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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 198

Santa Monica Daily Press



UPGRADES MATTER
SEE PAGE 6

We have you covered

THE **HERE COMES THE HEAT** ISSUE

Brokers address multiple vacancies

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN As vacancies continue popping up along commercial districts in Santa Monica, city officials are looking for ways to help landlords and tenants weather the financial storm.

City Hall on Tuesday gathered a crowd of commercial brokers, landlords and representatives of various Business Improvement Districts for a roundtable discussion about leasing strategies and how tenants and property owners can work out a situation that would allow the former to remain.

"We have been hearing from all parts of the city … that we have a lot of vacancies

SEE **VACANCIES** PAGE 8

Pier concert series returns for 25th year

BY NATALIE JARVEY
Special to the Daily Press

SM PIER Get your dancing shoes on because the Santa Monica Pier's Twilight Dance Series is back for its 25th year.

A summer tradition, concerts begin July 2 and run every Thursday night from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. through September.

This summer's series presents a variety of eclectic sounds from around the world, including music icon Joan Baez and African pop giants Thomas Mapfumo and the Blacks Unlimited. Punk rock pioneer Patti Smith

SEE **SERIES** PAGE 9



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

EXTRA, EXTRA! **The owner of the Santa Monica Observer, a weekly newspaper, is the subject of a civil lawsuit filed by the City Attorney's Office, which claims the owner engaged in false advertising and was operating a business without the proper license.**

Local newspaper hit with false advertising claims

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Newspapers might hold themselves out as disseminators of the truth but one local publication is in hot water for allegedly engaging in false advertising.

The City Attorney's Office on Tuesday announced it filed an unlawful business practices lawsuit against David Ganezer, the publisher of the Santa Monica Observer, accusing him of making deceitful statements through the newspaper and Web site, including that it is authorized to post legal notices and that his other businesses can offer legal services.

The Observer is not an adjudicated publication and Ganezer was disbarred from practicing law in California in 2001.

Ganezer did not respond to a call seeking comment. His corporations include the Santa Monica Media Company LLC, Ivory Towers LDA LLC and the SM Outlook, LLC.

In a complaint filed in Los Angeles Superior Court on June 8, Deputy City Attorney Gary Rhoades stated the Observer claims in its print edition that it is a newspaper of general circulation in Santa Monica and Los Angeles County, which is required to receive authority to publish legal notices, citing a court case.

But Rhoades alleges that the adjudication in the referenced court case was not granted to Ganezer but instead for a corporation of a newspaper that no longer exists.

The June 15-21 edition of the Observer has pages and pages of DBAs and other legal notices, including for trustee sales.

Rhoades said the lawsuit will not cover the issue of the DBAs and whether those that have been published are legally binding since the newspaper is allegedly not

SEE **PAPER** PAGE 10


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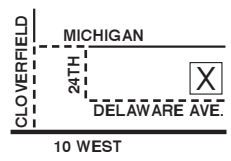
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WHAT'S UP
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OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Ballroom by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Come for a free lesson at 7 p.m., and stick around after for more dancing for $10. Learn how to waltz, fox-trot, swing and hustle by request. Partners are not required. Parking is available next door. Call (310) 487-0911 for more information.

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Comfort food
Cézanne at Le Merigot Beach Hotel
1740 Ocean Ave.
Cozy up with Cézanne restaurant and Chef Desi Szonntagh, who has created a new "comfort foods menu" full of French specialties. Comfort Food Nights occur every Wednesday and Thursday with weekly rotating specials. Cézanne promises that you'll leave feeling warm, cozy and full. Call (310) 395-9700 to make a reservation.

Cool Earth
Airport Park
Bundy Drive & Airport Park
Continue the spirit of Earth Day with a temporary art exhibition, "Cool Globes: Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet." This is part of a larger exhibition in Chicago's Exposition Park. The globes will be on display through the end of July.

Story time
Montana Ave. Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave., 11:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.
Join the Santa Monica Library for preschool story time. The event is for children 3 to 5 years old and occurs every Thursday.

What's new?
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1:00 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Discuss the week's key news stories at home and abroad in a free-wheeling environment. Moderator Jack Nordhaus is a former college history professor and will talk about everything from politics to society and culture. Call (310) 450-0443 for more information.

Prose and poetry
Novel Cafe
212 Pier Ave., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Come read, listen and enjoy free open prose and poetry readings every Thursday. Everyone and all genres are welcome, including poetry, fiction and non-fiction, as long as there is a 1,000 word limit per reader. Visit fourthmagazine.com/weeklyreadings.php or call (310) 396-8566 for more information.

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.

EPA plans hearings on DDT deposit

NOAKI SCHWARTZ
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The Environmental Protection Agency plans to hold the first of several public hearings on a proposal to deal with a vast, long-neglected deposit of the pesticide DDT on the ocean floor off Southern California's Palos Verdes Peninsula.

The estimated $36 million proposal, to be discussed Tuesday, would place a cap of sand over the most contaminated part of the 17-square-mile area declared a Superfund site in 1996.

Environmentalists said they were pleased to see work might finally begin in 2011 on the polluted site.

"I think it's a huge development," said Mark Gold, the executive director of the watchdog group Heal the Bay who has been involved with the issue for two decades.

"We have the worst DDT hotspot in the entire U.S.," he said. "That we're still stuck with this horrible legacy decades later is awful."

From 1947 to 1971, the Montrose Chemical Corp. released tons of the banned pesticide and 10 tons of toxic PCBs into Los Angeles sewers, which then emptied into the Pacific Ocean.

The pesticide manufacturing process also contaminated the groundwater and surface soil at the Montrose plant property several miles inland.

The EPA estimates that over 1,700 tons of DDT were discharged between the late 1950s and early 1970s, when the poison was finally banned. Several other industries also discharged PCBs into the sewer system.

In 2000, the now-defunct Montrose firm and two other chemical companies agreed to pay a total of $73 million to help restore the ocean environment off Palos Verdes, north of Long Beach.



RUNS IN THE FAMILY

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

SMPD Sgt. Larry Horn pins his son, Jeff Horn, 27, with his new SMPD badge as police Chief Tim Jackman looks on at City Hall on Tuesday.

REAL ESTATE

Western home sales on the rise

ALEX VEIGA
AP Real Estate Writer

LOS ANGELES Home sales in the Western region of the country posted a 9 percent annual increase in May as homebuyers jumped on low interest rates and falling prices, according to two reports released Tuesday.

Foreclosures and other distressed sales continued to drag down the median home sales price in the West. It tumbled more than 30 percent from May of last year to $197,700 — the biggest drop in any region. That helped pull the national median down nearly 17 percent to $173,000, the National Association of Realtors said.

Nationally, sales rose slightly from April to May, but were roughly 7 percent below year-ago levels, without adjusting for seasonal factors.

Home sales in the West have posted annual increases every month going back to at least last summer, when many first-time homebuyers and investors began snapping up sharply discounted bank-owned properties in Arizona, Nevada and California.

The foreclosure rush has helped whittle down the number of homes on the market in metros like Los Angeles and Las Vegas, where inventory has plunged by roughly half since May 2008, according to The Associated Press-Re/Max Monthly Housing Report, released Tuesday

The trend suggests select markets could be turning around, but the recent rise in interest rates and the lingering economic dark clouds

SEE HOUSING PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Happier in the long run

Editor:

Opinion columnist Sarah Mosko apparently has a large estate that she has planted with a variety of vegetation to attract birds, bees and butterflies ("Creating a refuge one backyard at a time," June 11). This is a laudable accomplishment and one easily imitated by gardeners with much smaller lots. There is an abundance of information online and available through local nurseries that will assist someone in transforming a yard from a dull and expensive to maintain grass patch to a colorful, constantly blooming garden spot that attracts all sorts of wildlife.

