



Life on Wheels
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE DOG EATS GOOD ISSUE

Pico residents asking for public library at Edison

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD As district officials prepare to spend money on school construction projects this week, a neighborhood group representing a high concentration of low-income students is asking for a publicly-accessible library on one of the local campuses.

The Pico Neighborhood Association (PNA) sent a letter to school and city officials recently asking they explore a shared-use opportunity at the Edison Language Academy, constructing a library that would be open to the public after school hours.

The aging dual language school, which is located in the Pico Neighborhood, is slated to receive an entirely new school, one of a handful of campuses that will see some level of construction in the first phase of Measure BB expenditures. Santa Monica and Malibu voters passed the \$268 million bond measure in 2006.

The neighborhood is home to the largest concentration of youth, low-income families and single-parent households in the city. It is also one of the few neighborhoods without its own public library.

The Santa Monica Public Library operates three branches in eight square miles in addition to its central hub in Downtown Santa Monica, including ones in Ocean Park, Sunset Park and the north of Montana/Wilshire-Montana neighborhoods.

“We feel that by having the library, it will not only promote the academic success of our students, but getting the whole family to be a part of that experience is also important for us,” Maria Loya, the co-chair of the PNA, said.

Construction at the K-5 school, which has about 470 students, is estimated to cost \$29 million, paying for demolition, 30 classrooms and a new playing field and playground.

The Measure BB projects have completed the conceptual design phase. The Board of Education is scheduled to appropriate funding for the projects at its meeting on Thursday, moving them on to the next design stage. The projects include Santa Monica and Malibu high schools, John Adams and Lincoln middle schools.

SEE LIBRARY PAGE 11



NO DOGGY BAG

Hudson, a female Bernese Mountain Dog, is fed a little spaghetti Monday by her owner, Danielle Gershberg, at Trastevere on the Third Street Promenade. Three Dog Bakery provided the food while Trastevere provide the location. Each customer gave a donation of \$25, with proceeds going to Much Love, a local adoption agency for dogs.

Morgan Genser news@smdp.com

Airport ban gets support

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO City Hall is getting some moral support from state elected officials in its battle to rid the fastest aircraft from Santa Monica Airport.

The state Assembly Committee on Transportation unanimously approved on Monday a resolution encouraging the FAA to honor City Hall's decision to ban categories C and D jets from the airport. The resolution — AJR 37 — will head to the assembly floor in the next few weeks.

The resolution comes in the midst of ongoing legal battles between City Hall and the FAA over enforcement of the ban.

Authored by state Assemblyman Ted Lieu, D-Torrance, the resolution also asks the FAA to review flight operations at the Westside airport where jet traffic has reportedly increased from approximately 1,000 flights to more than 18,000 since 1983.

City Council passed an ordinance outlawing categories C and D jets — aircraft that approach the runway at 121-140 knots and 141-165 knots, respectively — in March after discussions with the FAA over runway safety measures fell through.

The resolution is meant to let city officials know that the state legislature is in support of its actions, Lieu, whose district includes the community to the east of the runway, said.

“We know that in terms of safety and in terms of pollution something needs to be done and the FAA continues to have this mantra of no change whatsoever,” Lieu said.

The FAA is maintaining that City Hall does not have the authority to institute the ban.

“If a plane can safely land on a runway with a specific length, based on that plane's performance characteristics, we have no authority to tell a pilot that he can't land there,” FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said. “As we explained in our court filings, the city of Santa Monica also doesn't have the legal

SEE BAN PAGE 11



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Calendar

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



The bear necessities

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

As part of a summer-long family film series, The Main Library will be screening Walt Disney's 1967 classic, "The Jungle Book." Seating is first come, first served. Admission is free.

Art on the menu

1701 Ocean Park Blvd., 7 a.m. — 9 p.m.

The Sunset Grill will display the work of artist and photographer Brian Asher. The diverse collection of photographs and artwork are inspired by Asher's travels through five continents including adventures in the Amazon, Vietnam, Zimbabwe, Mexico, the Galapagos Islands and China. Over two dozen pieces will hang in the restaurant, for sale by the artist.

