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JUNE 9-10, 2007

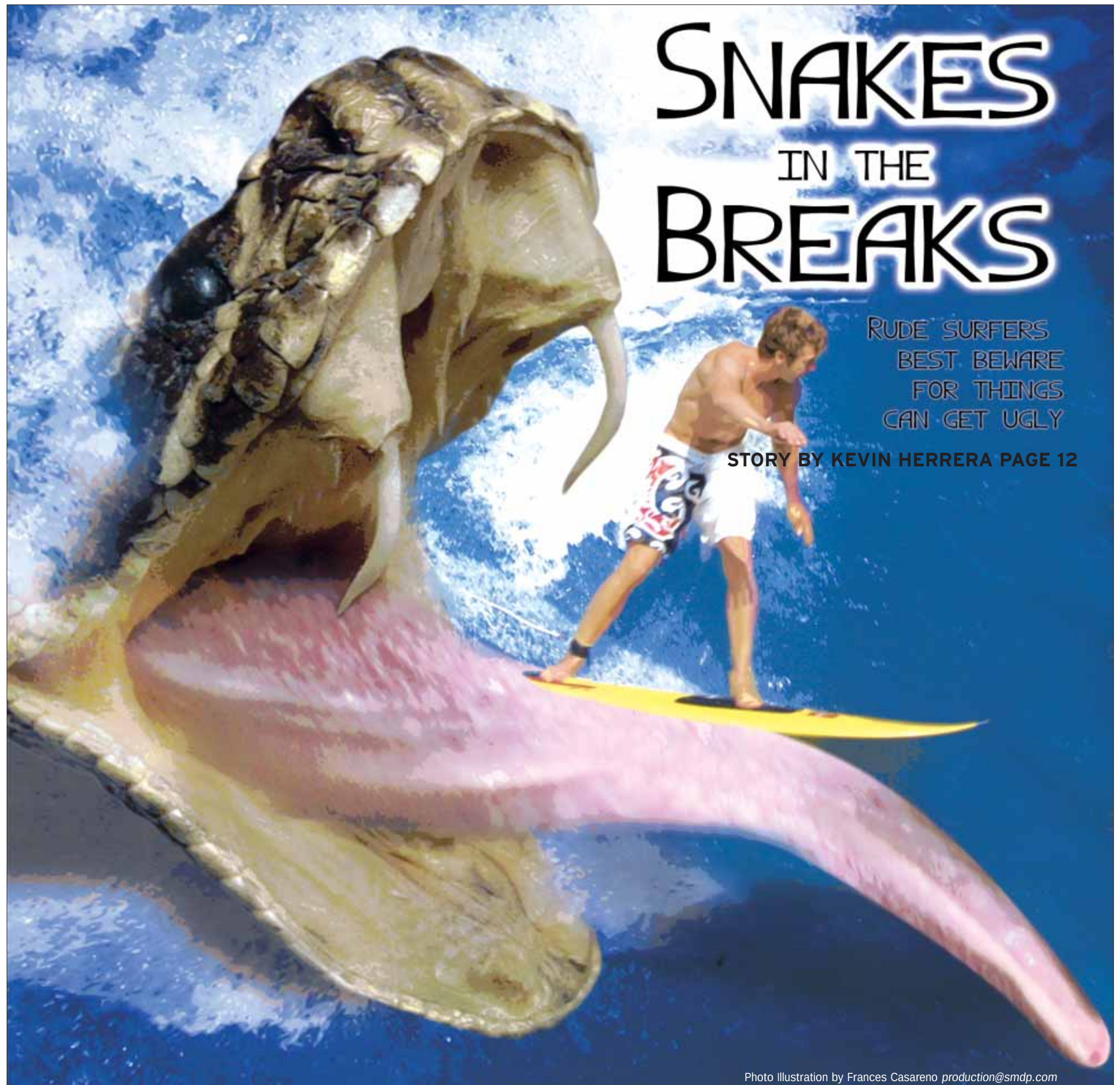
Volume 6 Issue 179



NO RESPECT FOR DUCKS
SEE PAGE 15

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE PAGE TURNER ISSUE



SNAKES IN THE BREAKS

RUDE SURFERS
BEST BEWARE
FOR THINGS
CAN GET UGLY

STORY BY KEVIN HERRERA PAGE 12

Photo Illustration by Frances Casareno production@smdp.com

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE



OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Throw the kid back
3116 Second St., 8 p.m.

"The Boomerang Kid" is a fully interactive, audience-directed comedy in which the audience controls the fate of the main character, who is trying to make it in life on his own without the assistance of his parents. Audience members will be asked to make a choice on his behalf, using touch-screen, wireless PDAs to cast their votes. They'll go through the play twice, once in the first act and once again after intermission, and experience two completely different plays. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by calling (866) 633-6246, ext. 9 or by visiting www.powerhousetheatre.com. Call for group rates.

Venice Arts Youth Photography Exhibit
1809 Lincoln Blvd., 5 p.m. — 7 p.m.

The Venice Arts Gallery hosts an opening featuring black & white photography created by teenage girls who have participated in Venice Arts' Advanced Studies programs. Their work includes documentary photography, self-portraits, environmental portraits and experimental works. For more information, visit www.Venice-Arts.org.

SMASH Carnival
Ocean Park Boulevard and Fifth Street, Noon — 5 p.m.

All community members are invited to attend SuperSMASH, the annual family carnival and fundraiser for Santa Monica Alternative School House. This year's activities include a silent auction, live music, local artisan food booths, kid's games, a water slide and other rides. Proceeds to fund arts and foreign language programs. Admission is free. For more information, call (310) 396-2640.

Pack 67 Cub Scout Fun Day
1008 11th St., 11 a.m. — 2 p.m.

The Cub Scouts of Santa Monica Pack 67 are hosting their 4th Annual Cub Scout Fun Day at the Methodist Church. Learn more about joining the Scouts at this event, which includes activities and food. For more information, visit the Pack 67 Web site at www.santamonicapack67.org or contact Scott Andrews at (310) 702-0965.

Emotional eating seminar
1704 Montana Ave., 1 p.m. — 3 p.m.

Licensed therapist Julie M. Simon will speak on issues concerning overeating and how to break the cycle. The seminar will be held at the Montana Avenue Branch Library.

Sunday, June 10, 2007

Walk4Hearing 2007
Long Beach Marina, Long Beach, 9 a.m.

The Hearing Loss Association of America is conducting a walkathon to raise money and awareness for the problems associated with hearing loss. The walkathon will be 5 kilometers with a second loop equaling a 5K walk. For more information, call (562) 291-4104 or visit www.walk4hearing.org.

Literature book club
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 11 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

A discussion of classic literature led by book reviewer Heather Hoffman. Free and open to the public.

Screening of "The Honeytrap"
1323-A Third Street Promenade, 8 p.m. — Midnight

The Westside Eclectic Theater hosts an Actor's Showcase screening of "The Honeytrap," an independent film about espionage, which was shot in three months. After the film, guests will interact with the actors through a Q & A. Admission is \$8. Tickets can be purchased at the theater box office or by visiting www.thehoneytrap-movie.com. The theater is located in the alley between Third and Fourth Streets.

Dead Sea Scrolls lecture
3400 Sawtelle Ave., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Dr. Andrew Skinner of Brigham Young University and Dr. Michael Hager of the San Diego Natural History Museum will discuss the upcoming Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at the museum.

Labyrinth walk
1008 11th St., 10:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church presents a replica of the labyrinth laid in the floor of Chartres Cathedral of the Middle Ages. They invite guests to walk it and use it as a meditation tool. There is no charge and no reservations are needed. For more information visit www.santamonicaumc.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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ANOTHER \$45: Parking enforcement officer Margarita Verduzco can often be found scouring the streets of Santa Monica looking for violators. Some believe that the department is one of the most hated in the city. Directing traffic is another of the agency's responsibilities.

Melody Hanatani melodyh@smdp.com

Town's most hated

Parking enforcement officers faced with challenges on the job

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN SM The judge, jury and executor of parking citations, parking enforcement officer Margarita Verduzco scours the streets on Friday afternoon, searching for the offenders of city law. Then, she spots a perpetrator.

A black sport utility vehicle sits idle on Arizona Avenue, just off the Third Street Promenade, its meter flashing red — an expiration.

Wearing the trademark blue uniform, Verduzco goes about her job, checking the car to make sure it doesn't have a clean air vehicle sticker or disabled placard, both of which

would exempt it from an expired meter.

"It's a meter maid," a man calls out as he walks past. Verduzco smirks and goes about her business.

"We don't get offended by it," she said.

Life on the job isn't all peaches and cream for parking enforcement officers, perhaps the most detested of city employees, the distributor of the dreaded parking citations.

"I don't like them," said Frank Martorana in the Santa Monica Place parking garage on Thursday. "I understand they're just doing their job, but in my experience — and I've gotten a lot (of tickets) — they're sneaky and try to act like they're not doing it. They have no sympathy."

Not true, according to Verduzco, who said parking enforcement officers like herself don't thrive on handing out tickets, adding that they aren't maliciously out to get the violators of the city parking laws.

In fact, when Verduzco is in the midst of writing a citation and sees the owner of the vehicle running her way, claiming

they're about to add coins to the meter, she'll usually give them the benefit of the doubt and void the ticket.

There are more than 30 parking enforcement officers employed through the Santa Monica Police Department, splitting the city of Santa Monica into seven different regions. The officers strike a high profile in their blue uniforms, driving around in their small scooters. They are the face of the city's parking laws.

Aside from placing parking tickets on the windshields of vehicles, these officers are actually tasked with the responsibility of helping to direct traffic during outages, accidents and busy shopping days. They're also the first department contacted when a resident calls in to complain about a vehicle illegally parked on their street. They help recover stolen vehicles.

"Believe it or not, we're not just out there to give tickets," Verduzco said.

SEE PARKING PAGE 13

District set to review special ed Council's concerns lead to in-depth review of procedures

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS On the heels of concerns being expressed by parents of special needs children and City Council members alike, school officials will begin examining procedures and conduct within the district's special education program.