Readers should realize that paying the National Wildlife Federation to obtain a certificate recognizing their gardening skills is little more than a stealth effort by the NWF to garner more donations. If you wish to donate, do so, but believe me, if you carefully design your water-wise garden and follow through with the transformation, your neighbors will shower you with accolades that far surpass any certificate or plaque you might get through the mail.

As far as feeding and encouraging the local squirrel population goes, remember that squirrels are rodents – basically just rats with bushy tails and good press agents. Feeding them will encourage them to hang around your yard. You may enjoy their "antics" and wish to share the bounty of your fruit trees with them, but your neighbors may not be so happy when these rodents destroy their carefully tended crop by taking a bite or two from each fruit and then dropping it on the ground. In the past, local animal control agencies made squirrel traps available to control the burgeoning population. Lately, local bleeding heart animal lovers have largely stopped this practice and the result has been a squirrel population explosion. Putting out food for squirrels only encourages them to breed more. Squirrels, no matter how cute they appear to be, are just rodents. When squirrels can find food and flourish, their rat brothers and sisters move in right behind.

Stick with attracting birds, bees and butterflies. You'll be much happier in the long run.

John Noot
Venice

Enough is enough

Editor:

Michael Dubin suggests that, as "food for thought" Santa Monicans consider tacking on yet another special property tax assessment, and a significant one at that, somewhere in the range of $1,175 ("By comparison," page 3, June 18).

Santa Monica homeowners now pay no less than five special assessment taxes on their property tax bill for stormwater fees, clean beaches, unified schools, community college, and the school bond.

"Food for thought?" Well, how about letting me be able to put food on the table to feed my family! We're already assessed enough, thank you.

Saul Cohen
Santa Monica

Money talks

Editor:

As Santa Monica approaches permanent gridlock, it is satisfying to read Bill Bauer's comments on our City Council's cynical short sightedness ("Development coasts on campaign contributions," page 4, June 22). The massive building surge in our city will surely bring us to "Manhattan by the sea." Measure T was a valiant attempt to slow down such rampant growth.

Sadly, big money speaks.

Ruth Rosen
Santa Monica



Going Postal

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

Live long and prosper, John Connor: Part 2

LAST WEEK I DEMONSTRATED IN MY illiberal "Star Trek" movie review that only conservatives exist as the movers, shakers and rocket ship makers of the future. This week I will regale you with my conservative re-imagineering of "Terminator: Salvation."

A number of points are evidently perforce to my argument. Popular uprisings against an entrenched and implacable foe is not only the stuff of future conservative legends but is also written in the historical blood of our founding fathers. Liberal nebbishes are unfamiliar with such methods of direct action because "revolutions" frequently employ the use of firearms. Unlike the founding fathers who formed their own "Resistance" against the depredations of English tyrants, many post modern metro-sexual Obama-bots are merely self-emasculating gun control advocates whose nearest fantasy association with a firearm is no more relevant than a Wii video game.

"There is no fate but what we make"

— John Connor, leader of the Resistance

Today, Iranians are remaking their fate. Is it an inconvenient truth that the monolithic Islamic theocracy of Iran is shooting and killing its own people wholesale with the intent of stifling what our own Teleprompter-in-Chief has doofusly coined as a "robust debate?" Is it another inconvenient truth that while it's blatantly obvious President Obama doesn't want to upset the mullahs or his man-crush, President Ahmadinnerjacket, would it be too much to ask our Dear Leader to take a principled stand for civil and human rights? I'm sure the U.S. gay and lesbian community can vouchsafe for president Obama's commitment to their own Resistance against "Prop. H8" as an example of predictably precedent behavior.

President Obama has blatantly missed his "John Connor opportunity," formerly known as the "3 a.m. moment," with respect to the new Iranian Revolution 2.0. Rather than cowboy up as the future "Leader of the Resistance," or more historically as "Leader of the Free World," Obama has illustrated the consummate impotence of his feckless community-organizer based bipolar belief system while France [FRANCE?!] takes the moral high ground in the international condemnation of Basij thuggery. But then again such is the cold metallic political calculus of ethical cowardice. A machine has no morality. Just ask Obama's plutoed programmer and mentor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright. Maybe Hillary should tweet the president that the tussle in Tehran isn't just another hopey-changey post-Lakers game street brawl.

Let's not forget that on May 18, 2008, candidate Barack Hussein Obama claimed that Iran was a "tiny country" (of 66 million) and "posed no threat" (see nuclear capability) yet President Barack Hussein Obama now diminishes American prestige while endangering the very Muslim kinship that he scatologically downloads for his own browser capability.

For now, the Iranian mullah-cratic "Machines" are still in charge. In the meantime our newbie president is busily playing golf, doing cozy dinner dates with the little missus and purchasing capsized auto companies with your tax dollars while installing foreign policy wankware to see which Persian performance platform has a meltdown first. Is it just me or is the president operating within the artificial intelligence of his own reality distortion field? If our Blackberry president started twittering to catch up on world events and stop googling himself, he might acquire some new voters from Iran for his 2012 re-election rather than have his corrupto-bots from ACORN manufacture them from the U.S. Census listservs of pro-football player rosters, Black Panther pizza delivery boys and graveyard headstones.

After all, it's said that the revolution would be televised on ABC right after the Obamacare infomercial so, stay tuned boys and girls!

I seem to recall that Ron Reagan came up swinging from the deck for Poland during Lech Walesa's Solidarity movement in '81 while short-circuiting Leonid Brezhnev's evil empire mainframe which eventually resulted in the cascade system failure of the USSR. And please note that Reagan didn't bother saying "pretty please," either, when suggesting to Mr. Gorbachev the dismantling of a particularly onerous wall. Please further note that Reagan also appeared wholly unconcerned that his commentary was not cluster-funk buzzword-compliant either.

Conservatives know what's right, do it and then worry about the popularity polls later. Voting "nay" as a bloc on the Porkzilla Act immediately leaps to memory.

Obama's robo-sock puppet, Joe Biden, warned us that Obama would be challenged on the world stage during the first six months of his tenure. Unfortunately, our president has gotten rolled like an empty beer can under the wheels of a Skynet dump truck if his G20 and Cairo trips have been any benchmark of success. Hopefully, though, our coin-operated chief executive might someday put on his presidential man panties, pick up his teleprompter and start swatting mullahs like he swats flies. It's so easy even a Republican can do it.

STEVE BREEN is waiting for Judgement Day in 2012 when the humans take back the White House from the machines and is still "the best looking mailman in the U.S. Post Office". He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR
EMAIL TO: EDITOR@SMDP.COM OR FAX TO (310) 576-9913
Santa Monica Daily Press
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PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Taylor Van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Ryan Hyatt, Steve Breen, Elizabeth Brown, Merv Hecht, Ron Scott Smith Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp Mariel Howsepian, Cynthia Citron, Amanda Cushman, Steve Parker and Phyllis Chavez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

NEWS INTERNS
Catherine Cain, Natalie Jarvey, Emma Trotter
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Ray Solano, Benjamin Brayfied
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Grace Wang
gracew@smdp.com

Drew Swadling
drews@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Robert Summa
summa@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
A newspaper with issues

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

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Watching young people shine

I'M AN OUTSTANDING UNCLE. FROM MY recent-college-graduate niece (I'm so proud of you, Nyomi!) to the 2-year-old nephew just learning the basics — and the 10 in between — I've had decades of practice being a stand-in for this occasionally dirty dozen. I love working and developing friendships with youth and teens because young people are cool and because there is nothing like the fun I have when I'm around them. I've met some amazing kids in Santa Monica this past year and now that school is out and summer is here, using this space to recognize how incredible they are is the least I can do for them after all they've done for me.

I've never been one to miss a chance to see young people shine, so on Father's Day, I spent the afternoon at the fourth Santa Monica Teen Film Festival. The City Hall-sponsored, City Hall-produced event shows the work of filmmakers between the ages of 12 and 18 and featured 21 films between 30 seconds and 30 minutes in length screened over two days. The young directors didn't disappoint in either the quality or variety of their work — including moving documentaries, compelling live action films, and some new and innovative takes on animation and music video. Here are some of the festival's stars and the advice they got from their dads:

Spencer Capiello: "The Rubik's Cube Thing."