Thursday, June 26, 2008

Exploring geisha culture

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2:30 p.m. — 6 p.m.

Workshop-style introduction to the make-up, kimono dress, dance and tea service rituals of Japan's unique geisha subculture. Space is limited. Seating is first come, first served at this free program.

Time for yoga

235 Hill St., 6:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.

Mixed-level class designed to slowly and carefully work on strength, flexibility and balance. The focus is on unblocking the resistance in joints, muscles and minds, and restoring the weak energy links in our mind/body system.

The Meathands have it

4455 Overland Ave. Culver City, 8 p.m.

The "Magic Meathands" perform an hour of fully improvised hilarity based on audience suggestions and participation. The show is presented by director Bill Johnson, in a great cafe that offers delicious coffee, food, drinks and comfortable couches. What sets this improv group apart is their personal connection with the audience and community, so their best material comes directly from the people around them. For information, call (310) 559-8868.

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.





Photo courtesy Michael Childers

FLASHBACK: Christopher Isherwood (left) and Don Bachardy in the late 1970s. The couple lived together for 30 years, until Isherwood's death in 1986.

Film celebrates legendary artist couple

BY CHRISTINA YOON
Special to the Daily Press

AERO THEATRE Amid fresh debates over gay marriage in California, a new documentary by Tina Mascara and Guido Santi examines an unapologetic same-sex relationship between two Santa Monica artists that began half a century ago and lasted for over three decades.

"Chris & Don: A Love Story," premiering tonight at the Aero Theatre, chronicles the tender, passionate and sometimes rocky love between portrait artist Don Bachardy and the late writer Chris Isherwood.

"It's by chance that the film is being released right now," said Santi, "but it's important to see that gay couples were a possibility before it was legal."

Tonight's premiere will be followed by a question and answer session with Bachardy and the filmmakers. On June 29, Bachardy

will open the doors to the Santa Monica Canyon home he shared with Isherwood for an intimate reception. Attendees will see the couple's impressive art collection, including "Hockney Hall," filled with works by their good friend David Hockney, and the only known self-portrait of playwright Tennessee Williams, which hangs in the kitchen. Proceeds from tonight's screening and the June 29 reception will benefit the Santa Monica Conservancy.

Bachardy and Isherwood met in the 1950s on the beaches of Santa Monica. Bachardy was a wide-eyed 18-year-old Southern California native, and Isherwood was the 49-year-old author of "The Berlin Stories," the basis for the musical and film "Cabaret." Their 30-year age difference sent shock waves throughout Isherwood's elite circle of friends, which included W.H. Auden and Igor Stravinsky.

Despite their unconventional pairing,

Bachardy and Isherwood were proudly forthcoming about their relationship. They were also hopelessly devoted.

"I knew that this time, I had really committed myself," Isherwood wrote in his diary (read by actor Michael York for the film). "Don might leave me, but I couldn't possibly leave him."

The couple challenged the conventions of the 1950s and '60s, when at times they could not even rent an apartment together because of their sexual orientation; they were together until Isherwood died of prostate cancer in 1986.

According to Mascara, it was a challenge to tell this "story about the past" that was now without one of its lead characters. She and Santi incorporated Isherwood's diary entries, along with photos and home movies of the couple as they spent time with

L.A. seeing more people living out of their vehicles

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Having lost her job and her three-bedroom house, Darlene Knoll has joined the legions of downwardly mobile who are four wheels away from homelessness.

She is living out of her shabby 1978 RV, and every night she has to look for a place to park where she won't get hassled by the cops or insulted by residents.

"I'm not a piece of trash," the former home health-care aide said as she stroked one of five dogs in her cramped quarters parked in the waterfront community of Marina del Rey.

Amid the foreclosure crisis and the shaky economy, some California cities are seeing an increase in the number of people living out of their cars, vans or RVs.

Acting on complaints from homeowners, the Los Angeles City Council got tough earlier this year by forbidding nearly all overnight parking in residential neighborhoods such as South Brentwood.

