



POP STAR KICKS IT AT CROSSROADS
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

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THE ONE-MAN SHOW ISSUE

PUBLIC SAFETY



BURNT LEFTOVERS

Investigators set to go to work at Pico Neighborhood fire site

STORY AND PHOTO ESSAY ON PAGES 12-13

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

COOL IT: Firefighters continued on Tuesday to try and control a fire that erupted in the Pico Neighborhood Monday night. Investigators said it might be days before they can sift out clues to its start.

Hey, developers, hold that thought

Residents look to stop building until city has a plan

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — A group of residents frustrated with development throughout the city are waiting for the hammers to drop, at least for a little while.

A coalition of neighborhood groups will ask the Planning Commission tonight to support a building moratorium for Santa Monica until a new general plan is approved by the City Council.

Residents are currently working with city staff to develop a plan that will outline how land should be used for the next two decades.

The process has been delayed because of changes in leadership in City Hall. During that time, several projects, including three large residential developments totaling 896 units and 19 condo projects totaling 400 units, have gotten the green light.

The coalition believes those projects, and others approved in the near future, could make the general plan update irrelevant. Residents are particularly concerned about the future of the light manufacturing district, which appears ripe for change and has

become a target of developers.

"Residents have spoken time and time again over the past three years ... about their vision for our city, and it does not include the unprecedented growth the city has sustained over the past 23 years," said Diana Gordon, co-chair of the Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City, which has partnered with Friends of Sunset Park, North of Montana Association, Wilshire-Montana

SEE MORATORIUM PAGE 14



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Mystery book discussion group

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

The Main Library's mystery and thriller discussion group takes up Faye Kellerman's "Straight Into Darkness," a thriller set in 1930s pre-war Munich. This group is open to all and will gather in the Community Meeting Room, located on the second floor.

Solar Santa Monica open house

1212 Fifth St., 5 p.m. — 7 p.m.

Visit the Solar Santa Monica office and learn about the city's program. Meet "preferred" solar contractors and experience hands-on solar exhibits, receive fact sheets on energy efficiency and rebates, and sign up for a free solar assessment. Refreshments will be served.

Montana book discussion

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

The Montana Branch book club will discuss James Surowiecki's "The Wisdom of Crowds."

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.

'Pure'

1700 Ocean Park Blvd., 11 a.m. — 6 p.m.

Daniel Francisco's current exhibit, "Pure," is on display at Kulturas Books. For more information, call (310) 450-8707.

Thursday, June 21, 2007

'Let's Talk about Constipation'

Santa Monica YMCA, noon — 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Daniel Cole, gastroenterologist at Santa Monica-UCLA and Orthopaedic Hospital, covers the major causes of and treatments for constipation at this free community lecture sponsored by UCLA Healthcare. Call (800) 516-5323 for reservations.

Wanted: Virgins

MTV show casting call, through June 30

MTV is casting a new documentary-style reality series that follows virgin guys (18 years of age and up) on their quest to find a girlfriend/lover. Do you get nervous around women? Do the girls you meet think of you more like a brother rather than a boyfriend/lover? Are people surprised to know you're a virgin? If this sounds like you or someone you know, send an e-mail to subreality@mtvstaff.com with your name, age, location, phone numbers, and e-mail. Be sure to include a current photo and brief history of your love life.

RecoLate Night at LACMA!

10:30 p.m. — 1 a.m.

Art watchers are invited to join the summer fun @ LACMA and watch demos projected onto the buildings from: Comic book artist Stephen Platt, concept designers, The Black Frog, Scott Robertson, Nick Pugh and Daphne Yap. This event is free!

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.





A CALL FOR CHANGE

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Actor Ricco Ross encourages people to unite during the Impeach Bush Rally staged before the City Council meeting on Tuesday in front of City Hall. 'People power is what's going to propel the impeachment agenda forward,' Ross told the crowd.

Governor predicts Bloomberg would be 'excellent' candidate

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday predicted New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg would be "an excellent" presidential candidate. He stuck by the statement even after learning a few hours later that the mayor had withdrawn from the Republican Party.

"The governor was surprised to learn of the mayor's decision," said Schwarzenegger spokesman Adam Mendelsohn. "He looks forward to continuing their strong working relationship. The governor has always said it doesn't matter what party you are a member of, what matters is serving the public."

In a statement issued in New York, Bloomberg announced that he'd switched his party status from Republican to unaffiliated, a move certain to be seen as a prelude to an independent presidential bid that would end the 2008 race.

He made no mention of the impending party change in a

joint appearance with Schwarzenegger in Los Angeles, when the mayor joked about a potential presidential ticket with the celebrity governor but again said he had no plans to enter the 2008 contest.

But in a speech Monday night and in remarks Tuesday, Bloomberg stressed the progress is gained by reaching across the party aisle. "We're here not to represent parties, we are here to represent the people," he said.

Schwarzenegger said the mayor _ who shares the governor's maverick brand of politics _ would be a worthy addition to the large presidential field. At the same time, the governor said the candidates need to "be focused on the things that are really important, rather than to attack each other."

"I think he would make an excellent candidate," the governor said, with Bloomberg at his side. He's "all about fixing problems and creating a great vision for the future."

Bloomberg later joked about forming a presidential ticket with Schwarzenegger and dickering over who would lead it.

"He would want to arm wrestle for the top spot; I would want to check the Constitution," Bloomberg said.

Pop star kicks up his cleats

'Millenium' singer is helping to put soccer league on map

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY A little-known soccer league based in Santa Monica is getting a lot of attention these days thanks to a European pop star and the paparazzi who follow his every move, both on and off the pitch.

After posting a link to the Los Angeles Premier League's Web site on his fan site, Robbie Williams, a pop god in Europe, having sold roughly 18 million albums, has put the league and its 11 teams on the map, with journalists from as far away as London looking for the latest news on Williams and his L.A. Vale, the team he founded in 2005.

Interest has grown so much over the last two seasons that pesky photographers have to be escorted off the artificial turf at Crossroads School, where the 30-and-over league holds matches.

"Nobody cares about (Williams' fame) here, and that's what's nice about it," said Michael Orosco, a physician at USC who helps manage the league, now in its 12th season, and TP United, a team formed in 2001 and sponsored by Santa Monica-based @RADICAL media.

"(Williams) kind of lays low here and really is just having fun playing like the rest of us," Orosco added. "Since he linked our Web site to his, the paparazzi have been coming out and people have been calling from Australia and Germany asking us how to buy tickets to games."

"That's funny for us because we don't even sell tickets ... anyone can come down and check it out."

Williams, who made a big splash in the U.S. with his hit single "Millennium" in 1998, may be the star of the moment, but what takes center stage on game nights is the league itself, its players and their fans.

Unlike any other league in the Los Angeles area, the Premier League (www.lapremierleague.com), sponsored by the Santa Monica Soccer Association, does its best to weed out wild weekend warriors looking to take out their aggressions. There is no slidetackling and sportsmanship is key.

"Every time someone does a hard tackle or something, we're all like, 'Come on man, we've got to go to work in the morning,'" said Michael Weaver, an actor currently appearing on ABC's "Notes from the Underbelly" and manager of the FC Cock 'N Bull team, sponsored by the local British pub of

SEE PREMIER LEAGUE PAGE 14



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Calls of ‘timber!’ may be warranted
Editor:

In response to the many letters attacking the plan to remove and replace the ficus trees on Second and Fourth streets: I pedaled my bike up and down those streets for a personal and, I hope, neutral assessment. The trees’ merits (maturity, shade) and drawbacks (expensive to maintain, roots lifting the sidewalks) are readily apparent. However, an additional factor is that the trees seem far too large for the narrow sidewalks. Second and Fourth streets suffer from more than the problems caused by the trees. Though the car-parks along Fourth may be hopelessly ugly, if the city really wants to make those streets more inviting, it could widen the sidewalks and prune and move the existing ficus trees farther away from the buildings.

If that’s not feasible, the plan to replace the ficus trees with ones that are more in proportion to the surroundings seems a reasonable option.

Paul Bergman
Santa Monica

Youth center is mission, not a site
Editor:

(Re: “Getting the boot,” June 15)
I want to thank the SMDP for informing the community of the Pico Youth & Family Center (PYFC) and its need for assistance in finding a new home. As the story was printed, another shooting rocked the Pico Neighborhood. The PYFC is committed to addressing the root cause of youth violence through a strategy that employs prevention, intervention and community building. Since opening our doors in 2002, the PYFC has developed prevention and intervention strategies and, I can honestly say, we have saved lives.

Youth violence is a complex social problem that affects us all. Since 1989, more than 38 Santa Monica youth have been murdered on our streets. The pain that youth violence imparts on families is tragic and permanent. We can no longer afford to see this as a people of color problem or a problem exclusive to the Pico Neighborhood. This sentiment was made clear in the two city sponsored town hall meetings on gang violence prevention in 2005.

One thing is clear: Youth violence exists where hopelessness and despair run rampant. Youth who are struggling through poverty, single-parent families, addiction, family conflicts, early incarceration and low academic achievement are all high-risk candidates for destructive behavior. Yes, it all starts in the home, but we cannot ignore the fact that it ends in the streets.

The PYFC was born when we organized a 1,000-person Vigil for Peace in 1998 when, in two weeks, four were killed and five were shot. Despite our recent struggle to find a new home, we will move forward and will continue to serve as a safe place for youth who seek support, knowledge of self and a place where they can practice the principles of our motto – peace, unity and social justice.

We are seeking donations in this time of need. Please visit us at: www.picoyouth.org.

Oscar de la Torre,
Founder, Pico Youth & Family Center

Setting the record straight
Editor:

I’m writing to clarify information attributed to me and included in the article (“Apartments spared,” June 14).

Any donations, regardless of who made them, which compensate the property owner (Or Khaim Hashalom) for residential occupancy of withdrawn units, would be considered rent. Under such circumstances, withdrawn units would be considered again offered for rent or lease in violation of Ellis Act restrictions on their use.

Keith J. Kresge
Staff attorney, Santa Monica Rent Control Board



That Rutherford Guy

John H. Whitehead

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dictatorship may not be too far off

“Those who do not remember the past are condemned to relive it.”

— George Santayana

ON MAY 9, WITH LITTLE ATTENTION FROM the snoozing media, George W. Bush issued a “presidential directive” that allows him to assume control of the federal government following a “catastrophic emergency.”

Although the directive doesn’t specifically identify the types of emergencies that would qualify as “catastrophic,” it is vague enough to encompass “any incident, regardless of location, that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage or disruption severely affecting the U.S. population, infrastructure, environment, economy or government function.” As Matthew Rothschild of The Progressive noted, it could include “another 9/11, or another Katrina, or a major earthquake in California.” In fact, the language is so broad that it could include almost anything the public is led to believe might have a major impact on the country.