A student at New Roads Middle School who got his start "in video class with Michelle," Spencer says the best advice he got from his dad (who was listening intently while we talked) was "everything."

Jordan Howard: "A Day in the Life."

Jordan attends Environmental Charter High School in Lawndale and made this film as a part of an afterschool program. She says her dad is "now a reformed skeptic" when it comes to environmentalism. She won Sunday's Audience Choice Award.

Zoe Malecki: "Frank & Geraldine Take On the Machine" & "Zap."

A prolific filmmaker since she realized "people actually make these things," this wasn't her first film festival — though it will be her last SMTFF because she'll be past the age limit. "Check the spelling" was her dad's advice. She won second place Best Animation.

Evan Berger: "Squabble."

Evan's playful claymation Scrabble game between an angel and a devil won first place Best Animation and second place Best of the Festival. His dad "just clapped a lot for me."

Jessica Deutchman: "Meet the Tindells."

A previous winner at the California Student Media Festival, her dad told her that "every detail matters." She won second place Best Documentary.

Mackenzie Evans: "Imagination."

Second place Best Live Action winner, Mackenzie's story about two boys playing with a stick turns into a four minute green-screen adventure partly thanks to her dad's advice to "give people pleasing shots to look at."

J. David Ruby: "The Pool."

A story about a little girl, her new house, and a magic pool is ironic subject matter given his dad's advice to "think practically." David won first place Best Live Action.

Ayana Cheadle: "Yoshidori."

Great camera work, anime-style drawing and Flash animation come together to win Ayana the Santa Monica Budding Filmmaker Award (given to the most promising young filmmaker residing in Santa Monica). What advice did she get from her Academy Award-nominated dad, Don Cheadle? "None," she said. Sitting nearby and doing his best to stay out of it he wondered, "right under the bus, huh?" Like a good daughter, she said she was kidding and that he gave her lots of support and feedback.

The festival was made possible by the hard work of four people who deserve to be recognized: Justin Yoffe and Naomi Okuyama from the Miles Playhouse & Cultural Affairs, Carla Fantozzi of Human Services and the Virginia Avenue Park Teen Center, and Erica Cuyugan, the Young Adult librarian at the Main Santa Monica Public Library. Excellent job!

I also have to show some love to the graduating seniors in the Santa Monica delegation to the California Model Legislature & Court; a program in which a few thousand high school students from around the state practice being the legislators, judges, lawyers, lobbyists, and media who work in and around Sacramento (they're also most likely to actually solve our budget problems). These young people are the cream of the crop, they're super-smart, and the Santa Monica delegation is the best of the bunch. You're all rock stars and you know it! You've worked hard to get to where you are, but remember this is just the beginning. Please be smart and be safe this summer so you can go on to places like Berkeley, S.F. State, Michigan, and NYU — and make it happen.

I couldn't be prouder of all of you if I was your … well, you know.

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider living in Santa Monica who will be at the West Side Eclectic tonight discussing the response to last week's column on Bill Maher's op/ed. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

The Q Line

Growing support

A movement is afoot in Santa Monica to turn a vacant lot in the Pico Neighborhood into a community garden. Residents are calling on city officials to dig deep and purchase the parcel.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Should the city make the move and buy the property or is the time just not right?

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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Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Effective game plan moves units

WHAT DO A PATIO, A SUCCESSFUL business and a skyscraper have in common? A plan.

All three needed to start here — either as a set of plans, a business plan or engineering plans, but a plan was involved. In today's real estate market many owners fail to make plans when units go vacant, simply scrambling to get the unit back on the market, but this is unnecessary. With a proper course of action, an apartment owner can efficiently and effectively do a cost effective renovation and possibly increase the rent of the unit. The five basic things an owner can do to improve the appearance of an apartment are paint, flooring, new fixtures, hardware and lighting.

When you first walk into a unit, you will notice if the place has been painted. Guess what, so will potential tenants. Paint is one of the most cost effective ways to improve an apartment. People notice painted units and many apartments on today's rental market have been newly painted. An owner should use a simple base white for all walls. Just remember to use the right type of paint in kitchens and bathrooms — ideally something mold resistant.

Nice flooring will catch the eye of any renter and nowadays an owner does not have to pay a fortune for high quality flooring. Older properties sometimes have hardwood flooring underneath carpet, which can be refinished for a few thousand dollars depending on the damage to the hardwood. Nevertheless, if a unit lacks hardwood and the existing flooring cannot be cleaned or saved, there are many options available today. Any home improvement center will have hardwood, tile or laminate that can be installed.

There are also new products that are made of laminates with adhesive backs that simply stick on multiple types of existing flooring and cost approximately $1 per square foot. The benefit to this type of flooring is that an owner can put it down themselves and save hundreds or even thousands of dollars in installation fees.

People notice new fixtures and many of them are not expensive to purchase or install. In today's competitive home improvement market, an owner can purchase both a high quality bathroom sink and toilet for under $300 each. Along with new laminate flooring for $50 in a 50-square-foot bathroom, a new lighting fixture for $75 and reglazing the tub for $200. A bathroom can thus be dramatically transformed for under $650.

Some owners replace kitchen cabinets, while others simply replace the front doors, but few actually just change the hardware on the cabinets. First, let me say that some kitchen cabinets should be replaced. However, if kitchen cabinets are in good condition, function correctly and match the kitchen, why replace them when all that is needed to "spruce" up the appearance is new hardware? Cabinet doorknobs are approximately $1 apiece, but can add a needed accent to a vanilla kitchen. Also, new hardware on bedroom doors is a nice touch.

WHEN YOU FIRST WALK INTO A UNIT, YOU WILL NOTICE IF THE PLACE HAS BEEN PAINTED. GUESS WHAT, SO WILL POTENTIAL TENANTS. PAINT IS ONE OF THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE WAYS TO IMPROVE AN APARTMENT.

I have gotten in disputes with friends over this last subject because it is one of personal taste: lighting. There is no doubt that the right lighting makes a place a feel warm and inviting, while the wrong lighting makes it feel, well, awful. But lighting fixtures run the gamut from boring to eclectic.

When replacing lighting in an apartment, go for something functional and neutral. If placing ceiling fans in bedrooms, pick white. Lighting in kitchens should also be simple. A qualified renter may pass on your unit if you have a hideous light in the living room, which only you like. Do not let your own taste get in the way of renting a unit that you do not live in.

With a clear plan, turning over a unit can go from a stressful experience to a pleasant practice. An owner should remember that they are in competition with other units on the marketplace, but most people just want to live in a nice, clean apartment. Following the five basic improvements of paint, flooring, new fixtures, hardware and lighting are a good first step in turning over any apartment.

MIKE HEAYN is a Commercial Loan Consultant, specializing in Multi-Family Lending. He can be reached at (310) 428-1342 or e-mailed at maheayn@yahoo.com.

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LABOR

MySpace to cut 300 positions, close offices

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES Social-networking site MySpace said Tuesday it plans to cut 300 jobs, or two-thirds of its overseas work force, in an effort to rein in costs and focus on countries where it has many users and better business opportunities.

The move comes a week after the News Corp. unit said it would cut 420 jobs in the U.S., or nearly 30 percent of its domestic work force. Combined, the cuts will reduce MySpace's employee base by nearly 40 percent to about 1,150.

"Our goal to tap into as many international markets as possible drove us to create too many offices around the globe, and with them came inefficiencies," Chief Executive Owen Van Natta, a former executive at rival Facebook, said in a memo sent to employees Tuesday.