But some people are just crowding into other parts of the city, including the seaside community of Venice, where dozens of rusty, dilapidated campers can be seen lined up outside neat single-family homes. The stench of urine emanates from a few of the vehicles, and some residents say they have seen human waste left behind.

"They're nasty and gnarly," said Venice resident Jeff Scharlin. "We've heard about drug dealing and prostitution in them. I've never seen it, but visually they're a blight and they take up parking space."

In Los Angeles, as in many other cities, it is illegal to live in vehicles on public streets. But the law is not easy to enforce. Police have to enter a vehicle to find signs that people are living there, such as cooking or sleeping, and occupants often refuse to answer when cops knock.

An easier way is to restrict overnight parking. In L.A., a first offense carries a \$50 fine, and subsequent violations can cost as much as \$100.

Parking-enforcement officers often give vehicle owners a warning and tell them to move on before issuing a ticket, and that usually solves the problem, said Alan Willis, a city transportation engineer. But other cities in the area are not as lenient.

"I had my motor home towed in Culver

SEE FILM PAGE 13

SEE CARS PAGE 12

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Feeling excluded

Editor:

Dear City Councilmembers,
Many of the basic concepts and goals of our (Land Use and Circulation Element), such as sustainability, walkability, connectivity, etc., are very important in and of themselves.

However the concept of “Public Benefits” has not been adequately debated. Many, many of your constituents feel that the benefits being proposed in no way compensate for the level of development envisioned in this plan.

We are only 8-square-miles, and in this space multiple Urban Village Centers are proposed ... the terms “Village” and “Urban” are contradictory. Terms like modest growth, low scale, community values re-scale and heights are not defined. Our city staff seems to think that anything under six stories is modest and low scale.

We are a very well developed city with adequate public benefits.

What we want is adequate parking for residents in Wilmont, a library in the Pico Neighborhood, preservation of our trees, less traffic from workers, students, and visitors so we are not trapped in our neighborhoods, maintenance of a low scale sky line (defined as mostly one, two, and some three to four stories, depending on the neighborhood centers) and less development.

Under the guise of providing workforce and affordable housing, you are asking for an increase in density that is not acceptable.

There is no way we can build or grow ourselves out of the overcrowding and gridlock we now have.

This LUCE document pleases the developers, the city staff, and what seems to be most of you. There is only one voice among you who listens and represents our interests and concerns. The rest of you seem quite sure you know what’s best for “the city,” and that seems to exclude us residents.

Lorraine Sanchez
Sunset Park

Sales tax increase hurts the poor

Editor:

Don’t the transit advocates pushing for an increase in the sales tax to pay for the Subway to the Sea realize that such a tax is regressive in that the percentage of income spent on goods liable to taxation is higher among low-income groups.

In 1909 Rep. Ollie Murray James (D-Ky) stated that “No tax was ever more unjust than a tax upon consumption.

A tax upon what some people eat and what they wear would deny them the necessities of life, while others, rolling in opulence and accumulating their wealth into the millions, would not feel such a tax.”

That same year Rep. Martin Dies (D-Texas) opined: “What form of taxation could be more unjust than to tax a man in proportion to what he eats, wears, and uses? ... It is a damnable system which taxes want and exempts wealth, which takes toll from the clothes on the poor man’s back and leaves untouched the rich man’s bank.”

Four years later in 1913 in discussing the income tax law passed as a result of the adoption of the 16th Amendment, Rep.

Cordell Hull (D-Tenn.) [later Secretary of State under President Franklin D. Roosevelt] stated that: “A glance at the fiscal history of all countries shows a constant struggle on the part of the wealthy and more powerful classes to shift the chief weight of government taxation to the shoulders and backs of those weaker, poorer, and less able to protect themselves from the injustice and oppression inflicted by disproportionate tax burdens.

This conflict has been and is today being waged in the United States.”

How to pay for this subway? Simple, just increase the income tax which has been defined as a fairer or more just tax.

