

Another possibility is three-time

I FEEL YOUNG ENOUGH TO PLAY, BUT OLD ENOUGH TO BE A LEADER. WHEN I PUT ON THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GOLD."

Lisa Leslie
Center, Los Angeles Sparks

Olympic star Sheryl Swoopes, who is still recovering from a back injury.

"I'm sure if she's 100 percent we wouldn't leave her at home," said Leslie, who won gold medals with Swoopes at the last three Olympics.

Former U.S. star Teresa Edwards won four Olympic titles, but a bronze in 1992 interrupted her run from 1984-2000.

"I feel a mixture of emotions," Leslie said. "I feel young enough to play, but old enough to be a leader. When I put on the red, white, and blue it's all about the gold. I know what it takes to win gold."

The U.S. team, without Leslie, lost in the 2006 world championship semifinals to Russia and had to qualify for the Olympics by winning the FIBA Americas tournament last September. The Americans begin Olympic pool play Aug. 9 against a qualifier that is still to be determined. They will then face host China on Aug. 11.

The Chinese beat a short-handed American team in the gold-medal game of the Olympic test event in April. That U.S. team was missing Bird, Taurasi, Thompson, Augustus and Pondexter — all were playing abroad.

"I think China's on a high after beating the USA team," Pondexter said. "Also being the home team will help them."



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AERO THEATRE 1328 Montana Ave. (323) 466-FILM Call for information. AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4 1441 Third Street Promenade Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull 2 hrs (PG-13) 12:45, 2:15, 3:45, 5:15, 6:45, 8:15, 9:45 Made of Honor (PG-13) 1hr 41min 1:15, 4:00, 6:30, 9:15 Baby Mama 1 hr 36 min (PG-13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:25 AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262	Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13) 2 hrs. 12:00, 1:30, 3:00, 4:30, 6:00, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (PG) 2 hrs 20 min 12:10, 12:50, 3:15, 4:00, 6:20, 7:05, 9:25, 10:15 The Strangers (R) 1hr 47min 12:35, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:35 Forgetting Sarah Marshall (R) 1hr 51min 1:25, 4:15, 7:00, 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. (310) 394-9741 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. MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599 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., 11:20am, 12:20, 1:50, 2:40, 3:40, 5:10, 6:00, 7:00, 8:30, 9:20, 10:20 What Happens in Vegas (PG-13) 1hr 39min 12:00, 2:50, 5:20, 7:40, 10:30
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For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Happy Birthday Jeff Jarow!

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ You might pinch yourself, as you feel substantially different today. You like it. Though focused, you let more fun and frivolity enter. Visit with those who you normally don't. Tonight: Need a new car or computer? Start looking.	LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Events, people or another opening experience allows you to see others in a new perspective. Take a walk to clear your head. A new beginning becomes possible. Tonight: Say yes to adventure.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ Your sign is known for good money sense. Allow greater flow between you and those who have the funds. Yes, you want quality, but when does that need become excessive? Distance yourself from an expenditure. Tonight: Pretend you are Ralph Nader.	SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Someone's invitation is too good to say no to. Investigate events with a partner; check out a new option together. Working as a team proves to be most effective. A new beginning becomes a definite possibility. Let it happen. Tonight: Stay chilled out.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Much is happening. Note a tendency to be frivolous and silly. Understanding between you and others develops to a new level. Your warmth melts any resistances. Clear out problems ASAP, while the Force is with you! Tonight: What would make you smile?	SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Listen to news from a loved one, associate or partner. If this person would like to try something new, encourage him or her. Right now success will greet him or her. Tonight: Go out to dinner with a favorite person who makes you smile.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ You might want to turn a situation around in an appropriate manner. Tune in to your inner self, and you will know exactly what to do. If you feel a lottery ticket (or something comparable) is a good risk, go for it. Tonight: As you wish.	CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision revolving around your work and an immediate situation. Lighten up about a change or realization that could impact your daily life. Tonight: In the game of life.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ If you relax, nothing will be a problem. All you might need to do is make a minor adjustment. Meetings, friends and people in general star. Decide if you want to facilitate a project or idea. Tonight: All smiles.	AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Your sunny and ingenious manner draws many people toward you. Recognize just how much you do offer. A romance could be budding if you are single. Tonight: Fun and more fun.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Assume responsibility and gain strength. Investigate and willingly lead someone to a new level. Understanding opens up between you and a boss, who obviously likes you a lot, whether it is your job performance or who you are. Tonight: A must appearance.	PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ If you're considering a change on a personal level, think and brainstorm with those who could be impacted. For some, it might be as simple as repainting a room. For others it could be a purchase of a new home or moving in with someone. Tonight: Order in.