Van Natta, 39, started in his new job in April with a mandate to revitalize the site, which has seen its advertising revenues fall and its user growth stagnate. Critics have said its features have become outdated even as it ramped up a music service with the major recording labels last fall.

MySpace said it would close at least four of its 15 overseas offices, while focusing on London, Berlin and Sydney as the main regional hubs. MySpace has 34 localized versions in 28 countries.

MySpace China and MySpace Japan, a joint venture with Japanese Internet company Softbank Corp., would not be affected by the plan, but the company is reviewing its offices in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, France, India, Italy, Mexico, Russia, Sweden, and Spain.

The company has been trying to trim its payroll, bringing its staffing level more in line with its more popular rival, Facebook.

As of May, Facebook said it had about 850 employees worldwide, the vast majority in the United States. While it is available in nearly 100 languages — largely translated for free by its users — Facebook has only five overseas offices, in Paris, London, Dublin, Toronto and Sydney.

Before the latest cuts, MySpace employed nearly 1,900 worldwide.

Recent data from tracking firm comScore shows Facebook has caught up with MySpace in monthly U.S. visitors for the first time, with about 70 million each.

MySpace has had difficulty growing its user base, which stands at about 125 million worldwide.

Meanwhile Facebook has said that its usage has doubled to more than 200 million in less than a year.

While Facebook grew quickly overseas because of its one-size-fits-all design and user-generated translations, MySpace's focus on music and culture and the creation of individual country sites may have slowed it down, said Charlene Li, the founder of consulting firm Altimeter Group.

"It's hard to expand internationally," Li said. "It's a very cultural approach. What plays in the U.S. won't necessarily play in other countries."

HEALTH CARE

Obama takes on insurers over health plan

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama on Tuesday squared off with the insurance lobby over industry charges that a government health plan he backs would dismantle the employer coverage Americans have relied on for a half-century and overtake the system.

The harsh exchange came after months of polite White House photo-ops at which the administration and insurers emphasized their search for common ground. It happened just when Congress seems to be floundering in its attempt to move sweeping legislation embodying Obama's top domestic priority, although leading lawmakers say they remain confident.

"If private insurers say that the marketplace provides the best quality health care ... then why is it that the government, which they say can't run anything, suddenly is going to drive them out of business?" Obama said in response to a question at a White House news conference.

"That's not logical," he scoffed, responding to an industry warning that government competition would destabilize the employer system that now covers more than 160 million people.

Obama made his comments as officials disclosed that key Senate Democrats had whittled more than $400 billion off the cost of a health care plan that carried a $1.6 trillion price tag last week. The new cost is below $1.2 trillion, but still above the informal target lawmakers have set. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they were not authorized to disclose details of the closed-door talks.

Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., told reporters the reductions were achieved by lowering subsidies designed to make insurance affordable for those who lack it, as well as other changes.

Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, told reporters he was very close to his $1 trillion target, and predicted, "we'll make it." Baucus has been struggling to engineer a bipartisan compromise on Obama's health care priorities.

Late Tuesday, Baucus emerged from a meeting with White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and said the administration still wanted a deal that could get Republican support. Emanuel met in the Capitol with Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and other senators working on health care amid talk that Democrats may be getting ready to go it alone on health care.

"Rahm said he still wants a bipartisan plan," Baucus told reporters after the meeting.

Obama's comments earlier in the day went to the heart of one of the most controversial issues in health care, the demand by many Democrats for a government-sponsored health insurance that could compete with private plans.

Individuals and small businesses would get to pick either the public plan or a private one through a new kind of insurance purchasing pool called an exchange. Eventually, the exchanges could be opened to large companies as well.

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NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

Santa Monica Palisades Bluffs Stabilization Project
Federal Aid Project No. HP21L - 5107 (017)
SP1847

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, **not later than 2:30 p.m. on July 15, 2009**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Contract Documents.

A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2009 at 10:30 A.M. in the Civil Engineering & Architecture Division located at 1437 4th Street, Suite 300. A job walk will be conducted immediately after the meeting.

ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE: $3,500,000 to 4,000,000
CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS: 270
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,500 PER DAY
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $500 PER DAY

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the Civil Engineering and Architecture website at: http://www.smgov.net/engineering/projects/online_bidding.htm. Bidding Documents may also be examined at the Civil Engineering and Architecture counter located at Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica. Copies of the Bidding Documents are also available for a copying cost authorized by applicable law. Additional information may be obtained on the City's website at www.smgov.net/engineering/index.asp or by calling (310) 458-8721. The Contractor is required to have a Class **A** license at the time of bid submission.

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

IMPORTANT SPECIAL NOTICE

Bidders are advised that, as required by federal law, the City of Santa Monica is implementing new Disadvantaged Business Enterprise requirements for Underutilized Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (UDBE). Please refer to Section 2-1.02 titled "Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE)" and Section 5-1.7 titled "Performance of Subcontractors" under the Federal Special Provisions tab of these special provisions regarding these requirements.

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

GOING ONCE: **A man walks past the vacant 2714 Main St. storefront on Tuesday morning. City officials and real estate brokers met with tenants to discuss ways to prevent business failures.**

Brokers complain about city's zoning regulations

FROM **VACANCIES** PAGE 1

and businesses are suffering," Miriam Mack, the manager of the Economic Development Division, said.

Both Main Street and Montana Avenue have been hit with a slew of vacancies over the past year. Some have attributed reasons to the recession, while others claim that increases in rent are to blame.

The situation in the two business districts are reflected in the taxable sales income, which dropped 4.8 percent from 2007 to 2008 for Main Street and 9.5 percent for Montana Avenue during the same time period. Taxable sales revenue fell just 1.3 percent for the Pico Boulevard district from 2007 to 2008.

Mack said that there is about 175,000 square feet of vacancies in the city, including the former Circuit City space on Fourth Street. About 91,000 square feet are in the business improvement districts.

"RetailNomics: Leasing Strategies for the Santa Monica Retail Market" featured a three-man panelist including Dan Fagan of Commercial Brokers International, Rafael Padilla of PAR Commercial Brokerage and Rob York of York Consulting.

Fagan, who also serves on the Montana Avenue Merchants Association board, said that one of the challenges is maintaining an open line of communication between tenants and landlords, adding that it's easier for merchants to ask for a rent decrease if the property owner is physically present. He said that merchants want better access to their landlords or broker so they feel their concerns are being heard.

Some struggling merchants are tapping into their own savings and their children's savings accounts to stay afloat, Fagan said.

"They're looking for assistance anywhere they can take it," he said.

He said that some merchants have been able to secure a rent abatement for three to six months or a decrease.

The Bayside District, home to the Third Street Promenade, endured several years of pain but is now holding relatively well, York said.

A consultant to the Bayside District Corp., York added that Santa Monica is actually faring better than other cities and will be able to recover from the recession faster as a result. He said that keeping tenants is not only in the best interest of the landlord, but also surrounding property owners.

York added that he believes the economic situation is improving.

"We can be optimistic about the future … but we are not done yet," he said.

Tenants asking for rent decreases should also be ready to show proof of financial hardship to landlords, Padilla advised.

"If you go ask for something, make sure your books are open," he said. "It's a need, not a want."

At least one broker in the audience echoed the suggestion, saying that he has landlords who have received letters asking for such assistance for a long time and isn't sure of whether motives behind the requests were sincere, likening it to crying wolf. Many tenants who ask for rent decreases don't respond to requests of financial proof, he said.

The issue of zoning and the hurdles it presents to leasing also came up during the discussion. A broker from Coldwell Banker said that it took him more than 15 months to lease the former Airport Pharmacy space on Pico Boulevard because it sits in a zone that is different from adjoining properties.

Marc Pollock, the president of Westside Retail, said the challenges he faces in leasing properties is not necessarily related to zoning, but meeting parking requirements imposed by City Hall.

His company represents about a dozen properties in Santa Monica.

He has negotiated several rent decreases.

Pollock said that if city officials plan to address the issue of leasing and vacancies through legislation, it should think about solving the problem by thinking long term.