Norman G. Axe
Santa Monica



Going Postal

Steve “the Mailman” Breen

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Where’s my kidney?

“OH, CANADA!” AT 8 A.M. ON DEC. 19, Sharon Abbott’s left breast was removed at Dartmouth General Hospital. By 3 p.m., she had been sent home.

“(There) wasn’t any ifs, ands or buts, I had the operation and they didn’t have a bed, so therefore I had to go home,” she said. Before her surgery, a nurse taught Ms. Abbott how to drain her incision. Doctors then removed her left breast, several lymph nodes and some muscle tissue [Chronicle-Herald Nova Scotia 2007].

“God save the queen!”
Code Blue for Socialized Medicine in the UK:

- More than a million people are waiting for a first hospital appointment.
- 160,000 waiting from 8 to 13 weeks to see a specialist.
- 775,000 waiting for operations.
- On average, 962 operations canceled each day for lack of doctors and sterilized equipment [National Health Services UK 2006].

And these are the stalwarts of socialized “medicine?”

The U.S. government can almost get all of the mail delivered on any given day, yet you folks complain when we hike a stamp by a couple coppers.

Do you really want Uncle Sam handling your health care tax dollars and your kidney transplant? “Where’s my kidney,” you holler.

It’s in the mail, of course.
We’ll probably outsource to Commie China for “cost containment” as they “harvest” many of their transplantable organs from executed criminals at a discount. We promise, though, to get you a kidney that is just about the right size.

Remember, “These are our kidneys that we’ve been waiting for.”

The next problem, however, might be finding a specialist to actually install your new bargain-basement kidney.

A brand new shiny doctor careening in the Canadian social medicinal miasma can find his entry level remunerative expectations fulfilled at the amazing sum of \$40,000/year before malpractice insurance. While a U.S. mailman makes considerably more than that, what do you think Uncle Sam will pay to an outsourced Kenyan doctor in Nairobi that you’ll call over the phone for your treatment? The doctor will talk you through your surgery. You supply your own tools.

Just press “1” for English.
Remember, ladies and gentlemen, the government always shoots for the lowest bidder, except when it extends to Congressional perks and travel.

Let me get this straight, the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2005 revised estimates for medically uninsured was placed at 44.8 million belly buttons, or about 15.3 percent of the population but that also includes 12 million or so illegal aliens and 14 million Medicaid-eligible people as “uninsured” bringing the figure into a more malleable 18.8 million.

And it should be pointed out that over 18 million of the uninsured are people between the ages of 18 and 34.

According to a 2007 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics survey, people between 25

and 34 spend more than four times as much on alcohol, tobacco, entertainment and dining out as they do for out-of-pocket spending on health care.

For a demonstrative example, during a particularly nasty flu season, I delivered a pricey piece of electronics to a customer on my route. The client came to the door to sign for the package, dripping and oozing from all visible orifices. I asked him, “Chris why don’t you go to the doctor?” He phlegmatically chortled, “I can’t afford

ACCORDING TO A 2007 U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS SURVEY, PEOPLE BETWEEN 25 AND 34 SPEND MORE THAN FOUR TIMES AS MUCH ON ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING OUT AS THEY DO FOR OUT-OF-POCKET SPENDING ON HEALTH CARE.

it” while standing amidst \$25,000-plus worth of high-end stereo and TV equipment with all the Hometown Buffet trimmings in his living room.

Hmmm. Consumer, heal thyself.
For the whiners and losers out there squealing that they are too “poor” and cannot afford health insurance, the poverty quotient in the U.S. is \$10,787 for a single person with no dependents. I know illegal day laborers that make more than that per year.

Most of the “poverty” complaints come from the hyperventilating Hippocratical, too-cool-for-school, predominantly white male Generation XYZ entourage, spoiled and over-pampered by mommy at home yet now finding themselves in the big scary world between the rock of selling a bilious little screenplay to a disinterested Hollywood or the hard place of wearing a paper hat while asking “Would you like fries with that?”

But at least McD’s has health insurance.