Happy birthday

Your resolutions stick this year. You will get a chance to have a new beginning in an appropriate area of your life. Your creativity surges; you have an abundance of ideas. You seem to be an endless source of energy and charm to many. Do use your natural talents toward your highest benefit. If you are single, others find you unusually attractive and cannot get enough of you. The problem will be a tendency to be unusually one-sided in your perspective. Try to think like your potential sweetie. Defer a little more often. If you are attached, you might be more domineering than usual. Stop if you don't want a problem! GEMINI understands you.

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

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Difficulty
SILVER

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis

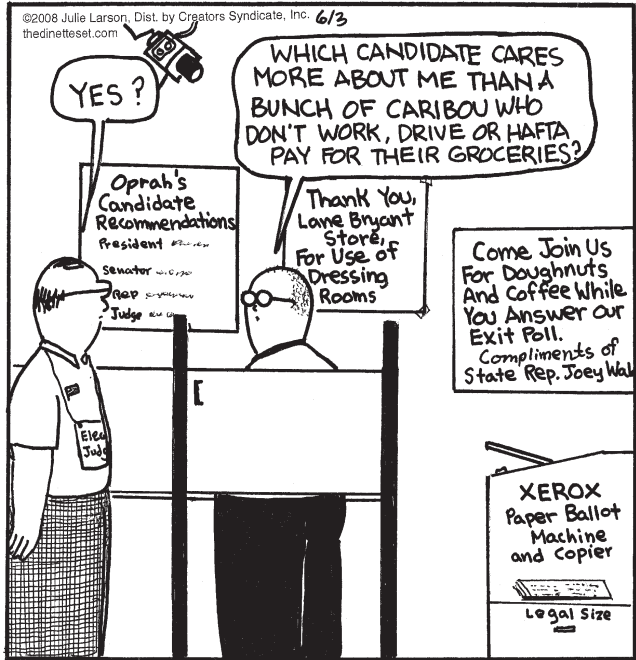


Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



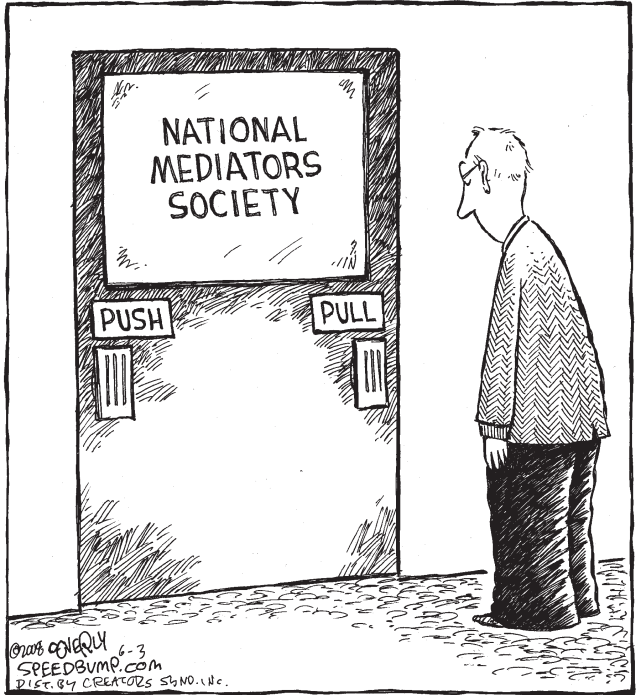
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Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 River vessels
- 6 Cellar stock
- 11 Poet T.S.
- 12 O. Henry forte
- 13 Manicure targets
- 15 — out a living
- 16 Mouse-spotting cry
- 17 Use a sofa
- 18 Used-car deals
- 20 "— got it!"
- 21 Was in front
- 22 Consider
- 23 Subsequently
- 26 Allen's comedy partner
- 27 Adding column
- 28 Snapshot
- 29 Crew director
- 30 Computer command
- 34 Court worker: Abbr.
- 35 Need to pay
- 36 Homer's bartending pal
- 37 Torture devices