City officials said they plan on following up the roundtable with another meeting dedicated solely to zoning and planning issues.

melodyh@smdp.com



SHOE IN

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Marcos Sernas, 6, gets help donating his shoes by Andrew Anderson as part of the 'Soles4Souls' campaign at the Puma store on the Third Street Promenade Tuesday afternoon. Now until July 12 a donation of any pair of shoes earns a discount on the purchase of any Puma footwear.

Series offers diverse performances

FROM **SERIES** PAGE 1

will also hit the stage after a one-year absence.

Ben Franz-Knight, executive director of the pier, said creating this year's lineup was a combination of art, science and program balancing.

"There are a number of performers that we've been wanting to have on the pier for a long time," he said, mentioning Baez and local favorites Venice as two performers they look forward to hosting.

To celebrate the pier's centennial there will also be a special show on July 23 in honor of La Monica Ballroom Redux. Squirrel Nut Zippers will perform in a big band atmosphere to help bring back the spirit of the La Monica Ballroom, Franz-Knight said.

Twilight Dance Series staples such as a reggae show and an act from Africa are also returning to the pier.

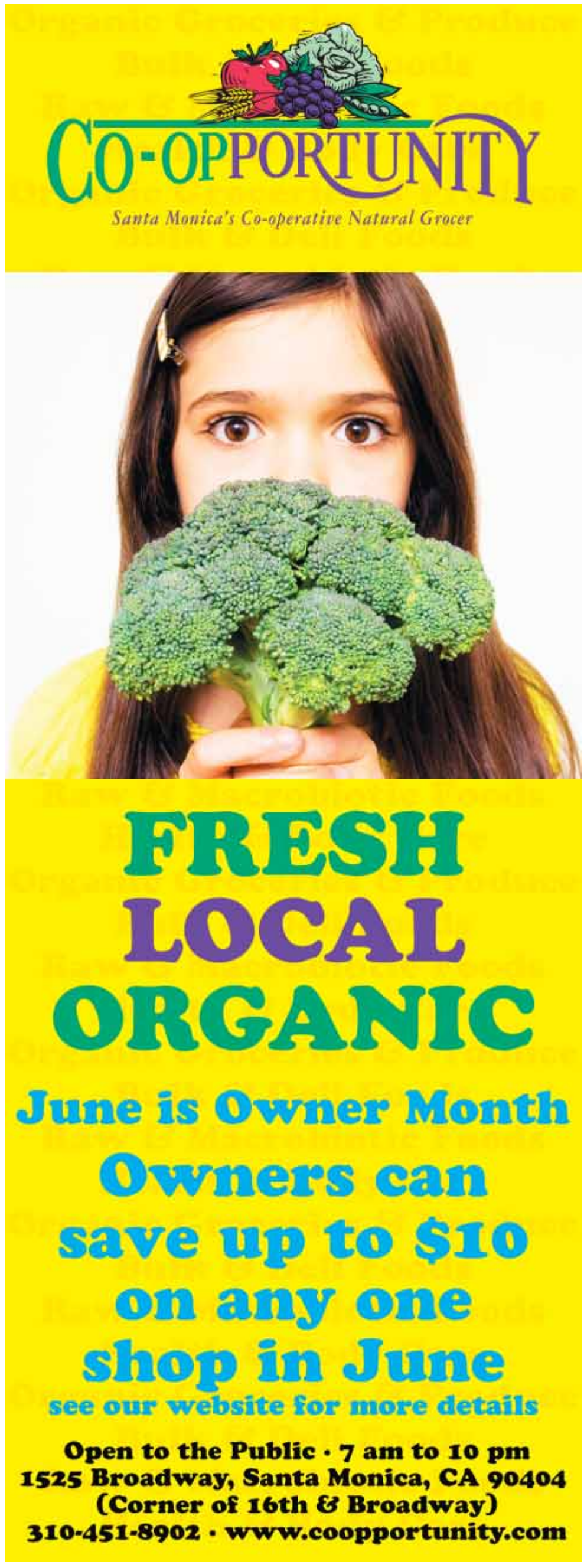
"The goal is always to present an eclectic lineup that has music from around the world," Franz-Knight said.

For the first, there will be a wine bar at each concert showcasing a variety of world class wines presented by Wally's Wine. Tickets for the Wine Bar will be available for purchase at the concerts (must be 21 years old).

Admission is free and people are encouraged to bring their own seating or rent it from the pier.

Leashed pets are also welcome. Call the Santa Monica Pier at (310) 458-3900 for a complete concert lineup.

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City Hall files civil lawsuit against Santa Monica Observer

FROM PAPER PAGE 1

adjudicated.

The City Attorney's Office has received numerous complaints about the business and even attempted to contact Ganezer about taking corrective action.

"We've given him a chance to prove these things to us," Rhoades said.

The lawsuit also accuses Ganezer of operating without a business license, committing perjury on his application for a business license, and providing legal documentation assistance services without registration.

He faces a penalty of $2,500 per unlawful act, which could end up being costly.

Rhoades said that the Observer's claim that it is authorized to publish legal notices is printed on each issue. He plans to ask the judge to impose that penalty per issue, possibly going back several years.

The newspaper publishes weekly.

Penalties could also come in the other allegations listed in the suit.

The lawsuit also claims that through his Web site, Ganezer suggests a lawyer be consulted for matters related to intellectual property, linking another Web site under the heading "consult with an attorney," which leads to www.fictitious-business.com, a site owned by Ganezer's other business, mydba.com.

Rhoades said that two days after the lawsuit was served, the Web site for another business — Easy Legal Services — was taken down.

According to the California Bar Association, Ganezer landed in trouble for mishandling his firm's trust accounts.

The Observer has been accused of deceptive practices by users of the Ripoff Report and has received an F rating from the Better Business Bureau.

Nancy Tiep, who with her husband Darin owns Party Land in Santa Monica, said that she paid Ganezer $400 to file incorporation papers at the end of 2006. The couple contacted the Observer several times when they noticed that the papers had not been filed.

"The phone calls were never returned," she said. "When he returned calls, he always had a lie handy that it will take a week, take this and that."

The Tieps ended up filing the documents themselves just a few months later.

"I would be absolutely thrilled if they go after this person," Nancy Tiep said.

melodyh@smdp.com

Lower priced homes getting multiple looks

FROM HOUSING PAGE 3

still threaten the region's recovery.

"Yes, sales have increased and inventory has come down, but there's still a tremendous amount of downward pressure on prices," said Chris Heller, agent-owner of Keller Williams Realty in the northern San Diego suburb of Del Mar. "The amount of properties that are in the foreclosure process is enormous."

Phoenix, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco were the only major metros in the West to register an increase in home sales last month, according to the AP-Re/Max report.

They also were among the top 10 U.S. metros to post the sharpest median price declines in May, according to the report which tallies all home sales in the metropolitan statistical area by all real estate agents, regardless of company affiliation.

Only one Western market, Anchorage, Alaska, saw its median sales price rise, but not by much — about half a percent.

Elsewhere in the region, sales declined last month Anchorage, Denver, Seattle, Honolulu, Portland, Ore., Albuquerque, N.M., Boise, Idaho, and Billings, Mont.

Neil Brooks, a real estate agent with Century 21 Arizona-Foothills in Phoenix, said his transactions were better in May than last year and June looks good too. Most of his clients are first-time homebuyers, but many are investors or homeowners looking for a vacation home. Roughly 70 percent of his sales were foreclosed homes.

"We're still real busy," he said, adding that most bids are for homes priced in the $200,000 range or below. "Homes in that category right now are getting multiple offers on them over the asking price."

The median sales price in Phoenix was $119,723 in May, down about 42 percent from a year ago, according to the AP-Re/Max report. Transactions, however, were up almost 68 percent.