Ronald Reagan once said, “A job is the best form of social welfare that I know.” Or try the post office. They even hired me, if you can believe it.

STEVE BREEN is a self-described Reagan Republican who wants to thank his bone surgeon, Dr. Donald Rich Weintraub and “all those cute nurses” at St. John’s Hospital for the great care he received recently for his successful neck surgery. He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Bursting the oil bubble

BY NOW, READERS OF THIS COLUMN should know I'm from Boston. I've also lived in New York and San Francisco in recent years, but never more than a short walk or subway ride from work. So I never needed to own a car.

Also, I was the fifth of six kids in a working-class household, so I never needed to worry about being given a car. When I got older there was a brief period when I thought I wanted a car to impress the ladies, but I wasted so much time and money in pursuit of (or for the mistake of) parking that it wasn't worth it. I did just as well with my natural charm, rugged good looks, and a cab.

Then I came to Los Angeles where the car is king and everywhere is 20 minutes from everywhere else, depending on traffic.

There is no subway, only the freeway, but it is far from free since it costs five bucks per gallon to get on.

I gave up public transportation when I became an Angeleno (not like I had a choice), and my love/hate relationship with my city has developed at almost the exact same pace as my love/hate relationship with my car.

This isn't like the good old days when I worried mainly about the parking tickets I'd get after I arrived somewhere.

This is a brave new world where any trip is preceded by a series of calculations including miles per gallon, tire pressure, traffic flow, estimated idle time, and (most importantly) whether or not I could find a suitable alternative in Santa Monica.

All because of \$5 gasoline. I know it's not there yet, but it's over \$4.50, the next stop is \$5, and there is no end in sight.

I put \$10 worth of gas into my car and instead of moving, the gas gauge looks at me like I pulled the pump out prematurely and says, "is that all you've got?" It makes me feel inadequate and it causes me to pine for the days when \$10 used to get me a quarter-tank. You know, way back in 2007.

When the price of oil and the price of gasoline both double over the course of about a year, my natural inclination is to wonder why. Some say it's a classic supply-and-demand issue.

They're wrong. There hasn't been enough of a drop in supply or a jump in demand over the last year to explain these prices. The spike can't be blamed on the political climates in Venezuela, Nigeria, or

Iran; and don't let anyone tell you it's the Saudis' fault either.

The Saudis are investing almost \$100 billion to increase their daily output by about 25 percent.

Compare that to American oil companies (who spent their record profits buying back stock to boost per-share income, not investing in new sources of energy) and you'll see that like any good drug dealer, the Saudis don't want their favorite addict and best customer to get serious about alternative sources of energy. They're happy to sell us more oil. At \$140 per barrel, why wouldn't they be?

The problem, as best I can tell, is Wall Street.

Once again, speculation by investors looking to make a fast buck has gotten out of control and has led to some people having to spend almost 15 percent of their income on fuel costs.

The same way investors looking to capitalize on the Internet gave us the tech bubble and investors looking to capitalize on real estate gave us the housing bubble, investors looking to capitalize on energy have given us the oil bubble and the disgusting mental image that goes along with it.

But unlike the tech bubble and the housing bubble, you don't have to have money in the stock market or own a home for this one to hurt you.

If you use a vehicle to get to work or use a vehicle to do your work, this bubble is taking money directly out of your pocket.

And since just about everything you see, touch, or come in contact with came to you on a truck, the increased cost to fuel those trucks is passed on to you at the point of sale and (wait for it) also comes directly out of your pocket. Don't you just love deregulation?

I still walk to work every day, but I've dusted off the ride-bumming skills that served me so well through high school. My car sits in its spot, waiting to be called up for active duty.

I don't drive it, despite the hundreds of dollars I pay every month to own it, because no matter how much money I put in the tank, the gas gauge only moves enough to mock me.