The Board of Education on Thursday pushed forward with a series of actions, instructing district staff to schedule a series of study sessions related to special education, and to prepare a memo for city staff that addresses the issues raised during a City Council meeting last month.

On May 24, the City Council voted to approve an additional \$530,000 to the city's annual contribution under the Master Facility Use Agreement with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, bringing the contract to a total of \$7.2 million, including increases in the Consumer Price Index.

The meeting took a twist when Council subsequently decided to withhold the \$530,000 for the time being, placing the money in reserves until school officials addressed two specific concerns raised by parents and certain Council members — the uneasiness over confidentiality agreements in special education and administrative positions.

When parents of special needs students have a disagreement over the development of their children's Individualized Education Plans (IEP), district officials and the parents meet as part of a due process dispute resolution session. From the dispute resolution process, an agreement is drafted wherein a confidentiality agreement could exist.

"We know that we have some work to do," Superintendent Dianne Talarico said on Thursday. "When people bring things to our attention, we try to act expeditiously."

SEE DISTRICT PAGE 14

Outgrowing Your Home?

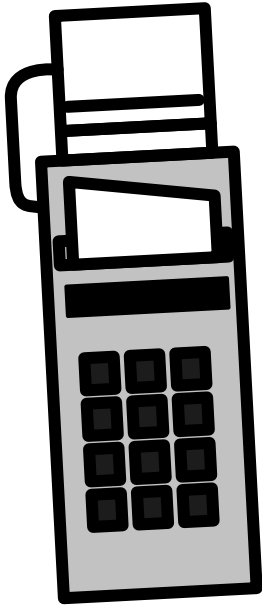


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who are needy renters anyway?

Editor:
Sonya and Bruce Sultan wrote a letter (“Rent control develops diversity,” June 2-3) and sent out a clarion call for homeowners like themselves to embrace rent control. They commented: “We see rent control as an important safeguard, not just for individuals, but also for the type of community we value ...” I see things quite differently. Regardless of whether people live in rentals, or own their condos/houses north of Montana or along Pico, there should be city-wide visceral disgust because the “City” has no hard facts as to who actually lives in rent-controlled apartments, or what percentage of tenants in rent-controlled units have low incomes, small net worth or disabilities that warrant subsidy from private landlords.

For years, I have asked at least one council member, “On what basis is it known that those in rent-controlled apartments are truly those in need of reduced rent?” I often ask this question each time the council blindly approves more preferential parking, thereby, perhaps giving a further subsidy to undeserving tenants paying less than market rates, and forcing visitors or employees of local businesses to scramble even harder for parking. I am still waiting for, and open to an answer.

Most everyone likes the diversity of Santa Monica, but no one should admire a city that refuses to: 1) examine who lives in privately-owned rent controlled units; and 2) change the law in regards to those that are undeserving of the privilege. Dwight Eisenhower said, “A people that values its privileges above its principles, soon loses both.” It is past time for undeserving tenants to be weeded out, otherwise no one can honestly say that rent control is an “important safeguard” in the city of Santa Monica.

David Moss
Santa Monica

Reader is all tapped out

Editor:
Thanks for the survey (“H2 Oh!” June 2-3). Where do I get free tap water in Santa Monica?

Monroe Morgan
Santa Monica

Beach memorial puts face on war

Editor:
I didn’t read Bill Bauer’s column (“Arlington West exploits the dead,” May 28), but I did read Kitty Joyner’s letter (“Come down to Arlington West, Bill,” June 4). I would like to extend her invitation to all of those who haven’t been to Arlington West.

I volunteered there only once, but it was a truly moving experience. More than half of the people who came to visit that day were in the military or were friends and family members of those who were.

A former Marine bugler played “The Star-Spangled Banner” and “Taps” as the sun was setting. People who had lost a son, daughter, brother, sister, wife, husband, mother, father or friend placed flowers or trinkets at the markers.

The most poignant moment was when a little boy, probably not yet 3, who was riding on the shoulders of a clean-cut adult male, said: “Show me where’s my daddy.” The adult pointed to a picture and the boy leaned forward and kissed his daddy’s picture.

Please come see Arlington West and put a human face on the toll of this horrid war.

Patricia Hoffman
Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Exploitation of a good idea goes on

SOMETIME IN 2009, A HARRY POTTER theme park within the Universal Studios property will open in Orlando, Florida. I know what you’re thinking — just what Orlando needs — another theme park. It’s part of the business philosophy that if you are lucky enough to make money as fast as bills can be printed, keep milking it and try to make more.

The new park will be called “The Wizarding World of Harry Potter.” I guess they started to go with some alliteration, but ran out of words that begin with “W.” It will have rides, exhibits, and — surprise, surprise — shops.

If the Harry Potter Park pans out, I’m sure other books and movies will follow. Some titles just might lend themselves to the transformation, like “Shrek.” However, I hope those who build these things will restrain themselves and not go for an amusement park version of the current film “Knocked Up.”

Philadelphia would be the natural site for the “Rocky” theme park. There will be the “Yo, Adrienne Room,” where you’ll be taught to speak almost unintelligibly. Grown-ups and children will be coached in saying lines like, “Yo, Adrienne, it’s me, Rocky ... I don’t know what to say, ’cause I ain’t never talked to no door before, ya know?” Next, you go into The Ring, where you get to fight a virtual boxer and get the virtual stuffings beat out of you. No visit to the park would be complete without a stop at the gift shop, where you can buy things like the cologne “eau de boxer’s sweat.”

The “Oceans 11” franchise is only a sequel or two away from being ready for theme park stature. For this one, the customer enters, and is immediately given fantastic clothes. After walking through the “Wink At The Camera Room,” you’ll experience roller coasters, jumping out of burning buildings and being run over by trucks carrying dangerous plutonium. Then someone helps you up and you realize that those fabulous clothes they gave you don’t have one single wrinkle.

I think the time is right to turn Al Gore’s bestseller about global warming, “An Inconvenient Truth,” into a theme park. It is very (you should excuse the expression) “hot” right now. Apparently, even the president has read and been moved by it. How else would you explain his recent and sudden reversal on global warming? Anyway, “Al Gore’s Wacky World of Warming” would have exhibits including a scary ride through Hurricane Country and a scenic view of continents flooding. You can also see a 90-year-old woman, sitting in her mock living room who removes her overcoat saying, “Oy,

it’s even hot in here for me.” If you just want to relax in a place where there’s nothing going on, there’s the FEMA Room.

George Tenet’s book, “At the Center of the Storm: My Years at the CIA,” might make a nice place to take the kiddies. This theme park would include rides that just go around and around in confusing circles, while various people are heard to say, “It’s not my fault.”

THE ‘OCEANS 11’
FRANCHISE IS ONLY A
SEQUEL OR TWO AWAY
FROM BEING READY FOR
THEME PARK STATURE.
FOR THIS ONE, THE
CUSTOMER ENTERS, AND
IS IMMEDIATELY GIVEN
FANTASTIC CLOTHES.

And all those popular diet books could combine to make a perfect theme park, probably called something like, “Lose Pounds and Inches Simply By Giving Us Your Money For Our Books.” The customers walk in and are starved and forced to do vigorous exercise. Almost immediately, they lose a few pounds, so they have to buy better-fitting clothing from the gift shop. Next, they go through a confusing labyrinth populated by diet “experts.” By then, the customers will have gained back all the weight they lost plus more. That’s when they have to buy new clothes again from the theme park gift shop.

If theme parks based on books and movies are big successes, maybe soon there will be theme parks based on columns. However, I would never succumb to the temptation of having my column turned into some crass commercial moneymaking machine. In fact, if those who build theme parks want to know more details about why I’m not interested, they can contact me and my accountant at LloydGarver@yahoo.com.

LLOYD GARVER writes the “Modern Times” column for CBSnews.com’s Opinion page and can be reached at smdp@lloydgarvermodern-times.com.



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ARE YOU ENTERTAINING?

THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS IS CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR CONTRIBUTORS AND INTERNS TO HELP US AUGMENT OUR ENTERTAINMENT COVERAGE. EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD IS GREAT, BUT WE’LL TALK TO ANYONE WITH A FRESH VOICE AND A WILLINGNESS TO WRITE ORIGINAL AND, AHM, ENTERTAINING COPY. GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

CONTACT ASSOCIATE EDITOR DANIEL ARCHULETA AT DANIELA@SMDP.COM.

STRAY talk

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

"If I play a very good match, maybe I'm going to lose, too."

— Tennis player, Rafael Nadal, regarding his upcoming match against Roger Federer at the French Open

"It doesn't really have a tremendous lot to do with me."

— Ellen Pompeo, star of the hit show, "Grey's Anatomy" on Isiah Washington's dismissal from the cast. Washington has been in hot water since using a homophobic slur against a gay co-star on the show

"It also comes in chocolate, peanut butter, cherry, grape and orange – It looks just like Pop Rocks."

—Excerpt from a Los Angeles County Sherriffs Department e-mail about a new method of disguising the drug, crystal meth, which is made to appeal to kids

"Nobody wants to see the village of happy nice people."

— Richard Walter, chair of the graduate Screenwriting Program at the UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television on the big-screen adaptation of Golay murder trial

"[The] decision to suspend is simply common sense, and frankly, should have been made months ago."

— Republican Senator Norm Coleman on the temporary suspension of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, which requires U.S. citizens to have a passport when traveling to Canada and Mexico

"OK, that's enough."

— A female Olympic High student's reaction to a PowerPoint presentation on the dangers of drinking and driving, which included a crash scene that involved two life-long friends

"They definitely won't be performing at the Diana show. It is too soon and Emma is pregnant."

— Unnamed source on the Spice Girls' plans to reunite for a tour and new album. The British group of female pop singers rose to popularity in the '90s with their hit, "Wannabe"

"It's easier to talk when you're naked... Get naked with me, and I'll talk!"

— Actress Angelina Jolie on finding interesting methods to communicate with people

"Once I paint, as long as I get my picture, I don't care if it stays for 10 minutes or 10 days."