Buyers of higher-end homes are increasingly putting 35 percent down or more to ensure they can get financing. That's because the cost and qualifying criteria for so-called jumbo loans — anything over $417,000 in Phoenix — has become harder to get, Brooks said.

Some of the buyers are snowbirds from as far north as Canada, like George Stroppa, who lives in Surrey, a suburb of Vancouver, British Columbia.

The college finance professor recently bought a two-bedroom, two-bath condo in the Scottsdale suburb of Phoenix.

"We're going to use it both as a vacation home and as a longterm investment," he said.

Like many buyers, Stroppa said low interest rates motivated him to jump into the market now rather than later. He put down 30 percent and financed the rest with a 30-year loan fixed at 4.8 percent interest.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MAIN STREET

Summer SOULstice is back

The ninth annual Main Street Summer SOULstice returns to Santa Monica Sunday with 20 bands and a new circus show.

Concerts will run all day on seven different stages. Performers include several tribute bands such as The Neil Deal, Petty Theft and Heartless and Coachella 2009 performers Helios Jive and BLVD. DJ Steven Prior will provide entertainment at Bay Avenue.

The circus show at the First Federal parking lot will include dancers from Hoopnotica, The StiltRockers, jugglers and clowns. Kids will also be able to enjoy a petting zoo, face painting and balloon animals from Rockie the Clown.

The annual Sidewalk Sale that runs in conjunction with Summer SOULstice will be open Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

To provide access to the concerts and activities, the Big Blue Bus will run a free shuttle between the parking garage on Fourth Street to Main Street.

Visit www.mainstreetsm.com/soulstice-09 for a schedule of the bands and parking information. DAILY PRESS

FOURTH STREET

Red Cross offers bilingual CPR class

The American Red Cross of Santa Monica will host the 12th annual Super CPR, offering free adult and child CPR classes Saturday. Held at Ken Edwards Center on Fourth Street, the training day will be divided into two four-hour classes held in both English and Spanish.

After passing the course, a Red Cross certificate is available for $5. Other CPR and emergency preparedness materials will be available free of charge along with books and emergency supplies available for purchase.

During the last 12 years, more than 4,000 area residents have participated in the free CPR courses.

"Our health classes are given throughout the year, but this is one of the few opportunities we have to offer CPR classes for free," said Mark Solnick, director of community health services for the American Red Cross of Santa Monica.

The classes typically cost $60 but the free Saturday event is offered with the help of volunteer instructors and sponsors. The courses are open to anyone in good health over the age of 12 and reservations are required. Visit www.redcrossofsantamonica.org or call (310) 394-3773 to reserve a space. DP

Computer failure may have caused train crash

BRIAN WESTLEY
Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON Investigators looking into the deadly crash of two Metro transit trains focused Tuesday on why a computerized system failed to halt an oncoming train, even though there is evidence that the operator tried to slow it down.

At the time of the crash, the train was also operating in automatic mode, meaning it was controlled primarily by computer. In that mode, the operator's main job is to open and close the doors and respond to emergencies.

Debbie Hersman, an investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board, said it was unclear if the emergency brake was actually engaged when Monday's crash occurred. But the mushroom-shaped button that activates it was found pushed down in the operator's compartment.

Hersman said it wasn't clear when the button was pressed or how it got that way. She also said there was evidence of braking on the train's rotors, indicating it was likely that the operator tried to slow down.

The train plowed into a stopped train ahead of it at the height of the Monday evening rush hour, killing nine people and injuring more than 70 in the deadliest accident in the 30-year history of the Metro.

Crews spent Tuesday pulling apart the wreckage and searching for bodies. Authorities also worked to determine why the train's safeguards apparently did not kick in.

"That train was never supposed to get closer than 1,200 feet, period," said Jackie Jeter, president of a union that represents Metro workers.

All Metro trains were running on manual control Tuesday as a precaution against computer malfunction.

The cars in the moving train were some of the oldest in the transit network, dating to the founding of the system.

Federal officials had sought to phase out the aging fleet because of safety concerns, but the transit system kept the old trains running, saying it lacked money for new cars.

Hersman told The Associated Press that the NTSB had warned in 2006 that the old fleet should be replaced or retrofitted to make it better able to survive a crash.

Neither was done, she said, which the NTSB considered "unacceptable."

Metro General Manager John Catoe said the agency expected to receive proposals "over the next month or so" to replace the old cars, but new trains were still years away from being installed. He insisted the existing cars were safe.

This isn't the first time that Metro's automated system has been questioned.

In June 2005, Metro had a close call because of signal troubles in a tunnel under the Potomac River. A conductor noticed he was getting too close to the train ahead of him even though the system indicated the track was clear. He hit the emergency brake in time, as did the operator of a train behind him.

Shortly afterward, Metro attributed the problem to a defective communications cable.

The signal relays that control trains were replaced after a serious safety warning in May 2000 by the Federal Railroad Administration. The warning came after failed relays were detected on the system, formally known as the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

The operator of the train that barreled into the stopped cars Monday was identified as Jeanice McMillan, 42, of Springfield, Va., according to Metro officials.

McMillan was hired in January 2007 as a bus driver and was tapped to become a train operator in January 2009, the NTSB said. McMillan completed training and began working as an operator in March. Metro officials say employees start out as bus drivers before moving to trains.

Investigators want McMillan's cell phone and texting records to determine whether she was distracted before the crash, Hersman said.

Safety officials also are investigating a passenger's statement that the train had stopped briefly then started again before the crash.

Iyesha Thomas, a Metro employee who worked with McMillan, said McMillan would often work the late shift. She did not have a car and if she was unable to get a ride home, she would sleep at Metro's offices, take the first train to Franconia, Va., and return to work later that day.

A neighbor, Aicha Mezlini, said McMillan was killed driving the first train on her 4 p.m.-to-11 p.m. shift. She said McMillan normally worked Tuesday and Wednesday, but last week Metro changed her shift to Monday.

"There is no evidence whatsoever that this driver has done anything to cause this accident," Catoe said Tuesday.

The crash occurred on the red line near the D.C. and Maryland border, in an area where higher train speeds are common because there is a longer distance between stops. Trains can go 55 to 59 mph, though it was not clear how fast the train that crashed was traveling.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, emergency crews cut away the top of the train that jackknifed on top of a stopped train. They removed the debris with help from a crane brought in overnight.

"The scene that I witnessed was one that no one should have to see," Catoe said. "It was unbelievable destruction."

Later, his voice choked with emotion as he addressed hundreds of employees at a prayer vigil Tuesday. He told them the agency will find out what caused the accident and develop a solution.

"We cannot afford to lose any more of our own, or any more of our customers," Catoe said. "I need your prayers. This agency needs your prayers."

Metro has long pleaded for more funding to ensure the system's safety. The transit network is supported by the District of Columbia, Maryland and the Virginia jurisdictions that it serves. However, unlike other major systems, Metro has no dedicated funding source.

Metro officials have long argued that the federal government should contribute because the trains serve the capital, and some 40 percent of rush-hour riders are federal workers.

Catoe said last year it would take $7 billion just to maintain current service and keep the system running safely and reliably from 2010 to 2020. That includes replacements for aging rail cars.

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 66°

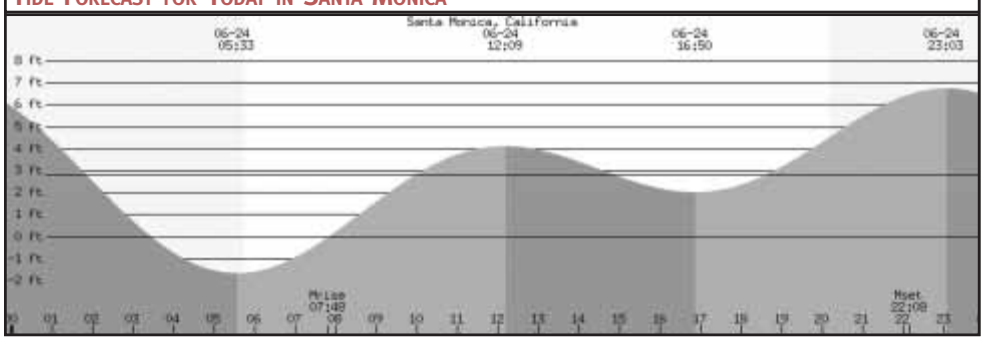
Swell Forecast (2-3 FT)

Wind swell should back off to nil. Light southern hemi should once again start out the day at south facing breaks with waist to possibly chest high waves. Our next SSE swell (due Thursday the 25th) could though start to creep in later in the afternoon.