KENNY MACK is a writer, comedian, and social commentator living in Santa Monica who is a huge fan of the Big Blue Bus. He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com

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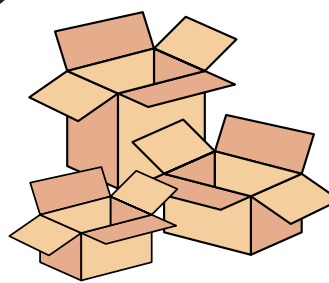


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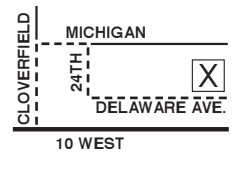
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The Q-Line

Flashing Lights

The new Pacific Wheel at Pacific Park features 160,000 LED lights that put on quite a show once the sun goes down. While the new Ferris wheel has been widely celebrated as a vast improvement over the old wheel there are some that feel the lighting design is a tad too much.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:
Is the new Ferris wheel too bright or just 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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Chiding aide, McCain forgets own remark

BY GLEN JOHNSON
Associated Press Writer

SANTA BARBARA John McCain wasted no time disavowing comments by an aide who suggested a terrorist attack on U.S. soil would boost his presidential campaign. McCain may have wanted to take a moment to consult the history books before he spoke.

In ways both overt and subtle, the Republican presidential contender has been making much the same point as senior adviser Charlie Black, who backed off Monday after he was quoted as saying an attack "certainly would be a big advantage to him."

Black also told Fortune magazine that last December's assassination of former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto

"helped us" amid the final run-up to the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary.

The day Bhutto died in a bombing and shooting attack, McCain told reporters, "My theme has been throughout this campaign that I'm the one with the experience, the knowledge and the judgment. So perhaps it may serve to enhance those credentials to make people understand that I've been to Pakistan, I know (President Pervez) Musharraf, I can pick up the phone and call him. I knew Benazir Bhutto."

The Arizona senator took his point one step further, contrasting himself with rival Mike Huckabee, just weeks before the former Arkansas governor beat him in Iowa.

McCain said Huckabee doesn't have "the same experience and background on nation-

al security issues that I do," prompting Huckabee to accuse McCain of "playing political games" with the attack.

More recently, McCain has taken to taunting his Democratic presidential rival, offering to escort first-term Sen. Barack Obama on a visit to Iraq and chiding him for never receiving a briefing from Gen. David Petraeus, commander of U.S. forces in the country.

McCain, like President Bush, views the war in Iraq as critical in the effort to prevent another terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

Obama has called instead for a withdrawal of U.S. troops, prompting McCain to scold him Monday by saying, "Remarkable how someone can make an assessment of the situation without asking for a briefing from the

commanding general."

Obama responded Tuesday, saying McCain supported "one of the biggest foreign policy disasters in our history," the Iraq war.

"We've got (Osama) bin Laden sending out audio tapes, we've got an interactive al-Qaida Web site that is a powerful recruitment tool, we've got the situation backsliding in Afghanistan, and homeland security issues that are still being unattended to here in the United States. ... The broader point, which has been made not just by Democrats, but by Republicans, is there are certain things that should transcend politics, and the prospect of a terrorist attack on American soil is one of them," Obama told reporters.

Hundreds of fires sparked by rare lightning storm

BY TERENCE CHEA
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO In less than a day, an electrical storm unleashed nearly 8,000 lightning strikes that set more than 800 wildfires across Northern California — a rare example of "dry lightning" that brought little or no rain but plenty of sparks to the state's parched forests and grasslands.

The weekend storm was unusual not only because it generated so many lightning strikes over a large geographical area, but also because it struck so early in the season and moved in from the Pacific Ocean. Such storms usually don't arrive until late July or August and typically form southeast of California.

"You're looking at a pattern that's climatologically rare. We typically don't see this happen at this time of summer," said John Juskie, a science officer with the National Weather Service in Sacramento. "To see 8,000, that's way up there on the scale."

Thousands of firefighters battled the blazes Tuesday from the ground and air. The lightning-caused fires have scorched tens of thousands of acres and forced hundreds of residents to flee their homes, though few buildings have been destroyed, said Daniel Berlant, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

"It's just extremely, extremely dry," Berlant said. "That means any little spark has the potential to cause a large fire. The public needs to be extra cautious because we don't need any additional wildfires."