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This directive followed on the heels of a bill that was pushed through Congress and which gave the president the power to declare martial law and establish a dictatorship. Under these provisions, the president can now use the military as a domestic police force in response to a natural disaster, disease outbreak, terrorist attack or any “other condition.”

In other words, the groundwork has been laid for the president of the United States to do away with our democracy, such as it is, and establish a dictatorship. The president, in effect, has become a power unto himself.

If we continue down this road, there can be no surprise about what awaits us at the end. After all, it is a tale that has been told time and again throughout history. For

example, over 70 years ago, the citizens of another democratic world power elected a leader who promised to protect them from all dangers. In return, he was given absolute power.

This leader went to great lengths to make his rise to power appear both legal and necessary, masterfully manipulating much of the citizenry and their government leaders. Unnerved by threats of domestic terrorism and foreign invaders, the people had little idea that the domestic turmoil of the times — such as street rioting and the fear of Communism — was staged by the leader in an effort to create fear and later capitalize on it. In the ensuing months, this charismatic leader ushered in a series of legislative measures that suspended civil liberties and habeas corpus rights and empowered him as a dictator.

On March 23, 1933, the nation’s legislative body passed the Enabling Act, formally referred to as the “Law to Remedy the Distress of the People and the Nation,” which appeared benign and allowed the leader to pass laws by decree in times of emergency. What it succeeded in doing, however, was ensuring that the leader became a law unto himself. The leader’s name was Adolf Hitler. The rest is history.

Yet history has a way of repeating itself. Hitler’s rise to power should serve as a stark lesson to always be leery of granting any government leader sweeping powers.

Americans are being lulled to sleep by the government’s constant warning that terror and destruction lurk around the corner. Color-coded terrorism threat levels and reports of alleged terrorism plots are constantly paraded before us. Indeed, since 9/11, the American people have been kept in a state of constant fear and expectation of yet another terrorist attack or, more subtly, another Katrina. Thus, while the recent spate of directives giving the U.S. president broad powers to supposedly ensure America’s safety and security from terrorism and natural disaster should serve as a warning, they have caused barely a ripple among the media or the masses.

President Bush has assured us that he will do whatever it takes to keep America safe, and Americans have blindly trusted him. How did he reward that trust? First, he claimed the authority to permanently imprison American citizens alleged to be so-called “enemy combatants.” Then he asserted his right to order government intelligence agencies to not only spy on America’s enemies, but also on Americans. Now he has quietly and unobtrusively granted himself the power to take control of the government.

James Madison, the father of our Constitution, said that Americans should take alarm at the first experiment upon their liberties. But this latest “presidential directive” is not the first attack on our liberties, and I dare say it will not be the last. We’d better open our eyes soon, lest we wake up one morning and find that we live under a new regime. It will be one of our own making.

Constitutional attorney **JOHN W. WHITEHEAD** is founder of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Libby's loyalty could be lesson for bosses

EARLIER THIS MONTH, VICE PRESIDENT Dick Cheney's former chief of staff, I. Lewis Libby Jr., was sentenced to 30 months in prison for lying and obstructing a probe into the leak of a CIA operative's identity. Libby told investigators he forgot that Cheney had already imparted unto him the highly classified information that he claimed to have first heard from a television journalist.

Either Libby's neighborhood GNC store was fresh out of ginkgo biloba every time he stopped in to buy a bottle, or at some point, Cheney gave him the Cadillac of annual reviews. Many Washington insiders have placed their money on the latter. After all, not every boss inspires the kind of loyalty that leads to two years' probation and a \$250,000 fine.

Trust me on this one.

When I worked at Oxygen Media, my boss was more like a sister or a friend than an actual boss. (Then again, in a company where the female-to-male ratio is roughly 400-3, everyone is sort of like a sister.) She and I went out to dinner regularly. I helped her mom plan her baby shower. Her husband consulted me when shopping for her birthday gifts.

But after two and a half years at the network, when I announced that I had accepted a position at a new TV show and then politely rejected her counteroffer — at which time she realized I'd be making more money than her at my next job — the love affair ended abruptly, and I became enemy No. 1. My boss asked human resources if she could fire me instead of allowing me to resign, worried I would steal precious company owned data. Her anti-crime campaign was unsuccessful; nevertheless, it was an uphill battle mustering sunshine and roses when the topic turned to her during my exit interview with HR.

Being a true friend of the boss is tough. After all, it's rare to crave time outside of work with the person about whom you traditionally whine to your real friends when sharing a few rounds at happy hour. Still, the boss is always the boss.

At least she wasn't a yeller.

New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner is famous for loudly and publicly belittling his managers and players. Lots of fictional bosses yell, too, like Tony Soprano and J. Jonah Jameson, the publisher of the Daily Bugle.

While it may not seem out of place for a make-believe boss to yell at a make-believe employee on TV or in the movies, it can seem grossly inappropriate when it happens in real life.

The first time I was ever on the receiving end of a yell at work I felt like a 7-year-old who had just been falsely accused of pilfering another kid's Halloween candy stash. My boss strolled into work three hours late one day, reeking of cigarettes, whiskey and a foul mood. He sat down at his desk, checked his voicemail, set down the receiver and then proceeded to scream at me because he had missed a personal phone call that had come in late the night before. I said nothing and looked around the office, wondering, "Did anyone else hear what he just said? He didn't actually yell at me, did he? For what, exactly?"

To his credit, he apologized a few hours later. Then he bought me lunch and swore he'd never raise his voice again. Of course, he continued doing it off and on (but more on than off) for the next two years. Alas, the cycle of emotional office abuse.

Then there was the film director I worked for one summer who hollered at me like Fred Flintstone at Wilma or Ralph Kramden at Alice because he disliked immensely the tile I haphazardly picked out for the master bathroom floor in his beach condo. Apparently, I had been far too dim to understand that "production assistant" was a euphemism for "house decorating and dry cleaning pick-up bitch." Silly me.

But, obviously, not everyone will be so lucky to have the kind of bosses that Lewis Libby has had. After his sentence was handed down, Cheney shared his thoughts on his former employee, saying warmly, "Speaking as friends, we hope that our system will return a final result consistent with what we know of this fine man."

And while neither Cheney nor President Bush was among the Washington brass who submitted letters on his behalf to the court requesting leniency, Libby can presumably expect to remain on the White House Christmas card list. I mean, that is truly the very least they can do for him at that this point, right?

MEREDITH C. CARROLL can be reached at meredithccarroll@hotmail.com.



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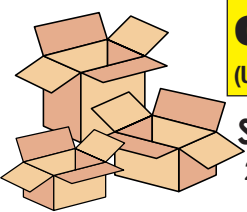
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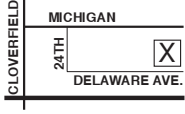


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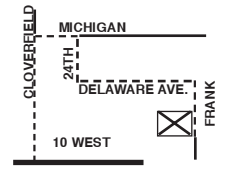
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The Q-Line

Who will budge on badges?

City officials have set aside \$50,000 to acquire newly-designed badges for the Santa Monica Police Department. The plan has drawn criticism from taxpayer groups who would rather see the money spent on what they claim are more pressing needs.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think that SMPD should go ahead with the new badge plan or is it a case of mismanaged funds?

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

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Memories endure along boardwalk

BY RON HARRIS

Associated Press Writer

SANTA CRUZ — The Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, the enduring salty dog of amusement parks, turns 100 this year.

Exhilarating rides, foods on a stick and pocket change entertainment are still the main attractions along a strip of shoreline that first hosted a string of bathhouses in the late 1800s. The Santa Cruz boardwalk itself was born in 1907, and it has survived even as similar attractions — like Toledo Beach on Lake Erie in LaSalle Township, Mich., and the original Myrtle Beach Pavilion in South Carolina — have gone under.

And while Santa Cruz doesn't have 100 mph roller coasters like Six Flags or Cedar Point, or rides themed on movies like Disney and Universal, it still attracts an estimated 3 million visitors a year. In fact, it is considered one of the last remaining gems of its breed, said Dennis Spiegel, president of International Theme Park Services, a consulting firm to the attractions industry.

"It's kind of a page out of yesteryear. In our industry it's just revered as one of the all-time great operations," Spiegel said.

The Canfield family has run the Santa Cruz attractions since 1952, when Laurence Canfield bought a controlling interest in the Seaside Co., which operates the boardwalk. His son, Charles, started working there four years later, as a teenage ride operator in Kiddie Land, a collection of rides for children not tall enough for the larger attractions.

Today Charles, 67, is president of the company. "Technology has really changed amusement parks considerably," he said. "(But) the people are basically the same. ... They just come here to have a good time, sort of escape their jobs for a weekend."

The rides are faster now, but admission to the boardwalk is still free. A \$28.95 wristband buys you access to all the rides all day long, a bargain compared to bigger brand-name theme parks where one-day tickets easily exceed \$50. And unlike larger theme parks, the lines at Santa Cruz move along briskly. The park also seems clean and spiffy despite its age, and the view of the ocean and the occasional surfer is part of the fun.

**IT'S KIND OF A
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OPERATIONS."**

Dennis Spiegel

president of International Theme Park Services

About 75 miles from San Francisco, Santa Cruz was a logical place for such an attraction in the early 1900s, when trains brought vacationers in from the Bay Area, the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys, and farther afield.

The Giant Dipper roller coaster, a National Historic Landmark, remains the signature ride. It began thrilling visitors on May 17, 1924 and its 500 feet of twisting track and wooden construction survived the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

The slow climb to the Giant Dipper's 75-foot peak is a tense affair.

Apple says iPhone battery will live up to expectations

BY MAY WONG

AP Technology Writer

SAN JOSE Apple Inc. gave rival smart phone makers another reason for heartburn Monday, claiming its upcoming iPhone will have a battery life that exceeds the company's previous estimate and the battery life of competing phones.

With the iPhone launch still 11 days away, Apple said the hotly anticipated gadget will last for 8 hours of talk time, 6 hours of Internet use or 7 hours of video playback.

When the company previewed the device in January, it said the rechargeable battery could last 5 hours handling any one of those functions.

Competitors' phones — such as Palm Inc.'s Treo and Research in Motion Ltd.'s BlackBerry Curve — tout talk times of about 4 hours. Samsung Electronic Co. claims about 5.5 hours for the BlackJack.

The announcement lifted Apple shares, which have soared more than 40 percent over the past three months in anticipation of the iPhone, which combines the functions of a cell phone, iPod media player, digital organizer and wireless Web device.

After a day of heavy trading, Apple shares

climbed 3.8 percent, or \$4.59, to close at \$125.09.

Shaw Wu, an analyst at American Technology Research who has a "buy" rating on Apple, was skeptical, however. "Our sources have indicated iPhone's active use battery life may be closer to around 4 to 5 hours for heavy use, similar to other smart phones," he noted in a research report Monday.

He also predicted Apple will face complaints over the design of the battery, which can't be easily swapped out by users. It's a convenience that other gadget makers often offer but one that Apple has not, most notably in its iPods, forcing users to send in their devices when the battery wears out.