Long Range Synopsis

Thursday the 25th we should see some SSE swell come up from that Chilean storm mentioned in the synopsis above.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **June 16, 2009**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.org - brc@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / ns

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
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 Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	C	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	D	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	F	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)	B	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	C	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	B	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	C	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET – grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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

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

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Jacquot de Nantes 1hr 58min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Star Trek (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
12:20, 3:15, 6:20, 9:20

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:10

Land of the Lost (PG-13) 1hr 33min
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

The Proposal (PG-13) 1hr 48min
11:00am, 1:50, 4:35, 7:30, 10:30

Up (PG) 1hr 36min
11:30am, 2:15, 5:05, 7:50

Up (Digital 3-D) (PG) 1hr 36min
10:40am, 1:25, 4:10, 7, 9:50

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
10:50am, 1:30, 4:25, 7:05, 9:40, 10:45

The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3 (R) 2hrs 01min
11:10am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
9:15am, 10:00am, 12:45, 1:30, 4:15, 5:00, 7:45, 8:30, 11:15, 12:00am

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

Irene In Time (PG-13) 1hr 49min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45

Easy Virtue (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:40, 4:40, 9:50

Whatever Works (PG-13) 1hr 47min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

Unmistaken Child (NR) 1hr 57min
1:20, 4:10, 9:40

Cost of Oil 45minn
7:30

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Year One (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:30am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30

Terminator Salvation (Digital) (PG-13) 1hr 54min
1:10, 3:50, 6:40, 9:40

Angels & Demons (PG-13) 2hrs 20min
12:00, 6:15

Away We Go (R) 1hr 37min
11:50am, 2:30, 3:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:15, 10:10

Imagine That (PG)
11:40am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:50

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

Sign up, Sagittarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Take needed personal time. Clear out a mental obstacle first. Once you start working, or begin your normal day, you are on cruise control. Add that creative touch. Tonight: Go with fun.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Keep communication flowing, especially if an associate or loved one starts revealing more. You could be surprised — attempt to respond appropriately. Honor your priorities, and you'll accomplish more. Tonight: Home is your castle.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Take a new look at your finances. Try not reacting to a situation; instead, pull back and understand. Detachment provides new ideas. You'll discover how many responsive people you have in your life. Stay centered. Tonight: Out and about.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Use the a.m. for key priorities. New information tosses another perspective on the situation. Someone might surprise you with the way he or she thinks. Though a suggestion appears to be wild, try applying it rather than negating it. Realize what you have to offer when you come into a situation. Tonight: Buy a new summer item on the way home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Understanding evolves from a discussion in the morning or in the recent past. Perhaps you have been digesting what needs to happen. Move out into the public, or take the lead in your immediate circle. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Meetings are favored in the morning. Don't sign papers in the afternoon. If you can wait for a few days, do. Nothing will be lost — more opinions and ideas could appear. The unexpected occurs when you least expect it. Tonight: Just for you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Listen to news and stay on top of a situation that keeps reappearing. Bring associates or key people together to stop this revolving door. What you need to handle comes forward in a discussion. Tonight: Work with the unexpected.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Tap into your resources before making any decisions. You'll make stronger choices as a result. You are able to move situations forward with ease. Relax with others who have like minds. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ A key associate demands extra attention. Clear out a discussion with this person first. Look for new answers. Eye the potential of actively seeking new information and knowledge. Challenge yourself to grow past the obvious. Tonight: Consider signing up for a workshop.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Defer to others and understand their perspective. Let those who have what they feel are better or stronger solutions try them out. Everyone could be surprised by the end results. Investigate other styles. Tonight: Togetherness needs to be the theme.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Clear out your errands and any excess work. Listen to others' opinions. Schedule an important meeting. Networking is more important than you want to acknowledge. The unexpected occurs with finances. Tonight: Others make suggestions before you can think!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Ingenuity could put an interesting twist to a problem and could be the path to a solution. Investigate rather than negate. Find the midpoint in your ideas and someone else's. Tonight: Go for a stress-buster.

Happy birthday

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

This year, tap into solutions through research and focused imagination. Once you have arrived at the right or appropriate path, assume a leadership role. No one can do exactly what you want except for you. Financial changes could benefit you, if you use your insight and drive. If you are single, others find you to be radiant and magnetic. Look at exceptions in a relationship when eyeing admirers. If you are attached, the only way to win a power play is not to play. Your sweetie could be unusually controlling. LEO offers a lot as a friend.

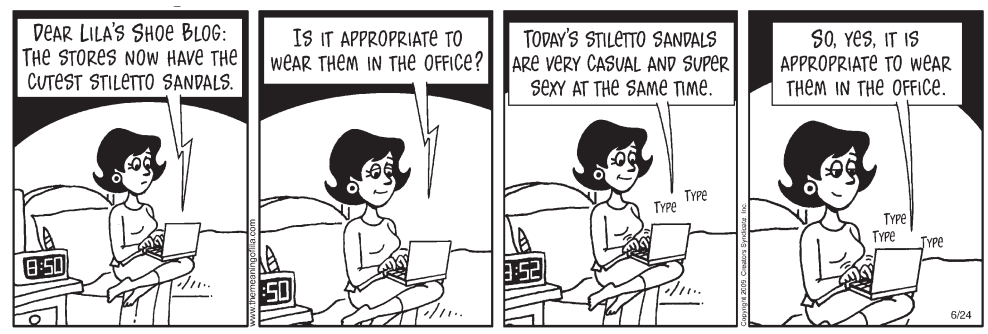
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



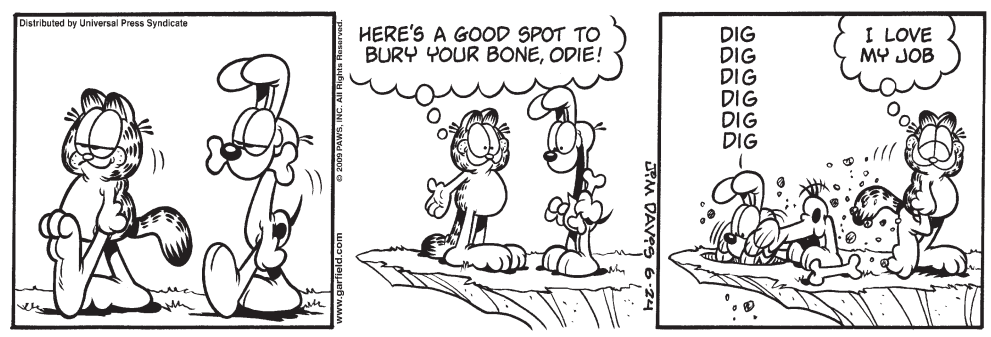
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