Despite the many lightning strikes that hit the ground on Saturday alone, the weekend thunderstorm brought little precipitation because the rain evaporated in hot, dry layers of the atmosphere before it hit the ground, Juskie said.

The lightning storm struck California when the state was experiencing one of its driest years on record. Earlier this month, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a statewide drought and directed agencies to speed up water deliveries to drought-stricken areas. Many communities have adopted strict conservation measures.

From San Francisco to Los Angeles, cities have only seen a tiny fraction of the rainfall they normally receive in a typical year. In the Central Valley, the cities of Sacramento, Modesto, Stockton and Red Bluff have recorded their driest March-to-May periods since at least the 19th century, according to the weather service.

"A combination of lightning and very dry fuels will spark fires," said Mark Strobin, a weather service meteorologist in Monterey. "It doesn't take much nowadays especially with how dry it is."

Even before the lightning struck, California had already seen an unusually large number of destructive wildfires that had burned nearly 90,000 acres, compared with 42,000 acres during the same period last year, according to CalFire officials. The fire season typically does not peak until late summer or early fall.

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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES
Grand jury questions inmate's jail bank account

A county grand jury wants to know why a Los Angeles jail inmate and alleged Mafia hit man has a \$5,000 bank account maintained by the jail. The money in jail bank accounts starts with the cash a person has at the time of booking and can be used to buy necessities at the jail store. The grand jury report says inmates are also allowed to engage in large cash transactions with non-inmates with no questions asked. The report notes this could permit them to commit crimes such as bribery, money laundering or violence for hire from inside prison walls.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAKE ELSINORE
Changes sought in wake of deadly animal fire

A grand jury recommended installing smoke detectors at an animal shelter where a fire killed 39 puppies and kittens. The Riverside County jury issued a report last week recommending upgrades to the shelter where 39 puppies and kittens died in February after an electrical fire broke out in a wooden trailer being used as a temporary shelter.

The report also recommended upgrading lighting, providing better drainage to eliminate flooding during rains, providing more room for larger dogs and taking more measures to prevent parvovirus, which killed two dogs at the shelter in March. However, many of the recommended changes already were in place, including the addition of smoke detectors.

AP

LOS ANGELES
Public pool in Watts closed due to violence

A public pool in the gang-infested Watts area of Los Angeles has been closed down because of violence. About 30 young men went on a rampage Sunday afternoon at the 109th Street Swimming Pool after workers announced the pool was being closed because of dirty, cloudy water. It was the first weekend for the summertime plunge. A lifeguard and two workers were tossed into the pool. Trouble at the city's public pools is not new. Last year the city put armed guards at the 109th Street pool and installed video cameras. The Watts Gang Task Force will come up with a safety plan before the pool is reopened.

AP

RIVERSIDE
Farmworker complaints lead to injunction

Two Coachella Valley farmworkers say they weren't given water or provided shade while working in the desert heat this month. A Riverside County Superior Court judge has now issued a temporary injunction against Ventura County-based Magana Labor Services, which forces the firm to follow California law and provide cool drinking water and breaks. Miguel Angel Magana said from his Fillmore office Tuesday that Magana Labor Services is in complete compliance, noting CalOSHA has also found the firm in complete compliance. California Rural Legal Assistance filed suit June 17 seeking an injunction against Magana and more than \$25,000 for Celia Cardenas Acuna and Juan Carlos Garcia in lost wages, benefits, physical suffering and anguish. Pepper pickers Acuna and Garcia say they were fired June 3 along with the entire crew of 25 for complaining about the working conditions. Farmworker attorney Arturo Rodriguez says "it's unimaginable that we have to go to court to ensure basic human rights."