DOWN

- 40 Spine-tingling
- 41 Asian land
- 42 Intense fear
- 43 Prepares for a fight
- 1 Allude
- 2 Similar
- 3 Penalties
- 4 Dress (up)
- 5 Pittsburgh pro
- 6 Flirt's acts
- 7 George Gershwin's brother
- 8 More raucous

- 9 Pep up
- 10 Methods
- 14 Marsh plant
- 19 Pub pints
- 22 Air pipe
- 23 Found
- 24 One more
- 25 Overall feel
- 26 Cuts in two

- 28 Sunday seats
- 30 Like a judge
- 31 One-celled animal
- 32 Oarsman
- 33 Lab work
- 38 Farrow of film
- 39 Tear

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

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
34					35				36	
37				38				39		
40						41				
42						43				

6-3

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MEGA MILLIONS	39 40 47 53 55 Meganumber: 32 Jackpot: \$25M
Super LOTTO	6 8 11 25 29 Meganumber: 4 Jackpot: \$7M
Fantasy 5	10 11 13 28 31
DAILY 3	MIDDAY: 1 0 8 EVENING: 3 1 0
DAILY DERRY	1st: 04 Big Ben 2nd: 06 Whirl Win 3rd: 05 California Classic RACE TIME: 1:49.67

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ CNN TV personality Richard Quest was arrested in New York City's Central Park after curfew in April, with drugs in his pocket and a rope around his neck tied to his genitals, according to a New York Post report (which had no explanation of the purpose of the rope). (2) Firefighters responding to a burning house in Crystal Lake, Ill., in April were told by three people fleeing that another man was in the basement, chained by the neck to a post. When rescued, the man denied that anything was wrong. Said the deputy police chief, "We're not really sure what everyone's relationship in this is," and consequently no one was charged. ■ San Diego City Council candidate John Hartley said he would stay in the race despite his March arrest and no-contest plea, which came after two women said they saw him, parked in front of their house one evening, masturbating into a cup. (He said it had been a long day of campaigning and that, as he later wrote in a mailing, he "had to take a leak.") (2) Officials at Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu City, Philippines, apologized in April on behalf of at least six doctors and other personnel for laughing raucously during surgery and making a party video (that was later uploaded to YouTube) of the operating-room removal of a perfume canister from the anus of a male patient.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1621 the Dutch West India Company received its charter for a trade monopoly in parts of the Americas and Africa.
1888 the poem "Casey at the Bat," by Ernest Lawrence Thayer, was first published, in the San Francisco Daily Examiner.
1935 the French liner Normandie set a record on its maiden voyage, arriving in New York after crossing the Atlantic in just four days.
1937 the Duke of Windsor, who had abdicated the British throne, married Wallis Warfield Simpson in Monts, France.
1948 the 200-inch reflecting Hale Telescope at the Palomar Mountain Observatory in California was dedicated.
1963 Pope John XXIII died at age 81; he was succeeded by Pope Paul VI.

WORD UP!

countermand \KOWN-tuhr-mand; kown-tuhr-MAND\, transitive verb:
1. To revoke (a former command); to cancel or rescind by giving an order contrary to one previously given.
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**(310) 458-7737****CALL TODAY FOR SPECIAL MONTHLY RATES!**

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20 cents each additional word.**Notices****NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET OF
SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT OF**

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The governing board of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will hold a public hearing on the BUDGET OF THE DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2009, prior to Final Adoption as required by Education Code Section 42103.

The public hearing will be held at 1651 16th Street / Santa Monica, CA on June 26, 2008, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend this meeting.

The proposed budget will be on file and available for public inspection at the following location(s) should members of the public wish to review the budget prior to the public hearing. Location Of-ice of the Superintendent - 1651 16th St. / Santa Monica, CA From June 23-26, 2008 during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Darlene P. Robles, Ph.D., Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools

Los Angeles County Office of Education

6/3/08

CNS-1355481#

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1135 Berkeley Street

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2 - 5

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Average Price of ALL Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Early June 2008

		<u>Single Family Homes</u>	<u>Condos & Townhomes</u>
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.