If Apple's new iPhone battery life claims are true, analysts say the gadget will set a new performance standard for smart phones — handsets that handle voice and data communications.

The Cupertino-based company also said the iPhone battery can handle 24 hours of music playback and up to 10 days of standby time before requiring a recharge.

"It is amazing," said Richard Doherty, president of The Envisioneering Group, a research company.

STATE BRIEFS

SANTA ANA
Jury convicts man in beating, rape of elderly woman

Jurors convicted a young man of brutally beating and raping a frail, 73-year-old grandmother collecting aluminum cans near a Garden Grove trash bin.

Patrick Daniel Piceno, 23, faces 15 years to life in prison when he's sentenced July 17 by Superior Court Judge David A. Hoffer.

The seven-man, five-woman jury deliberated a day before returning the verdicts Monday.

"It was terrible. When he hit her and saw how old she was, he should have just stopped," juror Sheri May, 65, said.

The victim testified she was collecting recyclables in Garden Grove at about 5 a.m. on May 31, 2005, when she was attacked. She told jurors she did not remember the rape, but recalls Piceno beating her.

Piceno testified in his own defense, admitting to the beating but denying the rape. DNA evidence linked him to the crime several months later.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES
Carson High graduates will sit this ceremony out

Attendance slackers won't be participating in Thursday's graduation ceremonies at Carson High School.

Some 170 students, a fourth of the 665 in the 2007 graduating class, won't be wearing a cap and gown or participating in the graduation ceremonies because they missed too much school.

The students failed to show up for more than 60 hours of instruction this year or were late to class more than 15 times.

The 170 students, who have already forfeited the senior prom, will receive diplomas but won't be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremonies or the grad-night festivities at Disneyland.

Like other schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District, Carson has broad latitude concerning graduation-related privileges.

The goal of this year's toughened attendance requirements is to get students to class, principal Kenneth Keener said.

"Throughout the year, they get 60 hours to take care of normal business, trips to the doctor and dentist, going to appointments to serve as translators for parents who don't speak English. Normal things we figure are covered," Keener said. "Above and beyond that, if there are legitimate reasons, a student can appeal once they become ineligible."

The 60-hour limit covers about two weeks of class time.

The first appeal is to a committee of teachers and administrators. The next level is Keener, who estimates that he has granted about 20 exemptions.

Senior Bruno Rodriguez, who ranks No. 2 in the class and is headed for the University of Wisconsin in Madison, was among those initially penalized for "over hours."

"Some were for scholarship interviews I had to leave early for, and some were for baseball games that my coach didn't clear himself," he said.

It took a week to straighten things out.

"There should be a better system for keeping track of the excused hours," he said.

"But it does keep you in school, and that's what it's designed for."

AP

LOS ANGELES
Health officials concerned about rise in rabid bats

Three more rabid bats found in the past month bring the number found in Los Angeles County this year to six.

No one was harmed by any of the bats.

Normally, about nine rabid bats are found in the county during an entire year with about one or two found by now, said chief veterinarian Patrick Ryan of the county Department of Public Health.

"At this point, we don't really know if we're starting to see a trend," Ryan said.

The three recent discoveries were in a home in La Verne, a warehouse in Downey and at a Pico Rivera school that Ryan would not identify.

Statewide, 49 rabid bats have been found, compared with 47 at this time last year, said Ben Sun, California's public health veterinarian.

"The increase in Los Angeles County is large percentage-wise, but if you look at the absolute number, I would say it's not a huge increase," Sun said.

AP

RIVERSIDE
Student held for bomb threats gets out of jail

A former University of California, Riverside, student arrested for allegedly making bomb threats and setting a fire was released from jail.

Audley Yung, 22, of Richmond posted \$50,000 bond and was released Sunday, two days after bomb threats and a firebomb forced postponement of UC Riverside graduation ceremonies and some finals, Deputy Craig Roberts of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department said.

The ceremonies were rescheduled for Monday under intense security precautions.

"We're aware of the release and don't think it affects the safety of the ceremonies," UC Riverside spokeswoman Kris Lovekin said.

Yung, who last attended UC Riverside in 2006 and didn't graduate, was arrested in an off-campus apartment Saturday afternoon. He was booked for investigation of possession of a destructive device, arson, and making terrorist threats, campus police said in a statement.

Hours before Friday's planned graduation ceremonies, police found suspicious devices after a fire that burned a palm tree on campus. They later found two letters threatening the graduation ceremony.

Yung's mother told her son's neighbor Alex Po that she was in Riverside on Friday to attend her son's graduation. But university officials said Yung did not have enough credits to graduate.

AP

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Climate talks focusing on California

All eyes turn to West as debates heat up over environmentalism

BY SAMANTHA YOUNG

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO In California, environmentalism has never been a dirty word.

It celebrates tree-sitters like Julia Butterfly Hill, who spent two years on top of a giant redwood. And its laws protect geckos, yellow-billed cuckoos and the Mohave ground squirrel.

While sometimes ridiculed for its granola image and left-leaning tendencies, California also has set the agenda for clean air, clean water and other health standards that later become the norm in middle America. It was the first to kick smokers out of bars, order tailpipe smog checks and put warnings on beer.

Today, the state where drivers of hybrid cars cruise solo in the carpool lane serves as the template for other states on global warming policy. Even the federal government has been forced to take notice.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently endorsed California's strategy to regulate greenhouse gases from vehicles. That validates the state's claim that the emissions should be classified as air pollutants over the objections of the Bush administration.

At least a dozen other states are expected to follow suit should the Environmental Protection Agency give California the right

to limit auto emissions. A final decision is expected later this year.

Meanwhile, the state is polishing a new law that would bar its utilities from buying electricity from out-of-state coal plants that don't meet certain emissions standards. Coal produces more carbon dioxide than any other commonly used U.S. fuel source.

"California definitely has been an early leader on a wide variety of environmental issues, and I think that leadership has been continuing on global warming," said Judi Greenwald, a director at the nonprofit Pew

diminish its water supply, increase flooding and fuel more intense wildfires, while parts of its famed coastline will be inundated by rising sea levels. Agriculture, its No. 1 industry, also could suffer, even putting California's famed wine country at risk.

A wide majority of residents support steps to curb the state's contribution to climate change. A 2006 survey by the Public Policy Institute of California found that eight in 10 residents believe global warming will be a very or somewhat serious threat to the state's future economy and quality of life. Two-thirds said the state should address the

sity and variable geography present scientists and policy makers with a unique place to observe the changes wrought by climate change, and to craft potential solutions.

It's an influential role that California has demonstrated in the past, becoming the nation's de-facto lab for environmental policy.

California lawmakers enacted the first rules to reduce smog and required utilities to use alternative energy. State standards led industry to develop more efficient refrigerators and air conditioners, as well as the catalytic converter.

Recognizing the state's pioneering status on environmental issues, Congress in the 1960s gave California the ability to set its own air pollution controls. Four decades later, it is using that special authority to make its own strides on global warming.

Last fall, Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation that imposed the first statewide cap on greenhouse gases, garnering worldwide attention for a move that put California at odds with the Bush administration.

The law, written by Democrats, requires California to reduce emissions by an estimated 25 percent by 2020 — an estimated 174 million metric tons.

Absent federal leadership, at least 15 states are exploring their own strategies for reducing the gases blamed for global warming. They include increasing renewable energy, selling agricultural carbon credits and encouraging energy efficiency. It's a movement Schwarzenegger recently described as "hip" and "sexy."

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Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, California

issue.

"I think all of us can just live a little better," said Julie Cozzolino, a teacher who was loading groceries into her Honda Civic hybrid after shopping at a natural foods co-op in Sacramento. "My biggest concern is people should get their heads out of the sand. It's amazing to me that people don't assume any responsibility."

The state's sheer size, its economic diver-

Center on Global Climate Change, a non-partisan group based in Arlington, Va.

There's a reason for the state's progressiveness. California, the world's eighth largest economy, is the world's 12th largest producer of greenhouse gases.

Global warming is expected to have a profound effect on the nation's most populous state, home to one of every eight Americans. Rising temperatures threaten to

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Not cutting it

Immigration, attitude shifts are making circumcision a rarity

BY RACHEL KONRAD
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO On the eighth day of her son's life, Julia Query welcomed friends and family to celebrate his birth and honor their Jewish heritage.

But there was no crying, no scalpel, no blood, no "mohel" — the person who traditionally conducts ritual circumcisions in the Jewish faith. In fact, Elijah Rose's "bris" differed markedly from the ceremony long used to initiate Jewish boys into a covenant with God: There was no circumcision.

"I knew before I was even pregnant that I would not circumcise," said Query, 39, a San Francisco filmmaker whose son was born in 2002. "It's not like you're just cutting a piece of paper off a pad — there's no 'cut here' line. It's not made to be cut off, and I would never, ever do that to my baby."

Query is among a growing number of American parents refusing circumcision, in which the foreskin is removed from the penis.

According to data from the National Health and Social Life Survey, the U.S. circumcision rate peaked at nearly 90 percent in the early 1960s but began dropping in the '70s. By 2004, the most recent year for which government figures are available, about 57 percent of all male newborns delivered in hospitals were circumcised. In some states, the rate is well below 50 percent.

Experts say immigration patterns play the biggest role in the decline, which is steepest in Western states with big populations from Asian and Latin American countries where circumcision is uncommon. The trend has also accompanied a change in Americans' attitudes toward medicine and their bodies.

"The rates of drug-free labor and breast-feeding all rose during the 1980s, while the initial declines in male circumcision rates began during the 1980s as well," said Katharine Barrett, an anthropology lecturer at Stanford University. "It may have been part and parcel of the wider effort to reclaim bodies — adult female and infant male — from unnecessary and potentially harmful medical interventions."

But circumcision remains a heated issue — fodder for arguments in birthing classes and between parents, and subject of vehemently pro- and anti-circumcision Web sites.

"It's one of the most awkward issues to talk about," said R. Louis Schultz, author of "Out in the Open: The Complete Male Pelvis."

THERE'S NO 'CUT HERE' LINE. IT'S NOT MADE TO BE CUT OFF, AND I WOULD NEVER, EVER DO THAT TO MY BABY."

Julia Query
a San Francisco filmmaker

"We were all circumcised when I was born — it was easy for my parents," said Schultz, 79, of New York City. "People thought it could ward off masturbation or disease, and those funny attitudes have really changed. Now people are saying, 'Why do it?'"

Many doctors still recommend circumcision because of some evidence that it reduces the risk of penile cancer, urinary tract infections, HIV and perhaps other sexual transmitted diseases. Major insurance companies still cover it, and many hospitals offer it as a free service for newborns.

But circumcision opponents say the medical benefits are dubious.

Study: Gastric bypasses can help patients get drunk faster

BY SUDHIN THANAWALA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — People who had obesity surgery got drunk after just one glass of wine, researchers reported in a small study that was inspired by an episode on "The Oprah Winfrey Show." For those who have had the operation, one drink may be too many, the lead researcher warned.