— Raul "Frame" Gamboa, a local artist, on the length of time that graffiti stays up on the Venice Public Art Walls.

Quotations captured and compiled with care by CYNTHIA VAZQUEZ.



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The QLine

STANDING UP FOR FALLING TREES

This past week, Q-line asked:

Do you think the current trees (on Second and Fourth streets in downtown) should be left alone or do they need to go?

Here are your responses:

"IT IS NICE THAT YOU ARE TAKING A poll of who is for and who is against the trees. However, it will do no good. The City Council has already made up their minds and I use that word loosely. Since when have they listened to or bided by the will of the people on any major issue? Good-bye, lovely trees."

"CAN THE CITY COUNCIL AND ITS Bayside toadies do more to destroy what little charm is left in this town? I thought we were a green city. Why are we cutting down trees that scrub those nasty car fumes? Why not take \$200,000 from the bum czar's salary and hire five city tree trimmers to maintain the central business district area. The ficus trees need to be pruned correctly and the ginkos are deciduous trees."

"IF IT IS OBTRUSIVENESS THAT SOME folks are concerned about regarding the ficus trees along Second and Fourth streets, I assure them that the Santa Monica city arborist can trim the trees down in a sculptured manner and the trees will remain beautiful and magnificent. Root damage to sidewalks is another issue, but most trees create root damage. There are ways to circumvent root damage by removing some of it."

"THERE IS NO POINT IN REMOVING the trees unless the trees are dead. Otherwise, leave it alone. If they do take these trees out, they will probably just put some scrawny little ones in their place. Leave the trees alone."

"THE CITY, WHICH PRIDES ITSELF ON being ecologically correct, plans to destroy mature, healthy trees which provide welcome greenery and shade. This is another absurd idea from the idiots in City Hall."

"OUR LEADERS WHO CONSTANTLY congratulate themselves for being green want to cut down healthy trees. They sponsor ugly buildings in the name of ecological correctness and still want to cut back beautiful, healthy hedges. Selective pruning and thinning out would solve the problems of the trees as well as on the council."

"I DON'T THINK THOSE TREES SHOULD be cut down. I walk all over Santa Monica because I live here and I don't drive any more than I have to. They provide shade and oxygen. I don't understand what the city is thinking in cutting them down. And I don't believe they are blocking signage."

"AS LANDLORDS, WE WERE FORCED BY our totally mismanaged city Gestapo to put bottle brush trees on our street. They are ugly and drop a daily mess of red hairs everywhere. On other streets, they are too big and are always pushing the sidewalks up, creating a trip and fall hazard. These trees grow roots into drain lines and create stoppages. Instead of large trees, some nice flowers or flowering trees would help fix this problem."

"THE CURRENT TREES SHOULD BE CUT down or removed and new trees that are better suited should remain in place. The current trees block the signage and are just too thick. They should be removed."

"I THINK THAT I SHALL NEVER SEE A poem as lovely as a tree. The beautiful ficus trees set for replacement on Second

and Fourth streets in the downtown area are all poems. They are one of the most environmentally friendly tree species. They provide a beautiful green canopy all year round and they do not block the merchant's business signs. The cost of replacing these beautiful trees could be used for better street lighting and more sidewalk repairs. The Bayside District should stop the tree replacement aspect of an otherwise good Second and Fourth streets improvement plan."

"PLEASE DON'T REMOVE THE TREES on Santa Monica's streets. Even the people in the rainforests are stopping the cutting down of trees. We have so few trees in Santa Monica as it is. Please allow them to remain and enhance our city."

"I THINK THE FICUS TREES SHOULD BE left alone and the City Council and Bayside District should be the ones that need to go. Just leave our trees alone."

"THESE ARE LIVING, HEALTHY TREES and it is going to cost \$700,000 to cut them down. Do I think these trees should be cut down and cost all that money? No!"

"I DON'T THINK IT IS A GOOD IDEA to remove those trees because they provide good health and a good experience in that neighborhood. I think the retailers should advertise more and I don't think it makes sense considering that the city is trying to be eco-friendly. It would be irresponsible and they can spend the money on advertising instead."

"THE FICUS SHOULD GO. THEY ARE simply a make-work project for a city that likes to tax and spend. The amount of money, fuel and energy that is utilized to trim the trees and repair the sewers far outweighs the shade of these dirty trees."

"OUT THEY GO. GOOD IDEA. HOW about you tree lovers go to City Hall and pay for the upkeep or be quiet. All the trees do is break the curb, sidewalks and streets. We have too many trees in Santa Monica. The city is too tree happy. How much water do they suck out of the ground every year?"

"YOU'D BE CRAZY TO CUT DOWN healthy trees. Don't you dare!"

"KEEP YOUR FREAKIN' HANDS OFF of those trees!"

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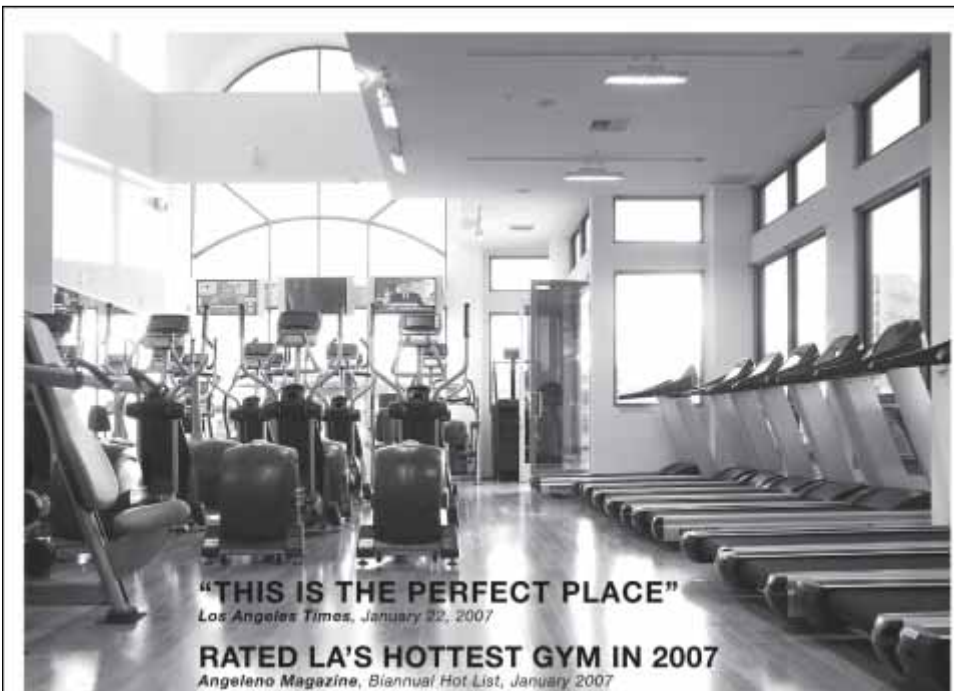
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Remanded

Hilton sent back to lockup in hysterics

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES Paris Hilton was sent screaming and crying back to jail Friday after a judge ruled that she must serve out her sentence behind bars rather than in the comfort of her Hollywood Hills home.

"It's not right!" shouted Hilton, who violated her probation in a reckless driving case. "Mom!" she cried out to her mother.

Hours earlier, the 26-year-old hotel heiress was taken handcuffed from her home in a black-and-white police car, paparazzi sprinting in pursuit and helicopters broadcasting live from above. She entered the courtroom disheveled and weeping, hair askew, without makeup, wearing a fuzzy gray sweat shirt over slacks.

She cried throughout the hearing, dabbing her eyes, and her body shook constantly. Several times she turned to her parents, seated behind her in the courtroom, and mouthed, "I love you."

Hilton was taken to a treatment center at the downtown Twin Towers jail for medical and psychiatric examination to determine which facility she will be held in, said sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore.

"She'll be there for at least a couple of days," he said.

Despite being ordered to serve the remainder of her original 45-day sentence, Hilton could still be released early. Inmates are given a day off their terms for every four days of good behavior, and her days in home detention counted as time served.

Superior Court Judge Michael T. Sauer was calm but apparently irked by Sheriff Lee Baca's decision to release Hilton three days into her sentence due to an unspecified "medical condition."

"I at no time condoned the actions of the sheriff and at no time told him I approved the actions," Sauer said. "At no time did I approve the defendant being released from custody to her home."

The hearing was requested by the city attorney's office, which had prosecuted Hilton and wanted Baca held in contempt for releasing Hilton despite Sauer's express order that she must serve her time in jail. The judge took no action on the contempt request.

A member of the county counsel's staff said Baca was willing to come to court with medical personnel. The judge did not take him up on the offer.

Assistant City Attorney Dan F. Jeffries argued that Hilton's incarceration was purely up to the judge. "Her release after only three days erodes confidence in the judicial system," he said.

Hilton's attorney, Richard Hutton, implored the judge to order a hearing in his chambers to hear testimony about Hilton's medical condition before making a decision. The judge did not respond to that suggestion.

STATE BRIEFS

SAN DIEGO

Judge allows challenges to church property in abuse suits

A federal bankruptcy judge has ruled that plaintiffs suing the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego on sex abuse claims will be permitted to challenge property deals and other financial transactions between the diocese and parishes.

Thursday's ruling by Judge Louise DeCarl Adler could add millions in real estate assets to the diocese estate, expanding the pool of money available to settle more than 140 claims from people who say the church did nothing to stop priests from sexually abusing them as children.

Those lawsuits were suspended after the diocese filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in February.

Church officials reiterated in parish bulletins on Sunday their claim that they have not been hiding or illegally transferring assets.

Attorneys representing more than 140 people who have sued the diocese claiming sexual abuse by priests have repeatedly accused the diocese of attempting to shield assets by transferring money to parishes and schools.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN BERNARDINO

Auto parts giant Autozone settles with state, counties

The nation's largest automotive parts retailer agreed to pay the state and four counties \$1.5 million to settle a lawsuit accusing it of mishandling used motor oil and overcharging customers.