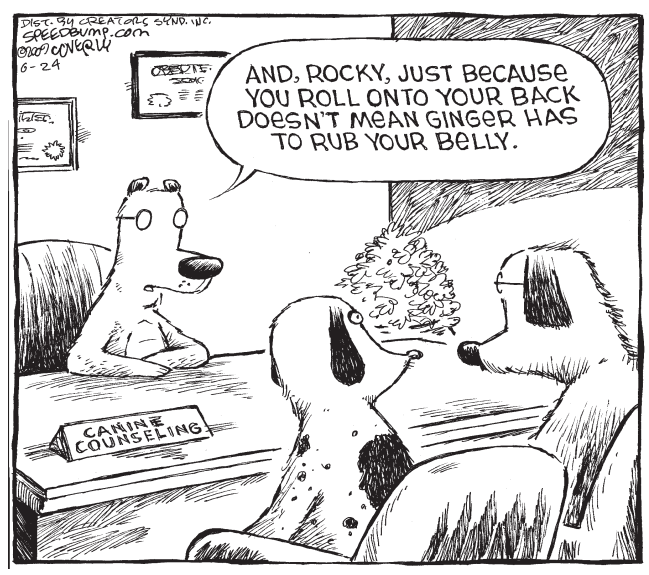
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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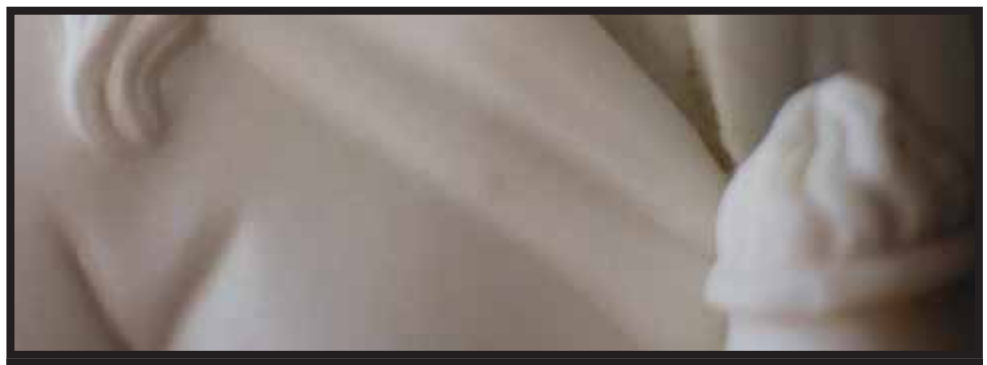


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MYSTERY REVEALED!

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

Dennis Tommasino of Venice correctly identified this photo of a statue at the left of the fireplace in the Guest House at the old Marion Davies Estate, now the Annenberg Community Beach House. He will receive a prize from the Daily Press.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Light lunches
7 Radiator sound
11 Activist Bloomer
12 Early Peruvian
13 Making a choice
14 Reason to pack
15 Bagel choice
17 Thin cut
20 When pigs fly
23 Wallet bill
24 "X-Men" villain
26 Musical ability
27 Snaky shape
28 Letter after pi
29 Himalayan peak
31 Part of a match
32 Stopwatch button
33 Styling stuffs
34 Guarantee
37 Audition goal
39 Oil carrier
43 Menlo Park middle name
44 Show up
45 Lively folk dance
46 Obeyed

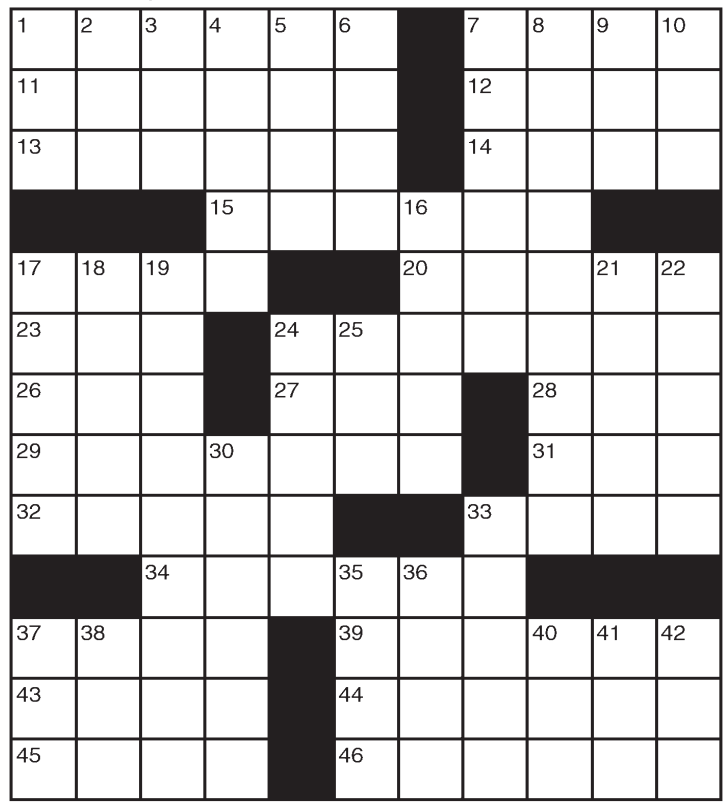
DOWN

1 — Paulo
2 Band blaster
3 Rent out
4 Hollywood's elite
5 Have supper
6 Hangs low
7 Hired guns
8 Backing up
9 Chem. or biol.
10 Dunderhead
16 Uneasy feeling
17 Ranch critter
18 Head out
19 Kept for emergencies
21 Lucy's pal
22 Alex Haley book
24 Track contests
25 Blockhead
30 Tourist's car
33 Book category
35 Golden Spike setting
36 Exceptional
37 Golfer's goal
38 Pub pints
40 Young goat
41 Abel's mother
42 Cardinal

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

Yesterday's answer

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6-24

DAILY LOTTERY

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SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 16 23 35 40 41
Meganumber: 12
Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5: 1 9 15 20 28

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 1 4
EVENING: 1 2 1

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1.44.75

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ **Bad Sci-Fi Movies Come to Life:** (1) A portion of downtown Rotterdam, Netherlands, was blanketed in gluey white "silk" in May, from a six-week-long invasion of caterpillars that strip trees and cover them with gooey larvae. (2) Nicola Bruce and her two toddlers, who live in government-assisted housing in Stoke-on-Trent, England, have awakened nearly every morning for two years to a fresh invasion of about 50 slugs, despite 30 attempts by contractors to find their source (in addition to the remodeling of the kitchen and bath and the bleaching of floors).

■ The head of Florida's Department of Corrections admitted in May that at least 43 children (including a 5-year-old), who observed their parents' prison jobs as part of "Take Your Sons and Daughters to Work Day" in April, were playfully zapped by 50,000-volt stun guns. DOC Secretary Walt McNeil said the demonstrations (in three of the state's 55 prisons) even included one warden's kid, but that only 14 children were individually shot (with the rest part of hand-holding circles feeling a passing current). Twenty-one employees were disciplined.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1948 Communist forces cut off all land and water routes between West Germany and West Berlin, prompting the western allies to organize the Berlin Airlift. The Republican National Convention, meeting in Philadelphia, nominated New York Gov. Thomas E. Dewey for president.

1968 "Resurrection City," a shantytown constructed as part of the Poor People's March on Washington, D.C., was closed down by authorities.

1975 113 people were killed when an Eastern Airlines Boeing 727 crashed while attempting to land during a thunderstorm at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

1983 the space shuttle Challenger — carrying America's first woman in space, Sally K. Ride — coasted to a safe landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

WORD UP!

pule \PYOOL\, *intransitive verb*:
To whimper; to whine.

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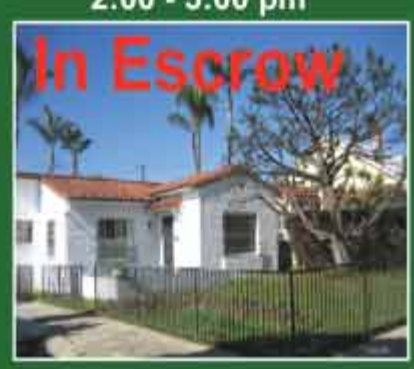
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North of Montana	$3,097,000	$1,049,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,995,000	$1,049,000
South of Wilshire	$899,500	$608,500
Sunset Park	$1,150,000	$682,750
Ocean Park	$1,396,500	$964,750

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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