While some experts took issue with the study's size and methodology, they said it basically confirmed what they had suspected for some time: People who have gastric bypass surgery have a heightened sensitivity to alcohol.

"A lot of people think they can have one glass of wine and be OK," said Dr. John Morton, assistant professor of surgery at Stanford University Medical Center, who is the study's lead author. "The concern here is they really can't."

The findings, presented Thursday at a meeting of bariatric surgeons in San Diego, highlight an important warning for gastric bypass patients: "Never have more than a couple of glasses in a single sitting, and don't

drive afterward," Morton said.

Gastric bypass, or stomach stapling surgery, involves reducing the size of the stomach and bypassing part of the small intestine. People eat less and absorb fewer calories after surgery.

About 177,600 people underwent the procedure in the United States last year, making it the most common obesity operation performed in the country.

Morton, who has performed more than 1,000 gastric bypass surgeries, said he routinely warned his patients about drinking alcohol, but it wasn't until Winfrey discussed the issue on an episode about the procedure last October that patients really took notice. Questions poured in after the episode, but Morton couldn't find all the answers.

"I didn't find a whole lot in the literature, so that prompted the study," he said.

Morton and his research team gave 36 men and women — 19 who had gastric bypass surgery and 17 control patients — five ounces of red wine each to consume in 15 minutes. Using a breathalyzer, they had their alcohol level measured every five minutes until it returned to zero.

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Simon Says

Simon Salloom

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

TORCA conversions and what it all means

TORCA STANDS FOR TENANT Ownership Rights Charter Amendment. This is a convention that only exists in Santa Monica. If a condominium or townhouse property is a TORCA conversion and is tenant-occupied by the original tenant, you may not be able to get rid of the tenant unless they leave of their own free will.

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING BUYING A PROPERTY WITH A TORCA TENANT, YOU MAY WANT TO MAKE IT A CONTINGENCY OF THE SALE THAT IT IS DELIVERED VACANT OF THE TENANT.

Back in the mid-1980s, local landlords were able to get the city to allow conversions of their apartment buildings to condominiums. Many landlords appreciated this because the strict Santa Monica Rent Control laws made it an often unprofitable experience for these property owners. Under this agreement, the landlords had to offer the properties for sale first to the tenants. If the tenants declined to make the purchase, they were allowed to stay in the unit indefinitely. One of the reasons why there are so many TORCA conversions with tenants still occupying the property is because the city

allowed these original tenants to also keep the old antiquated Santa Monica Rent Control. This older version is similar to what they have in New York City, where the tenants pay an exceptionally low rent in comparison with what the market will allow for.

A TORCA property can be sold by an owner even if it is occupied by the original rent control tenant. However, the new owner will be subject to the same laws that governed the ownership by the previous owner and will not be able to get the old tenant out unless they leave of their own free will. For many of these long-term tenants, their rent-controlled home is the only thing in their lives that give them a feeling of security. It is often a very serious part of their identity. Because of this, many TORCA tenants, even when offered tens of thousands of dollars, will not leave.

If you are considering buying a property with a TORCA tenant, you may want to make it a contingency of the sale that it is delivered vacant of the tenant.

Please note that the new Santa Monica Rent Control is very similar to what you find in the city of Los Angeles and is not something to be terribly worried about. Additionally, a TORCA conversion that is tenant-occupied, but not by the original tenant from the conversion period, is not under the same rules and regulations. There is nothing wrong with buying a TORCA conversion if you don't have the original tenant. In fact, about 80 percent of the properties in Santa Monica under \$700,000 are TORCA conversions and are virtually free of any major encumbrances.

SIMON SALLOOM is a Santa Monica real estate specialist with Coldwell Banker. He can be reached through www.SantaMonicaSimon.com.



Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Buying on the Westside is always a good decision

Although prices on the Westside are not dropping like bricks out of the sky, some believe it is only a matter of time until they do. Due to the recent subprime meltdown, lenders have tightened underwriting guidelines, making it more difficult for many first-time homebuyers to get a home loan.

With less people able to qualify, the pool of homeowners shrinks. In theory, if less homebuyers can purchase homes, less demand is placed on the inventory on the market. Homes begin staying on the market for longer periods of time and sellers begin reducing prices to move them, causing a decline in property values. For the first-time homebuyers who are able to meet a lender's underwriting requirements, the issue becomes one of purchasing power — how much money a person can borrow to purchase a home. Over the last four weeks, interest rates have increased 50 basis points, or half of a point causing a decrease in the amount of loan dollars they can get. For example, a homeowner who could afford a loan of \$500,000 at 6.50 percent can only afford a loan of \$475,000 at 7.00 percent and roughly \$450,000 at 7.50 percent.

Many variables affect a real estate market, but few have as much of an impact as a person's ability to borrow money. If an individual cannot borrow enough money, they have to wait until the price of a home drops to an affordable level before they can swoop in and make the purchase. The problem is, prices do not initially drop to meet an increase in rates, but once they do, prices tend to drop significantly more. A few years ago, a type of lending known as subprime lending gained in popularity. Essentially, subprime loans were for borrowers who could not meet a lender's standard underwriting criteria. However, these loans became more exotic with interest only

options and low interest rates for short fixed periods. Many borrowers who met lender's standard underwriting criteria began taking subprime loans instead because they could afford a more expensive home for the same payment. The problem is many borrowers bit off more than they could chew, and when their rate adjusted, their payment went with it, often doubling and in some cases causing the home to go into foreclosure. Many lenders who sold subprime loans to investors on the secondary market were forced to buy back the loans that went into foreclosure, causing a liquidity crisis due to cash reserves that needed to be placed with the bad loans. Many subprime lenders went under, causing all lenders to tighten underwriting guidelines. Today, many first-time homebuyers are having problems meeting these new guidelines such as higher credit scores and larger down payments, causing the dream of a new home to remain just a dream. However, a silver lining does exist. More often than not, lenders will overcompensate for losses like those experienced in the subprime meltdown and will relax underwriting guidelines after a period of time.

So, should a first time homebuyer wait on the sidelines? This question is not easily answered, since everyone has different circumstances. If you purchase a home in a good area, such as Santa Monica, a demand will always exist even if values drop. The old adage of location, location, location holds true in this case. If you can afford a home the tax benefits alone may make it worth buying in today's market. Remember, values tend to go up over time. If you purchase a home for the long haul, it is hard to go wrong buying at any time.

MIKE HEAYN is a Washington Mutual multi-family loan consultant. Contact him at (310) 428-1342.

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DOWN TO BUSINESS

Courtesy SM Chamber of Commerce
Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce Chairman Tom Larmore opts to sing his welcome speech while strumming his guitar at the chamber's recent installation dinner.

Blockbuster's Blu-ray deal strikes blow to HD buyers

BY GARY GENTILE
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES — Blockbuster Inc. will rent high-definition DVDs only in the Blu-ray format in 1,450 stores when it expands its high-def offerings next month, dealing a major blow to the rival HD DVD format.

The move, being announced Monday, could be the first step in resolving a format war that has kept confused consumers from rushing to buy new DVD players until they can determine which format will dominate the market.

Blockbuster has been renting both Blu-ray and HD DVD titles in 250 stores since late last year and found that consumers were choosing Blu-ray titles more than 70 percent of the time.

"The consumers are sending us a message. I can't ignore what I'm seeing," Matthew Smith, senior vice president of merchandising at Blockbuster, told The Associated Press.

Blockbuster will continue to rent HD DVD titles in the original 250 locations and

online, the Dallas-based company said.

The decision was helped in large part by the lopsided availability of titles in Blu-ray, Smith said. All major studios except one are releasing films in Blu-ray, with several, including The Walt Disney Co., releasing exclusively in Blu-ray. Only Universal Studios, which is owned by General Electric Co., exclusively supports HD DVD.

Warner Bros., a unit of Time Warner Inc., and Paramount Pictures, which is owned by Viacom Inc., release films in both formats.

"When you walk into a store and see all this product available in Blu-ray and there is less available on HD DVD, I think the consumer gets that," Smith said.

The rollout of Sony Corp.'s PlayStation 3 game console, which comes standard with a Blu-ray drive, also helped give the format momentum, Smith said.

Blockbuster's decision, while significant on its own, could boost Blu-ray even more if other retailers follow suit.

"It will help shift the balance toward Blu-ray, clearly," said Richard Doherty, president of The Envisioneering Group.

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Community Meeting

Reed Park Project

A larger playground & improved landscaping are in the works for Reed Park

Design options based on public input from the 1st workshop and results from a community survey will be presented.

Check it out and tell us what you think!

Saturday, June 23rd

2 — 3:30 pm

The Meeting Room at Reed Park

Reed Park, located at the corner of 7th Street & Wilshire Blvd, is served by Big Blue Bus Lines 2 and 3. The park is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations such as an assisted listening device, or to request this information in alternate format, please call 310-458-8310 or TTY 310-458-8696 no later than June 19th.



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FIRE GRIPS A CITY: (Clockwise from top left) Traffic snarls as a fire erupts on 14th Street Monday evening; the view from Woodlawn Cemetery; a cross-town glimpse as firefighters take on the blaze; smoke chases residents out-doors; a Santa Monica firefighter battles the blaze from a raised ladder; firefighters and emergency personnel hustle about the scene; residents of Pico Neighborhood and passersby watch flames engulf a two-story office building.



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com



Photo courtesy of Paul Scott



Photo courtesy of Paul Scott

**AS I LOOK
OUT MY
WINDOW
RIGHT NOW
THERE IS ASH
FALLING."**

Nancy Kaufman
owner of 14th Street boutique, Brat



Photo courtesy of Kristopher Wedman



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Cause of blaze remains unclear

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD Fire officials believe it could be days before they learn what ignited a monster of a blaze on Monday, a fire that nearly gutted a two-story office building, collapsed its roof and took with it three small businesses.

Firefighters had the blaze at the 15,000-square-foot structure at 1928 14th St. largely under control by 1 a.m. Tuesday, less than six hours after the Santa Monica Fire Department first responded to a call around 7:30 p.m. of a fire across the street from Woodlawn Cemetery.

City building inspectors on the scene deemed the building unsafe early Tuesday morning, keeping Santa Monica Fire investigators from entering the structure to search for clues as to the cause of the fire. Investigators were still waiting late Tuesday afternoon for a private contractor hired by the property owner to secure the core walls of the building.

The fire erupted shortly before dusk at a split-level building occupied by Imperial Media Services — a media production company specializing in the duplication of CDs and DVDs, as well as a software business and a graphic design firm, according to Santa Monica Fire Marshall Jim Glew.

In the aftermath of the fire, a deeply charred building was exposed among its counterparts of small businesses and auto repair shops on a normally quiet stretch of 14th Street. That wasn't the case the night before, as the biggest blaze in recent Santa Monica history brought swarms of residents out of their homes, Pico Boulevard was jam-packed with cars, and intersections throughout the area were crowded with onlookers, cameras in hand.