AutoZone Inc. said it would change its waste disposal procedure and adjust its pricing system.

Ray Pohlman, a spokesman for the company, said Friday it did not admit any wrongdoing. "It was a good process where a retailer and government worked together," he said.

State prosecutors and the district attorneys of San Bernardino, Monterey, San Diego and San Joaquin counties sued AutoZone in 2005.

The suit claimed the company violated state health and safety provisions that mandate safe storage and disposal of oil because customers would abandon waste oil in store parking lots or in trash bins after buying new oil at AutoZone shops.

The retailer didn't comply with its legal duty to have a licensed waste hauler cart away the old oil, San Bernardino deputy district attorney Glenn Yabuno said.

The overcharging allegations involved cashier scanners programmed with higher prices than those shoppers saw printed on shelves, Yabuno said.

Under terms of the agreement reached last week in San Bernardino County Superior Court, the company will pay a \$1 million fine and \$300,000 in investigation and prosecution costs.

AutoZone also will contribute \$200,000 to environmental training programs.

Yabuno called the settlement "fair and reasonable."

AP

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Between Wilshire & Montana	= \$ 1,923,286	\$ 964,355
South of Wilshire	= \$ 973,400	\$ 545,563
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L.A. has to cut back on water use

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The city's nearly 4 million residents are being urged to cut their water use by 10 percent as the West's lengthening dry spell raises concerns about future supplies.

Record-low rainfall, a potentially hot summer and a disappointing snowpack in the Eastern Sierra, where the nation's second-largest city gets much of its water, could lead to future severe drought conditions, said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

"Los Angeles needs to change course and conserve water to steer clear of this perfect storm," Villaraigosa said. "The combination

of record-low rainfall, the second-lowest snowpack ever recorded and a potentially very hot summer is a perfect storm that could put Los Angeles into a drought."

Los Angeles is on pace for its driest rainy season on record with less than four weeks to go. Only 3.21 inches of rain has fallen downtown since July 1, 2006, leaving the city 11.93 inches below normal. Annual rainfall is measured from July 1 to June 30.

"Los Angeles residents are using the same amount of water that we did 25 years ago with a million less people, so we conserve very well here in the city of Los Angeles, but we've got to do even better," Villaraigosa said.

During a news conference in the San Fernando Valley, the mayor suggested several ways to save water, such as plumbing inspections to detect leaks. Each repaired leak could save 20 gallons a day, he said.

Officials of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the regional wholesaler Metropolitan Water District of Southern California said there is enough water available to meet customer demands this year because last year's snowpack exceeded a normal year by 145 percent.

The region will also benefit from additional water reserves because of the WMD's Diamond Valley Lake storage facility.

"I want to stress that we are not here today to press a panic button but we are here for a reality check," said H. David Nahai, president of the DWP board of commissioners.

Nahai said part of the city's success in conservation has been a toilet replacement program in which the DWP has provided more than 1.3 million low-flush toilets to customers over the past 16 years.

Besides asking residents to reduce water consumption 10 percent, the mayor announced three citywide conservation plans: a water recycling program, a washing machine rebate program and a sprinkler program.

High-tech systems aim to foil counterfeit wine

BY MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

NAPA At Colgin Cellars, a kiss is not just a kiss.

For years, vintner Ann Colgin has sealed bottles of her sought-after wine headed for auction with a bright-red lip-sticked kiss on the label, a charming, and undeniably personal, certificate of authenticity.

But with concerns growing about counterfeiters, she and other Napa Valley vintners are turning to high-tech fraud prevention so customers can feel confident they're taking home genuine wine.

Colgin, who hasn't yet had someone attempt to fake her wine and hopes to keep it that way, recently signed a deal

with Eastman Kodak Co. on a system that employs invisible markers added to inks and other packaging components.

"Our wine is essentially a luxury good and I do believe that these rare and collectible luxury goods are targets," said Colgin, whose ultra-premium wines can fetch hundreds of dollars a bottle at auction.

It's hard to gauge how wide a problem counterfeits are in the U.S. wine industry, which according to a recent industry commissioned study pumps \$162 billion a year into the economy, including grape-growing, tourism and other related impacts. Wine Spectator magazine has reported that some experts believe as much as 5 percent of wines sold in secondary markets such as auctions may be counterfeit, although others consider that figure too high.

Unlike CD and DVD counterfeiting, wine piracy hasn't become a noticeable drain on the industry yet, so U.S. vintners are acting defensively.

There have been cases of counterfeit wines reported in Europe and China, and this spring there were reports that federal authorities in New York were investigating whether counterfeits were passed off as rare vintages, including some said to be part of Thomas Jefferson's collection. According to a lawsuit believed to have partly prompted the investigation, five bottles of wine — including four said to be owned by Jefferson — sold for \$500,000.

Regardless of how many phony pinots are out there, it seems clear that interest in preventing fraud has spiked as new technology has become available.

Immigrants are in pitched debate

Ph.D.s vs. farmworkers,
legals vs. illegals over bill
currently on Capitol Hill

BY JULIANA BARBASSA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO As heated as the debate over the immigration overhaul is on Capitol Hill, the divisions may run even deeper among immigrants themselves.

The measure is pitting computer-science Ph.D.s against strawberry pickers, legal immigrants against illegal ones, and those who want it all against those who are grateful for whatever the bill offers.

"Our only hope is immigration reform," said Connie Yoon, a Korean immigrant living illegally with her parents and sister in Chicago. "The chance of legalization — it means everything to us."

The legislation before the Senate could lead to the most sweeping changes in U.S. immigration policy in decades. But America's immigrants do not speak with one voice.

The nation's 35 million foreign-born residents hail from more than 100 countries. Some are illiterate, and some hold advanced degrees. They live amid the bustle of New York City, and in sleepy rural backwaters. Some sneaked across the border, others followed all the rules to get here.

Even the approximately 12 million here illegally — who arguably have the most to gain — are split.

The bill contains a provision that would allow them to stay and work, and eventually become residents. But for that, they have to pay thousands of dollars in fees and fines, learn English, and return to their home countries while immigration officials clear a backlog of residency applications, a process expected to take eight years.

These demands are pushing people who once marched side by side for immigration reform into opposite camps. Some consider the bill woefully inadequate. Others support any route to legal residency, however arduous.

"Right now, we have nothing — just immigration sweeps and deportations," said Nora Sandigo, a

Nicaraguan immigrant who is in Miami legally and helps newcomers without documents who are afraid to speak out. "It doesn't matter if they impose conditions. Anything is better than nothing."

But El Salvador native Reina Isabel Flamenco took a day off from working as a home health care aide for the elderly to join a crowd of immigrants gathered outside the San Francisco office of Sen. Dianne Feinstein to call for the bill's defeat.

WHO WILL TAKE CARE OF
MY CHILDREN IF I GO
BACK TO MY COUNTRY TO WAIT
FOR YEARS FOR MY TURN TO
BECOME LEGAL?"

Reina Isabel Flamenco
El Salvador native

"Who will take care of my children if I go back to my country to wait for years for my turn to become legal?" said Flamenco, who has not seen her sister and parents since she crossed the border illegally 16 years ago. "They don't understand our reality."

Other illegal immigrants said registering with the Homeland Security Department, as the bill requires, would mean exposing themselves and risking the measure of stability they have found working here.

Frantz, a 24-year-old Haitian immigrant who has been living in the United States illegally since he was 9, sends his grandparents \$200 a month from his bartending job in Miami. He is one year away from finishing a degree in business administration and hotel management and is afraid returning to Haiti's political turmoil to await his turn in the long legalization line will derail his career and hurt his grandparents.

"There's no food for them to eat if me and my family don't send them something," said Frantz, who did not want his last name used for fear of being deported.

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Green is a hot color for weddings

BY CONNIE MABIN
Associated Press Writer

The bride chose a gown that could be worn again to parties, the groom organized guest car pools in hybrid vehicles, and the couple picked an outdoor Japanese garden over a big, energy-sucking reception hall.

Everything about Kristy Wang and Nik Kaestner's big day in San Francisco was decidedly "green" — from locally grown, organic vegetables and sustainably harvested fish to homemade tablecloths that were later turned into dinner napkins.

"Every time we make decisions, we're trying to decide what would be the least wasteful," Wang said recently. When it came to the wedding last May, "We didn't want it to be about consumption."

Going green is a growing trend in the multimillion-dollar wedding industry, and businesses are cashing in.

New York's OZOcar offers hybrid limousines; Boulder, Colo.,-based Organic Vintners helps wine lovers find all-natural vintages; and the Houston-based Green Hotels Association can find accommoda-

tions at places committed to saving water and energy and reducing solid waste.

Around the nation, caterers are offering pesticide-free menus, and fine china and linen napkins instead of throwaways. Web sites help newlyweds set up donations to charities that benefit the environment, so guests have an alternative to heavily wrapped presents.

"It's exploding," said Johanna Kaestner, Nik's mother and owner of the Berkeley, Calif.,-based Weddings by Recommendation Only, which helps pair event planners with green businesses. "Finally, people understand our environment is in danger and the more you can do, the better."

The potential to earn green is huge, too.

"Going green is one of the great business opportunities of the 21st century, and the rapid growth of green weddings and green wedding consulting groups is not surprising," said David Cooperrider, a business professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. "In fact, wedding advisers that are not going green are going to be at a competitive disadvantage."

Eric Fenster, co-founder of Back to Earth

Inc., an organic catering and restaurant business in Berkeley, Calif., said his company can plan everything from flowers to lighting. Employees often spend a few minutes telling guests how the wedding is eco-friendly, and some couples make a group activity of trash time, throwing plates made out of sugar cane and utensils made from potato starch or corn plastic into compost piles.

"All those things can end up in a compost and get turned into fertilizer instead of ending up in a landfill," Fenster said.

Eric Carlson, president of Carlson Catering Co. near Ann Arbor, Mich., said his company increasingly buys organic ingredients from local farmers. That means not only a potentially healthier menu, but also less fuel consumption and less air pollution. The company will not use plastic foam or cleaning supplies that are not "earth-friendly," Carlson said.