The stretch of 14th Street between Michigan Avenue and Pico Boulevard reopened to traffic on Tuesday.

Smoke still steamed from the windows and entryways of the building as there were still pockets of fire burning from within, Glew said. The stench of burning CD cases permeated the immediate vicinity. Still, the smoke from the fire was not toxic enough for firefighters to evacuate residents in the immediate neighborhood, according to Capt. Scott Ziegert.

A small crowd of firefighters, insurance investigators, building officials and business owners affected by the destruction were on the site Tuesday, sifting through some of the items pulled from the building, including a number of charred desktop computers.

Among the business owners on the scene Tuesday was Imperial Media Services founder Howard Ganz, talking to person after person, determining what his next steps should be.

Ganz founded Imperial Tape Company in 1982 in a 600-square-foot apartment, later upgrading his company to an 8,000-square-foot space on 14th Street and changing the name of his business to the Imperial Media Company. Ganz was not sure when the business relocated to the current site.

Imperial Media Services occupied more than half of the office building.

An exhausted-looking Ganz tried to remain optimistic about the future on Tuesday, saying that as a Santa Monica resident and business owner, he intended to rebuild his company here and was thankful that none of his employees were injured.

"It's just a business," Ganz said. "We'll continue to take care of our clients because that's what we do."

The business prides itself as being Southern California's largest CD and DVD duplicator.

Fire officials say the stacks of CD jewel cases melting in the business further fueled the fire, making it an even more difficult battle for firefighters as the jewel cases are petroleum-based.

Just a few buildings down is Fast Track Electronics, a radio repair shop filled with plastics.

Store co-owner Dave Barry received a call from the Santa Monica Fire Department around 10 p.m. on Monday that his building was not in danger. Barry was not even aware of the fire until he received the call.

Watching coverage of the fire on television, Barry saw just how close the fire was to his business.

Holding up a CD case, Barry talked about how dangerous the jewel cases can be, saying that it's like adding fuel to a fire.

"It would've been a real bummer," Barry said, alluding to the fire's proximity to his business. "I feel very bad for them (Imperial Media Services)."

THE SKY WAS RAINING ASH

The fire is believed to be Santa Monica's biggest since a blaze claimed the old Broadway Gymnasium Club on 12th Street in 2000, Ziegert said.

When firefighters arrived on the scene Monday, flames shot up from the structure, causing firefighters to battle the blaze on the "defensive," which means they had to fight the fire from the outside.

Nancy Kaufman, owner of the nearby boutique Brat, had gone home for the day when she received a call from a friend that her building was on fire. Fearing the worst, Kaufman made her way from her home on Pearl Street back to the store, seeing firefighters standing on her building as they battled the blaze.

The store remained closed on Tuesday. Kaufman was optimistic that she would reopen today.

"As I look out my window right now, there is ash falling," she said on Tuesday.

Filmmaker Todd Darling was just leaving his office, located next door to Imperial Media Services, when he smelled smoke. He went down the driveway separating the two buildings and saw a black cloud wisping from the back of the structure.

He ran to the front to see if anyone was still in the building and saw several employees of an office on the first floor leaving for the day, oblivious that there was a fire brewing. Darling dialed 9-1-1 from his cell phone, getting a recording for the California Highway Patrol. After trying a few more times, Darling said he finally got a hold of the fire department.

In the short period of time from the moment he smelled smoke to when he contacted the fire department, the fire spread rapidly, Darling said.

Just a few weeks ago, Darling moved out of the Imperial Media Services building, relocating his business just a few yards away.

"It's very disturbing to see the place I was in not have a roof," Darling said.

melodyh@smdp.com



Photos by Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

REMAINS TO BE SEEN: (Top) Charred jewel cases used to package compact discs were blamed by fire officials for contributing to the prolonged fire Monday evening, as the cases are petroleum-based. (Above) The site of Imperial Media Services and two other local businesses was a house of ashes by Tuesday morning, as firefighters continued putting out small hotspots.

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Paparazzi focuses on Premier pitch

FROM PREMIER LEAGUE PAGE 3

the same name. "This league is just full of guys looking to have fun and stay in shape, however, we have had a few bad apples that we've had to weed out who have left over anger from not making the college football team or whatever and take it out on the pitch.

"It's great to play a game and then head back to the bar."

What also sets the league apart is the level of dedication and diversity within. There are teams comprised of Americans, Brits, Mexicans, Irish lads and Scotts, Romanians, Israelis and Argentineans. There are actors, lawyers, doctors, writers and bankers.



IT'S A PRETTY SWEET THING WE'VE GOT GOING OVER HERE."

Michael Orosco
manager Los Angeles Premier League, TP United

"You can find the entire world playing here," Orosco said. "That's kind of what soccer is all about and we pride ourselves in it and our dedication to sportsmanship. Right now, we have a community of guys who love to play soccer. It has taken off from there.

"It's a pretty sweet thing we've got going over here."

GETTING THE BOOT

The league was formed in 2002 by Westside resident Amir Rofougaran and other soccer enthusiasts who wanted to play closer to home

in a league that was not as large as others, nor as dangerous. Some of the larger city leagues play on poorly-maintained fields and are overcrowded with those looking to take out their aggression on the next man. Three teams started the first season and since then it has steadily grown to 11, which seems to be the limit for now as the league has trouble finding proper places to play.

"Crossroads has been great," Orosco said. "The field is well maintained ... They've basically kept us around by allowing us to rent it."

Playing doesn't come cheap. The rent is \$175 an hour, Orosco said, and that usually means \$235 a game. Each player pays an average of \$200 a season to participate.

"We could play for cheaper in the city, but you get what you pay for," Orosco said.

With the opening of the new Airport Park and its synthetic turf soccer field, there may be room to expand the league, but Orosco and others aren't so sure.

"Adult soccer is not well liked in this city," Orosco said. "If you try to get a game going at Clover Park, you get kicked off the field. It's really tough. The only way we can do it is to play at Crossroads."

The field there is somewhat smaller than a regulation size field, but it suits the players just fine.

During a recent game involving the L.A. Vale and O'Brien's FC, sponsored by the pub of the same name, a small group of fans had gathered, mostly to check out Williams. Teammates were seen jumping up and down on the sidelines encouraging players to give it their all. One fan kept going on and on about how good the players are, many of them being former professionals and college standouts back in the day.

"The players are really good," said Lee Rogers, who called Premier, a "local blokes league."



Reagan Wheeler news@smdp.com

STAR ATTRACTION: Members of the LA Vale take on O'Brien's FC during a recent Los Angeles Premier League match at Crossroads School. The adult soccer league was formed in 2002.

The hardest part about managing the league is keeping everyone together. For the most part, attendance has been good. Occasionally a player or two from a team won't be able to make it because of work or family.

"That's why we are looking for people who are really interested in playing," he said. "This is a volunteer league. No one is making money off it so if we're going to put in this much effort, we want to make sure people are dedicated and want to play."

Dedication and the love of the game is what brought Richard Taylor back. The manager of O'Brien's suffered an injury to his knee requiring two ACL surgeries.

"That's basically why I became the man-

ager," Taylor said. "Having the injuries made me miss the game so much and then we added a few more teams that made the league even more competitive and that made me feel like I was missing [out]. So I worked hard on getting back in shape and I'm back."

Players will readily admit that they are very protective of the league and do not want to do anything to jeopardize it. That said, they don't mind a little publicity.

"Maybe it will help us get better recruits," Weaver said. "I'm not sure what it will do. Perhaps it will force us to grow. I don't know by how much but sooner or later I think that will happen."

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Builders asked to slow their roll

FROM MORATORIUM PAGE 1

Neighborhood Coalition, and the North of Montana and Ocean Park associations in calling for the moratorium.

"Meanwhile, without an update plan, development projects throughout the city are steamrolling ahead," Gordon added. "It's time now for our city to put the brakes on what is essentially unplanned development ..."

The existent general plan is more than 20 years old and a new one is at least a year away from adoption.

Developers had mixed reactions to the moratorium. Some were concerned about the effects a stoppage might have on projects already underway, while others said it would make them reluctant to purchase property in Santa Monica if they were unable to build for at least a year or more.

In a city desperately seeking affordable housing, the moratorium could exacerbate the problem, developers warned.

Representatives with the coalition said they are open to excluding certain types of development, such as single and multi-family residential housing and affordable housing, which are exempted by law from a building moratorium.

Cities do have the ability to pass a moratorium on development, but face a high burden of proof. Under the law, before a government body can adopt or extend any moratorium on development, it must find that there is a current or immediate threat to the public's health safety, or welfare.

West Hollywood recently adopted an emergency interim ordinance to halt approvals of luxury housing projects that replace sound housing stock while it revises its 1988 housing element. The practice of replacing existing market rate units with a lesser number of larger, high-priced luxury units was eroding the city's supply of middle income housing and was at odds with its own housing replacement goals and state mandates, officials there said.

"We believe that these same development pressures exist in Santa Monica, causing the loss of long-time, 'rooted' resi-

dents who are unable to find other suitably priced housing," a letter from the coalition to the Planning Commission states. "What is imperative is that we free up the staff resources to move ahead and complete the general plan revisions as soon as we can, and that we ensure that all interim development not be at odds with that update and with residents' targeted goals of scale and size for Santa Monica."

Still, moratoriums are rare, according to Eileen Fogarty, director of planning and community development in City Hall, but they can be useful tools. Fogarty feels one may be in order for Santa Monica as the Land Use and Circulation Element of the general plan is hammered out.

Residents and city staff have made progress over the last six months on the update, holding forums on placemaking and neighborhood preservation. The next step is tackling the light manufacturing district, where current projects are out of step with the desires of residents, Fogarty said.

"The real issue, to me, is not placing a moratorium on one kind of project or another, but on one area over another," Fogarty said. "We are going to see change, and in one area, there are clearly projects that are not representative of what we've heard from residents. Those projects are in the industrial area."

Typically, when a moratorium is passed, Fogarty said, projects already approved move forward and are not affected. However, the council could choose to cast a wider net.

Planning Commissioner Jay Johnson said he too is open to a moratorium on development, but only in certain areas.

"I doubt we need a moratorium in (single family residential), but certainly in the (light manufacturing district)," Johnson said. "Downtown is another area that has been really targeted for development, but I can't be too precise without first having a hearing and seeing everything in front of me."

kevinh@smdp.com



CITY OF SANTA MONICA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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

Consulting services for the selection and implementation of a homeless management information system.

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FOOTBALL

Blowing the whistle on NFL concussions

BY ANDREW SELIGMAN
AP Sports Writer

ROSEMONT, Ill. Troy Vincent recalls going back to the huddle and forgetting to look at the sideline for the play, even though it was his job to relay the signal.

He mentions the days after one concussion when he couldn't remember phone numbers and kept thinking his car was running. When he sees clips of himself knocked unconscious, he cringes.

"I'm not sure if we — athletes — know what a concussion is," said Vincent, a veteran defensive back and the president of the NFL Players Association.

The NFL is taking steps to educate players on the subject and make sure they report concussions, implementing a whistle-blower system when training camps start next month. The league hopes that will ease pressure on players to take the field with a concussion.

"It's an important element of what we're trying to accomplish here," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said Tuesday after a conference with medical personnel from every team in the league. "I have said repeatedly and will continue to say that medical decisions must override any competitive decisions.

"And if anyone feels they are being forced onto the field when they are not ready to play, we want to know about that and look into it."

Although details need to be worked out with the players union, the new system allows anyone to anonymously report when doctors are pressured to clear players or when players are pressured to play. It's one of several changes the league is making in its effort to manage concussions.

The deaths of four players in recent years have raised awareness of the issue, and the meeting was held to discuss the latest information on treating the condition.

Besides implementing the whistle-blower system, the league will require all players to undergo baseline neuropsychological testing starting this season. Rules requiring players to properly buckle their chin strap will be enforced. And a brochure will be distributed to players to help educate them and their families about concussions.

The league has been examining the issue for 14 years, and medical meetings are not unusual. What set Tuesday's conference apart was its scope and list of speakers, some of whom have been critical of the NFL.

I HAVE SAID
REPEATEDLY AND
WILL CONTINUE TO SAY
THAT MEDICAL DECISIONS
MUST OVERRIDE ANY
COMPETITIVE DECISIONS."

Roger Goodell
NFL commissioner

The heightened awareness comes amid studies indicating that players who suffered multiple concussions might be susceptible to neurological disorders later in life. And it comes amid reports suggesting brain damage may have been a factor in the deaths of former Philadelphia Eagles safety Andre Waters and former Pittsburgh Steelers offensive linemen Mike Webster, Terry Long and Justin Strzelczyk in recent years.

Waters committed suicide in November. Long killed himself in 2005. Webster suffered brain damage and was homeless before he died of heart failure in 2002. Strzelczyk crashed his pickup truck while being chased by police in 2004.

SOCCER

Hobbling Beckham faces a considerable climb in LA

BY ROBERT MILLWARD
AP Soccer Writer

LONDON After winning a Spanish League title for the first time, David Beckham hobbles toward Major League Soccer hoping to bring similar success to the Los Angeles Galaxy. Someone should tell him it won't be that easy.

Nursing an ankle injury, Beckham sat on the bench watching his Real Madrid teammates turn around a deficit to beat Mallorca 3-1 Sunday for the club's 30th league title. It was his last game after four frustrating years with the Spanish club.

Don't expect him to bring immediate MLS success to the Galaxy.

While Beckham was still celebrating in Madrid, Los Angeles ended a five-game winless run with a 3-2 victory over last place Real Salt Lake. That at least put the Galaxy three points ahead of Salt Lake, which is last in the Western Conference and hasn't won in

15 games.

It was only the second victory of the season for the Galaxy (2-4-3), playing without Landon Donovan, with the U.S. national team at the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

"We have a lot of work to do in certain areas," coach Frank Yallop said. "I'm happy all around but now we need to regroup and get ready for our game next Saturday. It's nice to have a smile on my face for a change."

Beckham will have a scan on his injured left ankle to determine exactly what's wrong with it. He is due to join the Galaxy next month, but if there is a fracture or a ligament tear, he will be out for a long spell.

"I felt it snap again," he said after the title-winning triumph at the Bernabeu Stadium. "There was a lot of pain."

Beckham picked up the injury playing for England against Estonia on June 6. Despite limping for much of the game, he set up two of England's goals.



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SURF REPORT



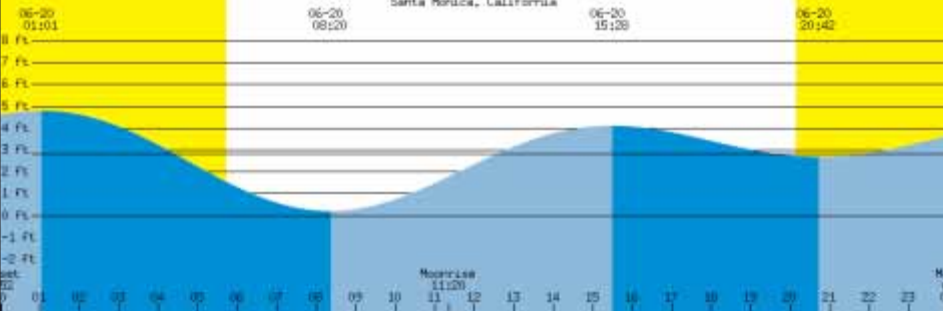
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SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)
Today the SW and NW continue their descent with waist high waves at south facing spots, smaller at west facing breaks. The tide will be quite low early to mid morning, but AM winds should be light.

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BEACH REPORT CARD



Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of

June 11, 2007

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 2

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 3

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 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)	B	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	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	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	ns	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	F	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	D	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.

Vatican has more Commandments

Unusual document advises drivers not to use their cars for sin

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press Writer

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican on Tuesday issued a “Ten Commandments” for motorists to keep them on the road to salvation, warning drivers against the sins of road rage, abuse of alcohol or even simple rudeness.

The unusual document from the Vatican’s office for migrants and itinerant people also warned that automobiles can be “an occasion of sin” — particularly when used to make a dangerous passing maneuver or when used by prostitutes and their clients.

And it suggested prayer might come in handy — performing the sign of the cross before starting off and saying the rosary along the way. The rosary was particularly well-suited to recitation by all in the car, it said, since its “rhythm and gentle repetition does not distract the driver’s attention.”

Cardinal Renato Martino, who heads the office, told a news conference the Vatican felt it necessary to address the pastoral needs of motorists because driving has become such a big part of contemporary life.

He cited World Health Organization statistics that said an estimated 1.2 million people are killed in road crashes each year and as many as 50 million are injured.

“That’s a sad reality, and at the same time, a great challenge for society and the church,” he said.

He noted that the Bible was full of people on the move, including Mary and Joseph, the parents of Jesus — and that his office is tasked with dealing with all “itinerant” people on the roads — from refugees to prostitutes, truck drivers and the homeless.

The document, “Guidelines for the Pastoral Care of the Road,” extols the benefits of driving — family outings, getting the sick to the hospital, allowing people to get to work and seeing other cultures.

But it laments a host of ills associated with automobiles: Drivers use their cars to show off; driving “provides an easy opportunity to dominate others” by speeding; and drivers can kill themselves and others if they drink, use drugs or fall asleep at the wheel.

It warned about the effects of road rage, saying driving can bring out “primitive” behavior in motorists, including “impoliteness, rude gestures, cursing, blasphemy, loss of sense of responsibility or deliberate infringement of the highway code.”

It called for drivers to obey speed limits and to exercise a host of Christian virtues: charity to fellow drivers, prudence on the roads, hope of arriving safely and justice in the event of crashes.

Martino’s initiative was sure to make headlines in Italy, where car culture is deeply entrenched — this is the home of Ferrari and Fiat — and where weekend highway deaths make the evening news on a regular basis.

The Rev. Keith Pecklers, a Jesuit professor

of liturgy at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, said Martino was clearly responding to an underreported social concern: an increase in traffic deaths in places like Italy and Spain because of speeding, as well as an increase in road rage, aggressive driving and DUI in places like the United States.

But for some, the document was at least reason to poke fun at the Vatican.

“Overtaking is a sin? Well, then I’m a murderer, I’ll turn myself in immediately,” quipped movie director Dino Risi, whose classic film “The Easy Life” — “Il Sorpasso,” or “The Overtaking” — ends with a car crash.

“I think the Vatican has lost its marbles,”

“ THE POINT CARDINAL MARTINO IS MAKING IS THAT DRIVING IS ITSELF A MORAL ISSUE. HOW WE DRIVE IMPACTS ON THE LIVES OF OURSELVES AND OTHERS.”

The Rev. Keith Pecklers, a Jesuit professor at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome

“It may be surprising for people because we’re accustomed to the church speaking out about sexual matters, capital punishment, immigration,” he said. “The point Cardinal Martino is making is that driving is itself a moral issue. How we drive impacts on the lives of ourselves and others.”

Pecklers dismissed any suggestion that Martino’s “Ten Commandments” were at all sacrilegious, saying it was “creative pedagogy” that would certainly get people’s attention. He stressed that they could never be considered binding in the way the official Ten Commandments are.

The Rev. Thomas Williams, a Rome-based theologian, concurred.

“It might be a little flippant but it’s not sacrilegious,” he said.

he added, according to the ANSA news agency.

There was no indication Pope Benedict XVI had approved of, or even read, the document. It was signed by Martino and his secretary — as is customary for lower-level documents that are routinely put out by the offices of the Vatican’s vast bureaucracy.

Martino is known as something of a loose cannon at the Vatican, and occasionally his pronouncements have gotten him into trouble. In 2003, he was rebuked by Vatican officials for telling a press conference the United States treated Saddam Hussein “like a cow” after his capture. A senior Vatican official called in reporters several days later to stress that Martino was expressing his personal opinion and not the view of the pope.

A personal night, Libra

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You have been the bearer of the flame for the past few days. Now assume a more subtle but just as effective role. Know when you need to back off and say “no.” Too much information could put you in a quandary. Ask a trusted associate to help you sort through facts and opinions. Tonight: Easy does it.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Where others stumble, you take the lead. Knowing when to pull back and try yet another approach might be key. Not everything that happens meets your expectations. Remember, Taurus, you cannot control other people. Tonight: Midweek break!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Start from square one. Listen to suggestions first, then mull them over. If you aren’t comfortable, don’t make a decision. You do know what is workable. Honor your judgment. Tonight: Homeward bound.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Reach out for others, especially if they have been MIA as of late. Another approach or different choice of words could impact a situation. Prioritize. Much demands your attention, and your immediate attention at that. Tonight: Visit with a friend.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Leo is prone to extravagance. That trait could easily emerge late in the day if you don’t rope yourself in. Understanding why you need to indulge to such an extent might be important. Honor another’s inquiry but say “no” to a risk. Tonight: Slow down and relax ... after paying bills!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Put your idea out there or take a first step. Though tumultuous feelings could come up, stay steady and on course. You will like the end results. Matters involving property or family could be a touch chaotic or extreme. Tonight: What would make you happy?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Everyone has a right to call a halt to what doesn’t work for him or her. Though you might not be sure this course of action is a good choice, make this idea an option. A call or meeting provides perhaps too much information! Tonight: A personal night.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Understanding what might be provocative but important falls on your shoulders. A meeting or get-together points to you using more energy and resources. Be sure you absolutely want to pursue that course of action. Tonight: Surround yourself with friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You know what works. Take measures to ensure that a specific path will be followed. No hemming and hawing; action is necessary. Avoid scattering in many directions and getting nothing done. Tonight: Could be late.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Understand that you don’t have to have the answers, even if you are looking for solutions. You do need to use your ingenuity to draw results that work. Someone you meet, though fun, could be troublesome to your life. Tonight: A favorite TV show.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Clearly another person has strong ideas, whether you choose to follow them or not. You don’t need to be on top of a project or plans. This person would take pleasure in running the show. Tonight: So many friends, but what is important ultimately?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Others dominate, though you certainly have a lot on your plate. Knowing when to say “enough” might be helpful, as many want you to follow through on their projects. Let others do what they want. You don’t have to join in. Tonight: Say “yes” to an invitation.