Though organic menus tend to be more expensive, couples committed to the cause are willing to pay — or cut back in other areas.

"We will work with them to make something incredible that fits within their budget," Fenster said.

The Internet has made it easier to learn about the environment and find eco-friendly products and services, said Maria McBride, wedding style director at Brides magazine.

"Going a little bit green is better than not at all, because every thoughtful action helps our environment," she said. "Celebrating your wedding with global awareness is a satisfying way to begin a life of commitment together and an important way to guide the marketplace to provide even more environmentally correct business practices."

That's why Wang and Kaestner chose a venue close to most of their guests. By cutting driving and flying times, they took a step toward minimizing smog.

"The goal of trying to do something about climate change is the mission of our generation, just like going to the moon or winning World War II was the goal of previous generations," Kaestner said. "I wanted other people to see that you can still do these things and have a great wedding."

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Denver-area Indians not receiving proper care

By the Associated Press

DENVER Lack of health insurance, money, transportation and knowledge of the services available are among the reasons American Indians in the Denver area aren't getting the mental health care they need, a nonprofit agency says in a new study.

The study for the Denver Indian Family Resource Center questioned more than 700 youths and adults in the seven-county Denver metro area over nine months last year and this year.

The study, by JVA Consulting of Denver, will be used in a three-year federal grant aimed at developing solutions.

More than 27,000 American Indians with nearly 60 tribal affiliations live in the Denver area, according to the Lakewood-based resource center.

Nearly a third of the respondents said they couldn't afford care because they didn't have insurance or Medicaid was too cumbersome or didn't cover what they needed.

THE RESOURCES THAT EXIST ARE NOT ACTUALLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE WE SERVE."

Phyllis Bigpond

Director of the Denver Indian Family Resource Center

"Through our work, we've identified the needs for mental health services and we've realized the resources that exist are not actually accessible to the people we serve," said Phyllis Bigpond, director of the Denver Indian Family Resource Center.

The study said the results revealed the need for public education to ease families' fears of having children removed from the home if they seek help, or being stigmatized.

The results of the assessment also revealed problems with racism, suicide and disproportionately high rates of alcohol, drug abuse and depression.

"Really, there aren't enough services for anybody, but it becomes even more difficult for populations that deal with other factors, particularly cultural sensitivity," Bigpond said.

Suggestions included offering services in centralized locations, better cooperation among agencies and school-based services to reach the largest number of people.

The resource center is one of 12 nonprofits and education agencies recently awarded grants from The Colorado Trust foundation. The groups will receive grants averaging \$60,000 annually for five years.

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Landlords not happy with increase

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The body charged with setting rents in Santa Monica voted unanimously Thursday to raise them by 2.3 percent, a move that drew criticism from both landlords and their tenants.

The increase, which will take effect Sept. 1, is significantly lower than last year's 4-percent hike, part of the reason why the Rent Control Board decided not to call for a cap.

Each year, the board is required to review rents and calculate an increase using various sources, including actual increases in costs as well as estimates tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures inflation. Each expense is assigned a certain portion of the

rent dollar, with profits for landlords taking the biggest bite out of the pie.

Often at odds, tenants and their landlords seemed to be on the same page during the public hearing on the increase, with each side blasting board members and city staff for using what was described as an outdated and confusing formula to calculate the annual adjustments.

Tenants said the increase was too high and would force those on a fixed-income to give up their homes. Landlords complained the increase was set too low and does not accurately reflect a rise in costs associated with providing housing, such as rapidly increasing insurance rates, and maintenance and labor costs.

Board members said they have sympathy

for tenants, particularly those who are on a fixed income, however, they are required by law to review rents and fees annually to ensure that landlords are receiving a fair return on their investment in a rental property. By doing so, the board is ensuring that the landlord is also able to afford to maintain the property and provide quality housing for residents.

"It is a frustrating experience sitting here making this decision, one that you know will make one half of the room angry with us, actually, sometimes it's the entire room," said Joel Koury, a member of the board.

"I listened to many of the landlords talk about their cost and I think costs are going up. I recognize their concerns about maintaining economic viability. There's nothing

worse than seeing an apartment building torn down and seeing it converted to condominiums," Koury added.

"On the other hand, any rent increases we impose are falling on some of the people who can least afford it in our city," he continued. "It's just troubling, and always very painful for me to make this decision."

In addition to voting for the raise in rents, the board also stated its intentions to review the formula used to calculate the annual increase to determine if there is a better way. That could include re-adjusting the weight given to various expenses like maintenance and utilities, or relying greater on CPI.

kevinh@smdp.com

Injured passenger wins \$14 million from Transit Authority

By Daily Press Staff

SM COURTHOUSE A jury this week awarded close to \$14 million in damages to a 58-year-old man who sustained brain damage when the MTA bus he was riding collided with a parked vehicle.

Attorneys representing Joseph L. Garcia, who currently suffers from brain damage and paralysis as a result of the 2005 crash in Santa Monica, sued the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for negligence. On Wednesday, the Santa Monica Superior Court jury awarded him \$13,820,000.

Six days after Garcia's trial began, on May

25, the MTA admitted liability.

Before the trial took place, the MTA offered \$5 million to settle the case. Garcia's lawyers — Browne Greene and Geoffery S. Wells, of the Santa Monica-based law firm of Greene Briollet & Wheeler — counter offered, seeking \$29 million, but the MTA rejected the deal.

"An ordinary member of the public, Joseph Garcia, had every right to expect that the person driving the MTA bus he boarded was properly trained," said Wells. "But the driver was not, and that's why the MTA admitted liability in this case and only the damages issue alone was tried.

"We thank the jury for doing the right thing by Mr. Garcia, who was so horribly injured that he requires 24-hour attendant care for the rest of his life."

Garcia was riding on an MTA bus on June 25, 2005, traveling on Santa Monica Boulevard, when driver Sylvia Delana Fairfax collided with a parked vehicle, causing Garcia to "violently" strike his head within the interior of the bus.

The suit was filed on March 3, 2006.

"It is good that this case has resolved," said Browne, "but it was a far cry from being over because it raises serious concerns about fallibility of the MTA's driver training pro-

gram. It's frightening to think that the MTA is allowing unsafe drivers on the road and potentially jeopardizing the public's safety.

"In Joseph Garcia's name and on behalf of the greater public," continued Greene, "we ask that Mayor Villaraigosa and our city leaders take notice of this case and use it to spearhead an investigation of the MTA. Until then, the MTA is the equivalent of a five-alarm fire burning out of control.

"No man, woman or child who 'goes metro' should ever have to ride in fear of who is behind the wheel."

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Pacific Park

THE FAMILY AMUSEMENT PARK ON THE SANTA MONICA PIER

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

TOO CLOSE TO CALL: Surfers almost cross paths during a recent day atop the waves of Santa Monica Beach. Disputes often arise between surfers when the “code of conduct” is ignored.

SM beaches kind to newbies

New surfers are welcome at local surf locations — not the case at other spots up and down the Cali coastline

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Daily Press Staff Writer

TOPANGA STATE BEACH What began as a pleasant morning of riding waves turned ugly fast, with two surfers throwing fists in the water after one cut the other off — a potentially dangerous, and most certainly rude, maneuver commonly referred to as “snaking.”

“What a buzz kill for what seemed to be a good morning session,” said Sam Woolsey, a surfer who was in the water when the fight began. “It is Topanga after all, and there’s usually someone out there with a big mouth and not catching many waves who’s trying to project the image that it’s their break.”

While physical altercations don’t happen often, many surfers warn that a surge in the sport’s popularity combined with the relatively few clean, quality breaks in these waters could spark more conflicts if attention isn’t paid to surfing etiquette.

“With the crowds, people sometimes forget surfing etiquette and it becomes all about the individual,” said Capt. Terry Harvey, a surfer and lifeguard who has patrolled the Santa Monica Bay for a quarter century. “Surfing is an individual sport, but there are plenty of other people out there on the waves and we just have to remind people to be respectful.”

In Malibu, home to some of the best surfing spots in the region, as well as some of the most territorial surfers around, those concerned about safety posted a sign shaped like a surfboard that listed the “surfer’s code of

ethics” (the sign has since been removed by state officials because it was not permitted on the beach).

The rules are simple. First and foremost, give respect to gain respect.

“I’ve often found that the mellower, quieter you are, the less your chances are of creating problems with locals,” said Mitch Taylor, a 30-year surfing veteran and manager at the Becker Surf & Sport, a surf shop in Malibu. “The guy that goes out there with a bright pink wetsuit, who’s being really loud and obnoxious, he’s really going to be the guy that everyone wants to drown. Stay under the radar as much as possible, especially if you are learning, and just be respectful, and more often than not, you’ll meet really cool people who are willing to help you.”

“These days, more people are willing to help than want to fight and tear you apart.”

Another important rule is to never drop in on another surfer, or “snake” them. Those who are furthest inside or closest to the peak of the wave have the right of way, so pay attention.

When paddling out, paddle wide. If caught on the inside of a wave, stay in the white water. Communication is also key, as is one’s commitment to a wave. When taking off, paddle hard and stay within your ability (Translation: Don’t try to hit the big waves if you’re just a beginner!).

The most important lesson just might be to hold on to your board. A surfboard on the loose can severely injure another surfer.

“Just watch your space,” said Garrett Brizendine, a surfer of 10 years who helps beginners find the right gear at Rip Curl on the Third Street Promenade.

“Santa Monica is usually a good place to learn how to surf,” Brizendine said. “Not only is the break pretty mellow, but there are plenty of people who are willing to lend a hand. Just don’t cut somebody off or do something that puts someone else in harm’s way. That’s when the territorial thing gets dangerous.”

Some beaches that beginners may want to stay away from include Topanga, Silver Strand State Beach near San Diego, Little Dume and Lanada Bay, suggests Taylor.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

GOING OVER THE RULES: Surfers are wise to take the time to befriend other wave riders before heading out. It is not unusual for fights to break out over so-called acts of disrespect.

“THESE DAYS, MORE PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO HELP THAN WANT TO FIGHT AND TEAR YOU APART.”

Mitch Taylor
Local surfer

“Lanada Bay especially,” he added. “That is definitely a place you don’t want to go if you don’t live there. It’s a rough group. In the ’80s, there were stories of people rolling over cars ...

“There’s definitely a little bit of surf rage out there still, but it has definitely mellowed out.”

kevinh@smdp.com



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

ON DUTY: A parking enforcement officer patrols Wilshire Boulevard during a recent shift.

Officers can be very unpopular

FROM PARKING PAGE 3

The 30-year-old Los Angeles native came to the Santa Monica Police Department more than three years ago after leaving a job as a dispatcher for a private security firm.

Verduzco had spent four years studying history and Chicano studies at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) following high school, leaving shy of graduation in order to start working full-time. She has since returned to school, taking a few courses at East Los Angeles College, studying sociology.

During her time at CSUN, Verduzco spent a few years as a parking enforcement officer for the university.

LEADING PARALLEL LIVES

Contrary to what many would believe, the job of being a parking enforcement officer isn't filled with drawbacks alone.

During her time in Santa Monica, Verduzco has created many friendships with her colleagues in the SMPD, offering hellos and smiles to others in the department. There's also the bonus to working outside, enjoying the beautiful California weather and views of the Pacific Ocean.

Sometimes, there's even gratitude from the residents she helps.

But then, of course, there's the people who don't really favor her kind.

"They're a--holes," said John Cortez at the Santa Monica Place lot on Thursday. "They're a nuisance."

Verduzco recalls a time more than a year-and-a-half ago when she was driving the parking enforcement vehicle and a man flagged her down. The man began inquiring about a parking ticket he had received the night before, a parking ticket that was not issued by Verduzco.

She tried explaining the reason why the ticket was issued. Clearly unhappy with the ticket, the man allegedly spit in Verduzco's face, in what she describes as her "worst encounter."

Verduzco said she understands how upsetting it must be for people to receive a parking ticket and tries to remain sensitive when explaining to a person why they had just received a citation. In this job, you have

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, WE'RE NOT JUST OUT THERE TO GIVE TICKETS."

Margarita Verduzco
Parking enforcement officer

to look at everyone's perspective, she said.

Some people seem to recognize that parking enforcement officers are just doing their jobs.

Blaine Hope moved to Santa Monica from Oregon about a month ago and has yet to be cited, though he has observed the parking officers writing tickets on many occasions.

"They're just doing their job, right?" Hope said on Thursday. "It makes money for the city."

DRIVING THROUGH THE CITY

Verduzco said she spends about 75 percent of her time driving around the city to be sure the cars are parked where they should be.

She drives the parking enforcement scooter around the city, slowing down near the meters to check to see whether they have expired. When she spots a flashing red meter, she does a quick scan of the car, checking to be sure there are no exemption stickers before stepping out of the scooter.

Aside from the meters, the parking enforcement officers check to see roads are cleared during street cleaning hours, and drive through roads that are protected by preferential parking permits, which are usually issued to the residents. She issues anywhere from 20 to 100 tickets a day, depending on the area she is covering.

Verduzco is often flagged down by people with questions about parking laws, directions and sometimes even for a small chat about her job.

"I'm like a walking information booth sometimes," she joked.

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School board is set for review

FROM DISTRICT PAGE 3

In outlining the manner in which the study sessions will be conducted, Talarico said she plans to seek the advice of her colleagues at other school districts to determine how their program reviews are conducted.

**WHEN PEOPLE
BRING THINGS
TO OUR ATTENTION, WE
TRY TO ACT
EXPEDITIOUSLY."**

Dianne Talarico
District superintendent

These sessions could potentially last an entire year, Talarico said.

The memo to the Santa Monica city staff is to include information relating to confidential settlement agreements, including a question and answer sheet with district statistics.

School board members lauded the recommendations on Thursday night as a step in the right direction, some believing that a program review will be necessary by

an independent third party.

Transparency has been a key component of this school year, whether it's been in education or finance, said school board member Maria Leon-Vazquez as she recommended involving the Special Education District Advisory Committee in the study sessions.

"The big thing is making sure we provide the best for all children in this district," she said.

An independent assessment would strengthen both the administration's credibility within the community and the City Council, said Craig Hamilton, a member of the district's Financial Oversight Committee.

"It would be valuable for the whole process," he said.

As part of the same discussion, the Board of Education directed staff to request that an Item be placed on the next City Council meeting, scheduled for June 12, to discuss the Master Facility Use Agreement.

"We will do right by the children and the families we serve and we're sincere and genuine in our efforts to have this move forward," Talarico said.

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NHL

Fame is fleeting for these Ducks

BY JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM The Anaheim Ducks had their moment in the Southern California spotlight. Because of Paris Hilton, that's pretty much all it was — a moment.

Hilton's release from jail early Thursday subjugated the Ducks to afterthought status just hours after they reached the pinnacle of their sport — winning the Stanley Cup.

That's the curse of being a team struggling for an identity outside of its hard-core following, and in an area where celebrity rules.

Star goalie Jean-Sebastien Giguere admitted he can go to dinner or hit the mall without much fanfare. Teammate Ryan Getzlaf said Canada is "a whole different world" when it comes to the popularity of his sport.

"I live right there and I didn't even know they were playing. That's sad," said Sherrie Robertson, a 34-year-old housewife lined up for the \$6 early-bird special at the All-Cloth Anaheim West Car Wash on Thursday. "Southern California and ice, they just don't mix, do they?"

Perhaps a bit more now after the Ducks beat the Ottawa Senators 6-2 on Wednesday night to win the NHL best-of-seven championship series in five games and become the first California team to win the cherished Cup.

"I have a bunch of friends who never watch hockey, and now they're watching it, calling me after the game," Robert Isambert, a 20-year-old student from nearby San Clemente, said some three hours before Wednesday night's game as he scrambled to buy a ticket in the parking lot.

The Ducks sold out their final 22 regular-season home games and all 13 home playoff games.

Giguere tried to be diplomatic when asked about the difference between the people in Anaheim and Ottawa.

"It's not the same. Ottawa is such a small

town," he said. "They have only one professional team. But hockey's well and alive in this part of the country."

Giguere paused when asked about fan recognition when he's out and about.

"A little bit," he replied. "It's getting more and more."

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND ICE, THEY JUST DON'T MIX, DO THEY?"

Sherrie Robertson
housewife

Getzlaf said much the same thing.

"It's gotten better throughout the year. The NHL's so big in Canada; I'm sure we would be recognized there," he said.

Athletes like the Lakers' Kobe Bryant, the Angels' Vladimir Guerrero or the Dodgers' Derek Lowe, for example, would find it impossible to spend much time in public without being approached by numerous fans.

"Nobody in California cares about hockey," Brian Mylius, a construction worker from Buffalo, N.Y., said near Venice beach. "It's a great sport, but people don't get it. All they want to talk about is the Lakers and Kobe."

Sean O'Donnell, who played for the Los Angeles Kings before joining the Ducks, doesn't see it that way at all.

"Everyone talks about 'hockey market this,' and 'hockey market that.' The energy around Orange County for this, and the Kings fans when the Kings were doing well, it's just a great hockey market," he said. "There's so many people here that you're not going to get the same energy you would in a small Canadian city, but it's a great hockey place and I'm so happy."

NFL

Raiders hope offensive unit can match defense's power

By the Associated Press

ALAMEDA Lane Kiffin's priority is fixing the NFL's most anemic offense and trying to get No. 1 draft pick JaMarcus Russell up to speed with the Raiders' playbook. Thankfully for Oakland's first-year coach, the issues on defense aren't as pressing.

The Raiders owned the NFL's third-ranked defense last year, the lone bright spot during a 2-14 season that was the franchise's worst since 1963. The defense was so good that when owner Al Davis made sweeping coaching changes this offseason, coordinator Rob Ryan and most of his assistants were spared.

While most of Kiffin's time is spent figuring out how to get more out of an offense that produced just 12 touchdowns in 2006, the NFL's youngest head coach is also taking a defensive crash course.

"I spend a lot of time with them," Kiffin said Wednesday. "That's so that I totally understand what we're doing and our philosophy there and our schemes.

"We go in every day after (practice) and we watch the film together as a whole staff so our whole staff understands it. The more offensive guys can hear them and vice versa, it just helps you as a staff."

Oakland's defense has improved each year under Ryan, son of former defensive guru Buddy Ryan. Two years ago, defensive end Derrick Burgess set a franchise record with 16 sacks and went to the Pro Bowl. Last season, cornerback Nnamdi Asomugha ranked third in the NFL with eight interceptions and was the cornerstone for the league's top-ranked secondary.

The unit continues to look promising. Warren Sapp reported to the team's mandatory minicamp in April having shed nearly 50 pounds.

One change the defense is undergoing is in the secondary, where safeties Stuart Schweigert and Michael Huff are breaking with tradition. Rather than having one play free and the other at strong, the Raiders are using Huff almost exclusively on the left side.



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SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS

SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)
Saturday the NW wind swell should back off dramatically (knee to maybe waist) and winds should be back to normal. The SW should peak with waist to chest high sets with 13-14 second periods from 200-210 degrees.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

WIND SWELL ON CHARTS FOR NEXT WEEK AS WELL.
LIGHT SW DUE ON THE 17TH.

WATER TEMP: 60°

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 **June 5, 2007**

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 -- 0

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 42 / ns

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso 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)	C	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	D	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A	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	B	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location) - daily	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

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

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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Not playing

The Game pleads not guilty to charges of punching baller

THE GAME pleaded not guilty Thursday to punching and threatening to shoot a man during a pickup basketball game in South Los Angeles.

The 27-year-old rapper,

whose real name is Jayceon Terrell Taylor, entered the pleas in Superior Court. He is charged with three felony counts of making a criminal threat, possessing a

firearm in a school zone and exhibiting a firearm in the presence of an officer.