Born Today
Actress Nicole Kidman (1967)
Singer Lionel Richie (1949)
Actor Errol Flynn (1909)



Happy Birthday!
This year life takes some swift turns, and you might be surprised or even jolted. Pursue a steady, even path. Your stability will come from a sound sense of knowing who you are as well as where you are heading. Goals will keep you on the right path. Ideas often come from brainstorming with family or simply relaxing at home. Truth be told, you might have many choices coming your way. If you are single, you could meet that special person close to the new year. Even if the relationship isn’t easy, it is worthwhile. If you are attached, your bond grows as you put a higher priority on family and your domestic life.

Come on out Rosie O'Donnell pursuing 'Price Is Right' hosting gig

"The Price Is Right" needs a host, and **ROSIE O'DONNELL** is interested. Very interested.

The 45-year-old said on her blog recently that she was meeting with the "Price" people this week and that she "sure would" accept the job if they offer.

"I LOVE THE PRICE IS RIGHT," she wrote, the cap-

italization underscoring her feelings.

CBS and FremantleMedia North America, which produces the hit game show, have been seeking a replacement for the venerable Bob Barker, who retired this month after 35 years as the show's host.

Among those reportedly

in the running are Todd Newton of the E! network, Mark Steines of "Entertainment Tonight," George Hamilton and John O'Hurley. But Barker said O'Donnell is his pick.

"She knows the show," he said backstage at Friday's Daytime Emmy Awards. "There's no doubt in my mind she could do the

show. Now, whether they want a lady host, I don't know. I've never heard that discussed. As far as I know, they've only auditioned men."

CBS and FremantleMedia had no comment Tuesday.

O'Donnell's spokeswoman, Cindi Berger, was not specific about the ex-

"View" commentator's plans: "Rosie is meeting with several networks about a lot of different ideas."

"The Price Is Right" is filmed in Los Angeles. O'Donnell lives in Nyack, New York, near New York City, with her partner and their four children.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Las Vegas' hunk knows his role Duhamel has a hot career, but calls girlfriend Fergie the star



'Las Vegas' star **JOSH DUHAMEL** and his girlfriend, Fergie, are a match made in Hollywood heaven, with hot looks to match their hot careers. But Fergie, who's been heating up the pop charts, is the flashier one.

"She's a real total star," Duhamel says in the July issue of Best Life magazine, on newsstands June 26. "I'm more subdued than that. I'd rather sneak up on people. But that's what makes us work. We have similar fundamental values. We both grew up in similar families. She's just got a great soul."

Duhamel, 34, and 32-year-old Fergie (real name: Stacy Ann Ferguson), who performs with the Black Eyed Peas and as a solo act, have been dating for nearly three years. The couple have no immediate plans to marry, according to Best Life, and recently bought a house together. A big house.

"A girl like Fergie comes with stuff _ a lot of stuff," Duhamel says. "And there just wasn't enough room for the stuff."

Duhamel got his start on ABC's "All My Children" before graduating to prime time (NBC's "Las Vegas") and film ("Turistas," "Win a Date with Tad Hamilton!"). He co-stars with Shia LaBeouf and Jon Voight in the

Paramount Pictures action movie "Transformers," directed by Michael Bay, which opens July 3.

"There's still so much more I want to do," he says. "Before it was about gaining confidence. Now it's about gaining some respect for what I do. Get that, and everything you want will come along with it because people will want to work with you."

A few acts to follow: actors-turned-power players Brad Pitt, George Clooney and Leonardo DiCaprio.

"There are actors my age who are just incredible," says Duhamel, who studies the work of Matt Damon and Ryan Gosling. "They set the bar, and that's where I want to be."

The A-list competition helps sharpen his drive for success.

"It always feels like I have to prove myself to be more than what people think they see. That's part of what I'm fighting right now. People don't know what you're capable of until you actually do it."

AP

IT TAKES A SCIENTOLOGIST



JOHN TRAVOLTA says his thinking is in line with fellow Scientologist Tom Cruise, who has publicly defended the religion's stance against psychiatry and the pharmaceutical industry.

Cruise, during a famously heated debate on NBC's "Today" show in 2005, criticized Brooke Shields for taking anti-depression drugs and berated host Matt Lauer for suggesting that psychiatric treatment might help some patients.

"I don't disagree with anything Tom says," Travolta says in the July issue of W magazine, on newsstands Friday. "How would I have presented it? Maybe differently than how he did, but it doesn't matter. I still think that if you analyze most of the school shootings, it is not gun control. It is (psychotropic) drugs at the bottom of it."

"I don't want to create controversy; I just have an opinion on things, and there is nothing wrong with stating your opinion if you are asked," he continues. "Everyone wants that right, and because you are famous doesn't mean you have less of a right."

Travolta, who also talks of his habit of going to 6 or 7 in the morning and waking in the early afternoon, says being famous has little impact on how he lives his life.

Travolta, 53, portrays Ms. Edna Turnblad in "Hairspray."

AP

Gere to receive award from Philadelphia

RICHARD GERE will receive the 2007 Marian Anderson Award for his advocacy efforts on behalf of independence for Tibet and better care for HIV/AIDS patients.

"His accomplishments as an actor are only surpassed by his accomplishments as a humanitarian and as an advocate for human rights issues around

the world," Mayor John F. Street said Tuesday in announcing the award.

Gere, 57, has served as the chairman of the board of the International Campaign for Tibet and has sponsored the Dalai Lama on two trips to the United States. He also started a foundation bearing his name and a public charity, Healing the Divide, that

work to better medical care for HIV/AIDS patients.

The Marian Anderson Award is given by the city each year to an artist or performer for humanitarian efforts.

The award is named in honor of the first black singer to perform with the New York Metropolitan Opera. She served as a special envoy to the Far East

and was named a delegate to the United Nations by President Eisenhower.

Gere, a native of Philadelphia, will receive the award at a Nov. 12 gala featuring a concert by the Philadelphia Orchestra.

His screen credits include "Chicago," "Pretty Woman" and "An Officer and a Gentleman."

AP

Push for Elvis license plate hits sour note

Organizers of a campaign to get an **ELVIS PRESLEY** specialty license plate may be rallying for the King, but they're taking a cue from the Beatles' "With a Little Help From My Friends."

Elvis Presley Enterprises and the Regional Medical Center at Memphis will launch a media blitz to attract the

1,000 purchasers they need for the state to begin production of the Elvis plate.

Proceeds from sales of the plate would benefit the medical center's Elvis Presley Memorial Trauma Center.

The drive kicked off in October 2005 with organizers expecting to quickly

meet the 1,000 threshold. But the effort has fallen flat.

After the first deadline passed last summer, The Med was given a one-year extension. Hospital spokesman Kathy Stringer said last week that 750 Elvis fans and hospital supporters have signed up, leaving 250 to go before

the June 30 deadline.

"We're planning a radio blitz to try to reach the goal," she said. Radio spots already have run in Memphis, and Stringer said more spots are scheduled to run in Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga.

Specialty plates are a highly competitive business in the state.

AP

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Check theatre for movietimes

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

DOA: Dead or Alive (PG-13)
1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

Knocked Up (R)
12:55, 3:45, 6:45, 9:50

Ocean's Thirteen (PG-13)
12:45, 3:45, 6:45, 9:30

Pirates of the Caribbean:
At World's End
2:45, 6:10, 9:40

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

Hostel Part II (R)
12:45, 3:10, 5:40, 8:00, 10:25

Knocked Up (R)
12:35, 1:35, 3:30, 4:35, 6:25,
7:35, 9:30, 10:30

Ocean's Thirteen (PG-13)
12:30, 1:20, 3:15, 4:25, 6:00, 7:25,
9:00, 10:20

Pirates of the Caribbean:
At World's End (PG-13)
12:50, 4:20, 7:50
Pirates of the Caribbean: At
World's End DLP-Digital
Projection (PG-13)
3:00, 6:30, 10:00

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Brand Upon the Brain! (NR)
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:55
Golden Door
(Nuovomondo) (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

The Boss of It All
(Direktoren for det hele) (PG-13)
12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
Once (R)
12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
Paris, I Love You
(Paris, je t'aime) (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 9:55
Waitress (PG-13)
12:00, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:15

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

Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver
Surfer (PG) DLP-Digital Projection
11:00am, 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

Fantastic Four:
Rise of the Silver Surfer (PG)
12:00, 2:30, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

Mr. Brooks (R)
1:10, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20

Nancy Drew (PG)
11:50a.m., 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 9:50

Shrek the Third
DLP-Digital Projection (PG)
11:40a.m., 2:10, 4:40, 6:50, 9:40

Surf's Up (PG)
12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 38 Stories

1 Scots' caps 39 Ten — (long odds)

5 Coming-out party girls 40 Chum

9 "— Pretty" 41 Goals

11 Thus far

12 City square

13 Protractor's measure

14 Lawn starter

15 Bach creation

17 Towering Rockets center

19 Understand

20 Canary call

21 Join together

22 Where the action is

24 Singer Bon Jovi

26 Librarian's bane

29 Big truck

30 Sand-and-glass contraption

32 Cube holder

34 Author Levin

35 Kilt's kin

36 Mystery award

DOWN

1 Pixilated

2 Financially solvent

3 Grazing area

4 "— you!"

5 Taboo caution

6 Hire

7 Ran off

8 Worry

10 More frilly

11 Distinctive flavor

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Yesterday's answer

- 16 Roof topper
- 18 Average
- 21 Street urchin
- 23 Procrastinator's words
- 24 Wolf's cousin
- 25 "The Hairy Ape" writer
- 27 Ho Chi Minh City, once
- 28 Chore
- 29 Scenic view
- 30 Fine study
- 31 Stable mothers
- 33 Low card
- 37 Buck's mate

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MEGA MILLIONS 5 16 31 49 54
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: \$55M

Super LOTTO 4 24 35 36 38
Meganumber: 26
Jackpot: \$13M

Fantasy 5 3 9 12 17 34

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 9 2 4
EVENING: 2 7 0

DAILY DERRY 1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:44:21

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

Just Shoot Me: Men continue to consider that having themselves shot (nonfatally, of course) might provide them sympathy and a valid excuse to avoid some unpleasant task. In February, John Amos wanted pal Emanuel Houston to shoot him, to get his upcoming rape trial in Martins Ferry, W.Va., postponed, but Houston refused, and the two then struggled over the gun until Amos forced Houston's hand (and the gun) against Amos' stomach and pressed on Houston's finger. And in May, in Baltimore, police said two college students had a third shoot them so they could avoid an onerous fraternity hazing ritual, but then later confessed that they are National Guardsmen and had themselves shot to avoid deployment to Iraq. (A National Guard spokesman said there is actually no deployment scheduled for their unit.)