Taylor, who remained free on \$50,000 bail, faces more than five years in state prison if convicted.

Prosecutors contend that during a Feb. 24 pickup basketball game, Taylor punched an opposing player, then pulled a gun from his red Cadillac Escalade and

threatened to shoot him.

His attorney, Shawn Chapman Holley, did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BELL IS NOT READY TO GO

KRISTEN BELL acknowledges that it's tough to let go of Veronica Mars, the wisecracking teenage sleuth she portrayed for three seasons on the TV series of the same name.

Asked what she would miss most about the character, Bell didn't hesitate: "Other than everything?"

"It feels sort of like graduating high school. You really only recognize how special it was once it's gone away," Bell told The Associated Press in a recent phone interview.

"And of course everyone graduates from different jobs then they move on, but I don't know I'll find as special a show ever again," the 26-year-old actress said. "I think I'm only truly realizing that now."

The CW canceled the cult hit May 17.

Bell said the network has until June 15 to tell the show's producers whether it will be a mid-season replacement.

CW spokesman Jeff Tobler confirmed the June 15 deadline.

Even if "Veronica Mars" doesn't make it back onto the small screen, Bell says she would be happy to reprise her role in a feature film.

Set in the fictional seaside town of Neptune, Calif., Bell's character tackled the ups and downs of high-school life while solving crimes. The just-completed third season shifted Veronica and her pals to Hearst College.

AP

Robbins jams with local band

Patrons of a downtown bar in this city of 24,000 people were surprised when **TIM ROBBINS** strolled in and started jamming with a local band.

The 48-year-old actor, who was in Edwardsville for his upcoming movie, "The Return," brought a guitar and played classic R&B at Laurie's Place on Wednesday evening, The (Alton) Telegraph reported.

"I have never had a big

celebrity come in and sit in with the band," said bar owner Laurie Chavez.

Robbins had wrapped up a day of filming for the drama, also starring Rachel McAdams, before coming into the bar for the impromptu concert. He played songs including "Backstreets" by Bruce Springsteen.

The crowd, snapping pictures with cell phone cameras and filming with

small camcorders, grew as the news of Robbins' mini-concert spread.

"I gave him a T-shirt and had him autograph my wall," Chavez said. "He then shook my hand. He fit right in here, without a doubt."

Before the evening was over, Robbins signed autographs and posed for pictures.

Robbins won an Oscar for his role in 2003's

"Mystic River." His screen credits also include "The Shawshank Redemption" and "The Player."

After he was told by a newspaper editor that he was going to be on the front page for a story about the surprise concert, Robbins cracked a joke.

"It's good to be put on the front for that rather than something else."

AP

More 'Shrek' to come

Galvanized by the success of "Shrek the Third," **JEFFREY KATZENBERG** says the tale of the green ogre who married a princess will continue.

"More Shreks are coming!" producer Katzenberg, flanked by "Shrek" stars Cameron Diaz, Mike Myers and Justin Timberlake, said at a news conference in Berlin on Friday.

Katzenberg said there will be a half-hour animated TV special, "Shrek the

Halls," featuring the Shrek characters' versions of holiday traditions.

As for the plot of the fourth installment of the "Shrek" movie franchise, Katzenberg would only reveal that Shrek will have to come to terms with something difficult in his past.

The DreamWorks animated blockbuster opens in Germany on June 21.

Timberlake, who voices the future King Arthur, said his favorite moment while working on "Shrek

the Third" was listening to director Chris Miller do the voices of the animated cast.

"He can actually do every voice," said Timberlake. "He does a pretty good Mike (Myers). He can't do a very good Shrek, but he can do a good Mike doing Shrek, so it was a lot of fun to work with him."

AP



'The Bus' Bettis opens eatery

Former Pittsburgh Steelers star **JEROME BETTIS** opened his new restaurant Tuesday with former and current Steelers to help him celebrate.

Jerome Bettis' Grille 36, named after the number he wore as a running back for the Steelers, will open to the public Wednesday.

Tuesday's guests included Steelers wide receiver Hines Ward, former Steelers Kordell Stewart and Mike Logan, Steelers President Art Rooney II and former Titans running back Eddie George.

The casual dining spot features a football-

shaped bar, 56 flat-screen TVs and a 150-seat patio overlooking the city's downtown. It is located in the Del Monte Building, an office complex a few hundred yards from Heinz Field.

The eatery is across the street from where Three Rivers Stadium

once stood. Bettis played the first five years of his 10 seasons with the Steelers at the stadium, which was demolished in 2001.

Bettis is partnering with Celebrity Ventures Inc., of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on the restaurant.

AP

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MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
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The Tiger's Tail (NR)
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Knocked Up (R)
12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:05
Ocean's Thirteen (PG-13)
12:15, 3:25, 6:30, 9:40
Pirates of the Caribbean:
At World's End
11:50am, 3:15, 6:45, 10:10
Spider-Man 3 (PG-13)
12:45, 4:05, 7:15, 10:25

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262

Hostel Part II (R)
11:00am, 1:15, 3:35, 6:00,
8:30, 11:15

Knocked Up (R)
11:30am, 1:30, 2:30, 4:40,
5:20, 7:40, 8:25, 10:50,
11:30

Ocean's Thirteen (PG-13)
10:40am, 11:20am, 1:40,
2:10, 4:35, 5:05, 7:35, 8:05,
10:35, 11:05
Pirates of the Caribbean:
At World's End (PG-13)
12:25, 4:15, 8:00, 11:45
Pirates of the Caribbean: At
World's End DLP-Digital
Projection (PG-13)
10:45am, 2:15, 6:00, 9:45

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Black Book (Zwartboek) (R)
1:00, 4:30, 8:00
Election (Hak se wui) (NR)
12:00, 4:00, 8:30

LAEMMLES MONCAFOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Once (R)
12:00, 2:20, 4:55, 7:20, 9:40
Paris, I Love You
(Paris, je t'aime) (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 9:55
The Valet (La Doublure)
(PG-13)
12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
Waitress (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:15

MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE
1313 3rd Street
(310) 395-1599

Mr. Brooks (R)
11:30am, 1:10, 2:30, 4:20,
5:30, 7:20, 8:30, 10:20
Shrek the Third
DLP-Digital Projection (PG)
11:40am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30
Shrek the Third (PG)
12:30, 3:00, 5:20, 7:50, 10:10
Surf's Up (PG)
11:20am, 12:20, 1:50, 2:50,
4:10, 5:10, 6:30, 7:30, 9:10,
9:50

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

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

YOU REMIND ME SO MUCH OF MY BOYFRIEND

BOY-FRIEND?!

WE'VE BEEN TALKING FOR HOURS, AND THERE'S BEEN NO MENTION OF A "BOYFRIEND"

THE DECEIT! THE BETRAYAL! THE HUMILIATION!

GOOD NEWS. MY FRIEND JODY IS COMING TO MEET YOU

ALAS, I FORGIVE YOU

The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

It's CRAZY OUT THERE. I HAD TO PARK PRETTY FAR AWAY.

BOYD, I MAY NEED AN ESCORT GOING BACK TO THE CAR.

WHERE DID YOU END UP PARKING?

ON THE CORNER OF ASSAULT AND BATTERY.

The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside

MEN'S BEACH-WEAR

NOOO!

Garfield

By Jim Davis

BEWARE OF DOG

BEWARE OF DOG

BEWARE OF CAT ON DIET

Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

YOU STAY HERE, SOPHIE, WHILE I HIDE MR. SQUIRREL!

OKAY! GO FIND IT!

IT'S A SIMPLE GAME, BUT IT KEEPS HIS MIND SHARP.

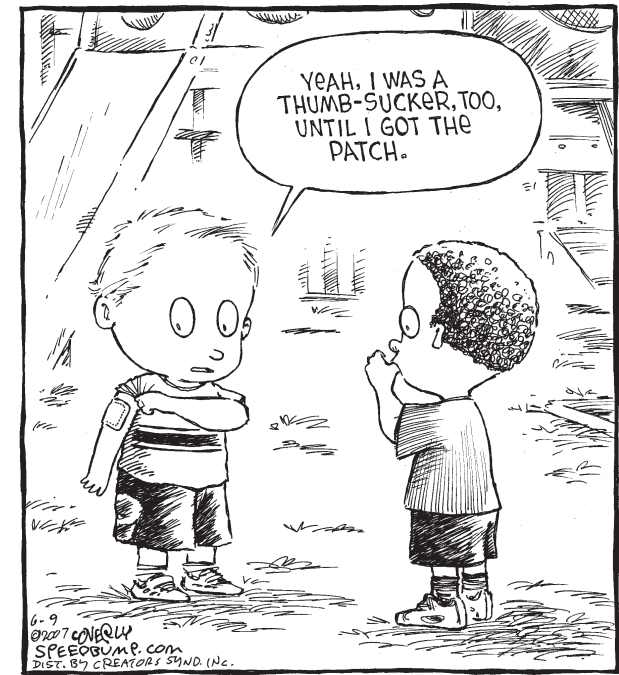
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO
The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Indulges
 - 7 Enter the regatta
 - 11 Broad street
 - 12 Visitor to Siam
 - 13 Louisiana school
 - 14 Diplomacy
 - 15 Exact copy
 - 16 "Taps" tooter
 - 17 Poker round
 - 18 Short pants
 - 19 Sharer's word
 - 21 Grass-hopper's pal
 - 22 "I have no idea!"
 - 25 Corral
 - 26 Atop
 - 27 Church sights
 - 29 Rabbit features
 - 33 Laundry challenge
 - 34 Lose it
 - 35 Appliance part
 - 36 Lady of riding fame
 - 37 Diva's piece
 - 38 Early primates
- DOWN**
- 39 Diving bird
 - 40 Passover meals
 - 1 Sub entry
 - 2 Throat dangler
 - 3 Noggin
 - 4 Continual-ly
 - 5 Old letter
 - 6 Glimpse
 - 7 Took notice
 - 8 Cone, for once
 - 9 List
 - 10 New news
 - 16 Low singer

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

Yesterday's answer

- 18 Vegas game
- 20 Driver's 180
- 22 "Traffic" actor
- 23 Ohio neighbor
- 24 Mas-saged
- 25 Philoso-pher Blaise
- 28 Actor Quinn
- 30 Some Japanese films
- 31 Rafting spot
- 32 Reads over
- 34 Church leader
- 36 Motoring need

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

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

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
6 26 29 31 39
Meganumber: 31
Jackpot: \$25M

Super LOTTO
8 16 17 27 31
Meganumber: 6
Jackpot: \$7M

Fantasy 5
3 7 24 26 31

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 0 7 8
EVENING: 1 2 7

DAILY DERRY
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1.44.79

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In lawsuit-friendly Madison County, Ill. (termed "the promised land" by some trial lawyers), a judge awarded \$311,700 to Amanda Verett for a long series of painful injuries that her courtroom-veteran chiropractor has been treating. Verett said she was holding a door open at a Pizza Hut when an employee yanked it open farther, and calamitous shoulder, arm and hand injuries resulted.

■ In a more traditional settlement upstate in Chicago, Joyce Walker was awarded \$4,110 in May for a workplace injury when she hurt her knee in a hospital restroom after slipping on a banana peel.

■ In January, Joshua Vannoy, 18, filed a lawsuit against the Big Beaver Falls School District near Pittsburgh for the disruption to his high school years when he and his family were forced to moved to another school district because Joshua was being too harshly taunted. His troubles stemmed from an incident a year earlier, just before a Denver-Pittsburgh playoff football game when Joshua chose to wear a Broncos jersey to class and was then forced by one teacher to sit on the floor and endure paper wads being thrown at him because he was, according to the teacher, a "stinking Denver fan."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1872 Victoria Woodhull becomes the first woman nominated for President of the United States.

1865 American Civil War: Jefferson Davis is captured by Union troops near Irwinville, Georgia.

1924 J. Edgar Hoover is appointed the Director of the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, and remains so until his death in 1972.

1954 Bill Haley and the Comets release "Rock Around the Clock", the first rock and roll record to top the charts.

1970 The Boston Bruins win their first Stanley Cup since 1941 when Bobby Orr makes an overtime winning goal followed by a leap in the air that would become one of the most famous photographs in ice hockey ("The Goal").

2005 A hand grenade allegedly thrown by Vladimir Arutinian lands about 65 feet (20 meters) from United States President George W. Bush while he is giving a speech to a crowd in Tbilisi, Georgia, but malfunctions and does not detonate.

WORD UP!

palliate \PAL-ee-ayt\, *transitive verb*: 1. To reduce in violence (said of diseases, etc.); to lessen or abate. 2. To cover by excuses and apologies; to extenuate. 3. To reduce in severity; to make less intense.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Call us today start and promoting your business opportunities to our daily readership of over 40,000.

BE PART of this great opportunity to interview with a top a commercial real estate firm.

Development Dimensions International (DDI) has partnered with a top Commercial Real Estate Company to train top level Executives in this firm in Targeted Selection Interviews. DDI needs your help to practice interviewing with these Executive Managers.

This is not a real job opportunity but its an opportunity to practice interviewing skills, get exposed to top executives in this top commercial real estate firm and get paid.

Our objective is to identify 40 practice candidates to be taken through a

1. Resume screen,
2. Online assessment screen
3. Onsite "practice" interviews

Our end goal is to identify 15 practice candidates (post screening) for onsite mock TS interviews in Santa Monica, CA, on June 20, 2007.

Please send your resume if you meet the following selection criteria:

- Undergraduate degree in Liberal Arts, Business, Finance, preferred Real Estate.
- Prior work experience (at least 6 months) in sales, real estate

Below is the outline

Once we receive your resume and you meet the above criteria you will receive an email invitation from DDI to take the online assessment, which will include a link to the assessment, username and password. 30 – 60 minutes online to take the assessment

DDI will review assessment results and select "Top 15" candidates. DDI will communicate results to selected candidates by June 15. Interviews will take 4 hours and you will be paid \$100.

This is a great opportunity email your resume to munya.magande@ddiworld.com by June 11th 2007!

Creative

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Free estimates
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Employment

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Santa Monica office seeks Administrative assistant to answer phones, create spreadsheets on excel, type letters on word. 1-2yrs exp. \$12-13hr. 310-453-4289 or see barringtonstaffing.com

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Total Beauty Studio
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Employment

CO-OPPORTUNITY NOW HIRING! Go to www.coopportunity.com for more info or stop by the store at 1525 Broadway for an application.

COUNTER HELP needed. Cafe near 3rd St. Promenade 215 Broadway. Must be experienced. Immediate openings morning and evening shifts. Apply afternoons in person. (310) 396-9898.

Customer Service/Full Time- starting up to \$12.00 per hour. 22 year old telephone services company in WLA with free secure parking. Experience preferred but will train. Good language skills and reliability a must. Call 310-281-3079 for recorded details.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
Real Estate Beverly Hills Firm seeks top-notch Assistant to the president. Proficient in Ms Office applications, 2-3 yrs exp, travel arrangements, calendaring, set-up meetings, screen calls\$36-40k/yr. 310-453-4289 or see BarringtonStaffing.com

PT/FT SALESPERSON for a hardware store. Call (310) 395-1158

GIVE OF YOURSELF volunteers wanted at the discovery shop. Help us contribute to the American cancer society by spending 4 hours per week assisting in our resale shop in Santa Monica. Contact Terry or Shaunna at (310)458-4490

MUSIC AIRPLAY CAMPAIGN SALES \$80,000 P/T. (310)998-8305 XT 83

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PART-TIME SALES associate needed in Santa Monica. Must work Friday and Sunday. American Cancer Society Discovery shop. Contact Terry or Shaunna (310)458-4490

Employment



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Please contact 310-899-1600 to inquire
EOE Employer

RECEPTION
SANTA Monica property management co seeks friendly voice to answer phones, handle mail, file, data entry, \$10hr call 310-453-4289 or see BarringtonStaffing.com

PUBLICITY SALES \$80,000 POTENTIAL PART-TIME. (310)998-8305 xt. 84

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Santa Monica/Culver City/Los Angeles Community Living Specialist to provide support and teach independent living skills to adults with developmental disabilities in Santa Monica/Culver City/Los Angeles areas. Exp. req. and rel. edu. pref. \$13.00/hr plus mileage and benefits. FT. Fax resume: Attn: Raquel (818)444-3561 or email to raquel_jimenez@ucpla.org.

For Sale

SPA/HOT TUB 2007 Model. Neck Jets. Therapy seat. Warranty. Never used. Can deliver. Worth \$5950, sell for \$1950 (310) 479-3054

Yard Sales

GREAT STUFF!
Is our junk your treasure?
Some 50's accessories/fabric, signed Andy Capp litho, sports equip, new sport/cosmetic bags/hats + the usual clothes, dishes, towels/linens/books, etc. Sunday, June 10th 8AM- 11AM 115 S. Gunston, Brentwood, 1 blk west of 405 + 1 blk south of Sunset

LWVSM YARD sale June 9 8am-2pm. 469 17th st. Clothing, white area rug 5*8, bedding, household items.

Moving Sale June 8,9 at 5333 Janisann CC. Washer, dryer, fridge, stove, dining set and more! Misc. house and garage items.

YARD SALE 8am June 9th. Furniture, piano is an upright and well tuned. Old things! (323)298-1838, 5004 West 63rd st. 90056

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MAR VISTA \$1595.00. 2 Bdrms, 1 bath, Duplex-Apt. NO Pets. Stove, refrigerator, Washer/Dryer, Parking, 3571 Centinela Ave., Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7pm, Additional Info in Unit.

PALMS 3540 Overland #9 \$750/mo. Upper, no kitchen, fridge, micro, sink, carpet, on-site laundry, street parking, no pets. (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

For Rent

VENICE 2+2 2308 Pacific unit B upper stove fridge d/w, washer/dryer hookups, microwave, granite counter tops, tile and carpet, and hardwood flooring, 2 car parking. \$2695/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

VENICE 714 1/4 Indiana ave. 2+1 upper, bright unit, stove, tile floor in kitchen and bath, wood floors in living room and hall. Laundry, street parking, no pets. gated entry \$1795. (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

Houses For Rent

BEL AIR: 11797 Bellagio Rd. 2+2 1/2 \$3650/mo. stove, d/w, fireplace, w/d hookups, drapes, hardwood floors, front and back gardens, garage parking, small dog or cat ok. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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APR 6.905%	
5 YEAR/1 ARM	6%**
APR 7.25%	
3 YEAR/1 ARM	5.75%**
APR 7.2758%	
1 YEAR/1 ARM	5.5%
APR 7.35%	
6 MO./6 MO. ARM	5.25%
APR 7.49%	
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APR 8.25%	

*Rates subject to change
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Infiniti Santa Monica (866) 507-7253



'04 Nissan Altima (ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)

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Vehicles for sale



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'04 G35 Sedan (ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)

Nav., alloys, lthr, Moon roof, loaded! (603264) \$26,495

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'04 Volvo S60 Sedan 4d (ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)

Black, 5-Cyl. 2.4L, Auto, FWD, AC, CD, Air Bags, Leather (I8007A) \$19,995

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'04 FX35 AWD (ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)

Lthr, chrome wheels, 35K miles, Loaded! (210837) \$32,995

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AC, P/W, P/L, Alloys, CD, Moon Roof, Leather, ABS, Tilt (P1556A) \$26,495

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Vehicles for sale



'05 LS430 (ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)

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'05 Ford Mustang 2Dr LX (ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)

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'05 G35 Sedan (ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)

Lthr, Moon roof, 19K miles, Clean! (216756) \$27,795

Infiniti Santa Monica (866) 507-7253



'03 G35 Sedan V6 (ACTUAL CAR NOT SHOWN)

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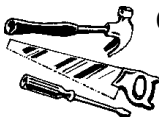
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