New York public-access TV personality "Glendora" has filed a lawsuit against a Cablevision employee who allegedly bad-mouthed her to sponsors, and her latest filing, detailed in May by New York Law Journal, consists of (according to Yonkers Civil Court Judge Charles Wood) 360 handwritten pages, "completely irrelevant," with "multiple copies of a 60-year-old photo of the plaintiff with Bob Hope," "sheet music," "commentary about the impressive geographic expanse of the City of Yonkers," "details of how she 'writhe' while her chauffeur shot insulin into his abdomen," "an account of a near-miss with a deer on the Taconic State Parkway," "jokes" and "threats or exhortations to 'sue judges.'" Wood barred her from further filings without his approval.

1214 University of Oxford receives its charter.
1631 The sack of Baltimore: the Irish village of Baltimore is attacked by Algerian pirates.
1685 Monmouth Rebellion: The Duke of Monmouth declares himself King of England at Bridgwater.
1756 British garrison imprisoned in the Black Hole of Calcutta.
1782 The U.S. Congress adopts the Great Seal of the United States.
1791 King Louis XVI of France and his immediate family begin the Flight to Varennes.
1819 The U.S. vessel SS Savannah arrives at Liverpool, United Kingdom. She is the first steam-propelled vessel to cross the Atlantic, but most of the journey was made under sail.

WORD UP!
rejoinder \rih-JOIN-dur\, *noun*: An answer to a reply; or, in general, an answer or reply.

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www.apartmenthunterz.com

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2bd /1Ba spac. lower unit, carpet, stove, D/W, F/P PKG \$1695/Mo
We have others From \$650.00
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* As of June 20, 2007

** Denotes an interest only loan

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Notices

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO AD-
MINISTER ESTATE OF ALFRED
RALPH PENNELL**

Case No. SP007129

To all heirs, beneficiar-
ies, creditors, contingent creditors,
and persons who may otherwise be
interested in the will or estate, or
both, of ALFRED RALPH PENNELLA PETITION FOR PRO-
BATE has been filed by Monica Ha-
ven in the Superior Court of Califor-
nia, County of LOS ANGELES.THE PETITION FOR
PRO-BATE requests that Monica Ha-
ven be appointed as Special Ad-
ministrator with General Powers to
administer the estate of the de-
cent.THE PETITION requests
authority to administer the estate
under the Independent
Administration of Estates Act. (This
authority will allow the personal rep-
resentative to take many actions
without obtaining court approval.
Before taking certain very important
actions, however, the personal rep-
resentative will be required to give
notice to interested persons unless
they have waived notice or con-
sented to the proposed action.) The
independent administration authority
will be granted unless an interested
person files an objection to the peti-
tion and shows good cause why the
court should not grant the authority.A HEARING on the peti-
tion will be held on July 13, 2007 at
9:15 AM in Dept. No. R located at
1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA
90401.IF YOU OBJECT to the
granting of the petition, you should
appear at the hearing and state your
objections or file written objections
with the court before the hearing.
Your appearance may be in person or
by your attorney.IF YOU ARE A CREDI-
TOR or a contingent creditor of the
deceased, you must file your claim
with the court and mail a copy to the
personal representative appointed by
the court within four months from
the date of first issuance of letters
as provided in Probate Code section
9100. The time for filing claims will
not expire before four months from
the hearing date noticed above.YOU MAY EXAMINE the
file kept by the court. If you are a
per-son interested in the estate, you
may file with the court a Request for
Special Notice (form DE-154) of the
filing of an inventory and ap-praisal
of estate assets or of any petition or
account as provided in Probate Code
section 1250. A Request for Special
Notice form is available from the
court clerk.Attorney for petitioner:
EDWARD M. BURGH ESQ
SBN 134295
BURGH BALIAN & BERGSTEIN LLP
15250 VENTURA BLVD
STE 1200
SHERMAN OAKS CA 91403
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN777640 PENNELL Jun 13,14,20,
2007

Notices

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO AD-
MINISTER ESTATE OF ALFRED
RALPH PENNELL**

Case No. SP007129

To all heirs, beneficiar-
ies, creditors, contingent creditors,
and persons who may otherwise be
interested in the will or estate, or
both, of ALFRED RALPH PENNELLA PETITION FOR PRO-
BATE has been filed by Monica Ha-
ven in the Superior Court of Califor-
nia, County of LOS ANGELES.THE PETITION FOR
PRO-BATE requests that Monica Ha-
ven be appointed as personal
representative to administer the es-
tate of the decedent.THE PETITION requests
the decedent's will and codicils, if
any, be admitted to probate. The will
and any codicils are available for ex-
amination in the file kept by the
court.A HEARING on the peti-
tion will be held on July 13, 2007 at
9:15 AM in Dept. No. K located at
1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA
90401.IF YOU OBJECT to the
grant-ing of the petition, you should
ap-pear at the hearing and state your
objections or file written objections
with the court before the hearing.
Your appearance may be in person or
by your attorney.IF YOU ARE A CREDI-
TOR or a contingent creditor of the
deceased, you must file your claim
with the court and mail a copy to the
personal representative appointed by
the court within four months from
the date of first issuance of letters
as provided in Probate Code section
9100. The time for filing claims will
not expire before four months from
the hearing date noticed above.YOU MAY EXAMINE the
file kept by the court. If you are a
per-son interested in the estate, you
may file with the court a Request for
Special Notice (form DE-154) of the
filing of an inventory and ap-praisal
of estate assets or of any petition or
account as provided in Probate Code
section 1250. A Request for Special
Notice form is available from the
court clerk.Attorney for petitioner:
EDWARD M. BURGH ESQ
SBN 134295
BURGH BALIAN & BERGSTEIN LLP
15250 VENTURA BLVD
STE 1200
SHERMAN OAKS CA 91403
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN777644 PENNELL Jun 13,14,20,
2007**NOTICE OF PETITION TO AD-
MINISTER ESTATE OF:
HERBERT HYMANS
CASE NO. BP104997**To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors,
contingent creditors, and persons
who may otherwise be interested in
the WILL or estate, or both of HER-
BERT HYMANS.A PETITION FOR PROBATE has
been filed by RICHARD A. STONE in
the Superior Court of California,
County of LOS ANGELES.THE PETITION FOR PROBATE re-
quests that RICHARD A. STONE be
appointed as personal representative
to administer the estate of the de-
cedent.THE PETITION requests the de-
cedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be
admitted to probate. The WILL and
any codicils are available for exami-
nation in the file kept by the court.THE PETITION requests authority to
administer the estate under the In-
dependent Administration of Estates
Act. (This authority will allow the
personal representative to take many
actions without obtaining court ap-
proval. Before taking certain very im-
portant actions, however, the per-
sonal representative will be required
to give notice to interested persons
unless they have waived notice or
consented to the proposed action.) The
independent administration
authority will be granted unless an
interested person files an objection
to the petition and shows good cause
why the court should not grant the
authority.A HEARING on the petition will be
held on 07/18/07 at 8:30AM in
Dept. 5 located at 111 N. HILL ST.,
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of
the petition, you should appear at
the hearing and state your objections
or file written objections with the
court before the hearing. Your ap-

Notices

pearance may be in person or by
your attorney.IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a con-
tingent creditor of the deceased, you
must file your claim with the court
and mail a copy to the personal rep-
resentative appointed by the court
within four months from the date of
first issuance of letters as provided
in Probate Code section 9100. The
time for filing claims will not expire
before four months from the hearing
date noticed above.YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by
the court. If you are a person inter-
ested in the estate, you may file with
the court a Request for Special No-
tice (form DE-154) of the filing of
an inventory and appraisal of estate
assets or of any petition or account
as provided in Probate Code Section
1250. A Request for Special Notice
form is available from the court
clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner

RICHARD A. STONE
LAW OFF. OF RICHARD A. STONE
433 N. CAMDEN DR., #888
BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210
6/19, 6/20, 6/26/07
CNS-1151178#
SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS**NOTICE OF PETITION TO AD-
MINISTER ESTATE OF:
DARRELL ANTHONY RUS-
SELL, II**

CASE NO. SP007174

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors,
contingent creditors, and persons
who may otherwise be interested in
the WILL or estate, or both of DAR-
RELL ANTHONY RUSSELL, II.A PETITION FOR PROBATE has
been filed by ELEANOR RUSSELL in
the Superior Court of California,
County of LOS ANGELES.THE PETITION FOR PROBATE re-
quests that ELEANOR RUSSELL be
appointed as personal representative
to administer the estate of the de-
cedent.THE PETITION requests the de-
cedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be
admitted to probate. The WILL and
any codicils are available for exami-
nation in the file kept by the court.THE PETITION requests authority to
administer the estate under the In-
dependent Administration of Estates
Act. (This authority will allow the
personal representative to take many
actions without obtaining court ap-
proval. Before taking certain very im-
portant actions, however, the per-
sonal representative will be required
to give notice to interested persons
unless they have waived notice or
consented to the proposed action.) The
independent administration
authority will be granted unless an
interested person files an objection
to the petition and shows good cause
why the court should not grant the
authority.A HEARING on the petition will be
held on 07/27/07 at 9:15AM in
Dept. R located at 1725 Main St.,
Santa Monica, CA 90401IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of
the petition, you should appear at
the hearing and state your objections
or file written objections with the
court before the hearing. Your ap-
pearance may be in person or by
your attorney.IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a con-
tingent creditor of the deceased, you
must file your claim with the court
and mail a copy to the personal rep-
resentative appointed by the court
within four months from the date of
first issuance of letters as provided
in Probate Code section 9100. The
time for filing claims will not expire
before four months from the hearing
date noticed above.YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by
the court. If you are a person inter-
ested in the estate, you may file with
the court a Request for Special No-
tice (form DE-154) of the filing of
an inventory and appraisal of estate
assets or of any petition or account
as provided in Probate Code Section
1250. A Request for Special Notice
form is available from the court
clerk.

Attorney for Petitioner

BRIAN D. JACOBS
LaFLAM LAW, LLP
5000 BIRCH ST., #9400
NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660
6/19, 6/20, 6/26/07
CNS-1151982#
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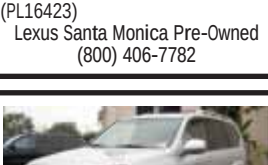
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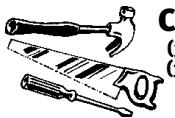
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