AP

ADELANTO
Man beats puppy by throwing it against dog house

An allegedly drunken dog owner has been arrested for repeatedly throwing his puppy against a dog house in the Mojave Desert. Yelps from the 12-pound pit-bull-Labrador mix alerted neighbors in Adelanto who tried to stop Donald Brown from hurting the animal, but they eventually had to call San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies. Sheriff's spokeswoman Staci Johnson says the 55-year-old Brown was arrested Sunday night and booked for investigation of animal cruelty and being drunk in public. Bail is set at \$30,000. It wasn't known why Brown was angry at the 3-month-old puppy, which survived and is in the care of a veterinarian.

AP

PALM SPRINGS
3.0 quake shakes desert

A minor earthquake has struck the Palm Springs area but there are no reports of damage or injuries. The U.S. Geological Survey reports that a temblor with a preliminary magnitude of 3.0 struck around 8:06 p.m. Tuesday. It was located 9 miles east-southeast of the town of Anza and about 22 miles south of Palm Springs. The Palm Springs Police Department says no one reported any damage or injuries.

AP

PRUNEDALE
Man guilty of murdering brother-in-law

A man has been convicted of murdering his brother-in-law, stabbing his sister and trying to kill a niece and two nephews by ordering them into the family's Prunedale mobile home and torching the place. The Monterey County jury convicted Daryl Lipska of the first-degree murder of Billy White and the attempted murders of Tonia Bone, her 11-year-old daughter and her 1- and 3-year-old son. The 33-year-old defendant attacked the family early on Nov. 30, 2005. Prosecutors say White was stabbed to death by Lipska when he opened the door of the mobile home, then he stabbed his sister, splashed gasoline inside the trailer and ordered his niece and two nephews into a room before torching the trailer. The children escaped unharmed. Lipska faces a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

AP

SANTA MARIA
Teacher convicted of molesting student

Jurors have convicted a Santa Maria algebra teacher of repeatedly having sex with a 16-year-old male student. Michael Cardoza was found guilty Monday afternoon on seven counts, including four felony counts of oral copulation with a minor. The 59-year-old Orcutt man faces nearly 19 years in prison when he's sentenced July 31. The Santa Barbara County Superior Court jury deliberated just a few hours before returning the guilty counts against the Pioneer Valley High School teacher. Prosecutor Stephen Foley says evidence suggested Cardoza was getting away with "this kind of conduct" for 25 years.

AP

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ECONOMY

U.S. consumer confidence sinks to 16-year-plus low

BY ELLEN SIMON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK U.S. consumers are the gloomiest they've been since the tail end of the last prolonged recession. Inflation, sinking home values and soaring gas prices have pushed confidence to the lowest level since 1992. Consumers' view of the economic future has never been lower, raising worries that already weak consumer spending could deteriorate further.

"From a consumer perspective, this is the most troubling economy since the 1980s," said Mark Vitner, an economist at Wachovia Corp.

The Conference Board's consumer confidence index, released Tuesday, fell to 50.4 this month, the lowest reading since February 1992 and half what it was a year ago. The index dropped more steeply than expected from 58.1 in May. The consensus estimate of economists surveyed by Thomson/IFR was for a more modest decline to 56.5 for June.

Separately, home prices continued to tumble. April's decline in the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index was the steepest since its 2000 inception.

Inflation, political flux and job insecurity have created an "uncertainty more acute, perhaps, than any time since 9-11," said William Hummer, chief economist at Wayne Hummer Investments.

"I don't think this can be purged immediately by an election or anything else," he said. "I think it's endemic, deep-rooted and likely to persist."

The last prolonged U.S. recession was from July 1990 to March 1991. The most recent recession began in March 2001 and ended that November.

While the economy currently continues to grow, thanks to strong exports, "there's a real gulf between an economy being held up by exports and what's happening in people's everyday lives," Wachovia's Vitner said.

"Most people live in the domestic economy," he said.

Tax rebates buoyed consumer spending

in May and incentives from General Motors Corp. may entice consumers to keep spending this summer, analysts are worried about whether they'll have extra money come fall.

Home owners who bought in the last five years are unlikely to pocket a windfall from selling anytime soon. All 20 metropolitan areas tracked by the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index, released Tuesday, posted annual declines, as prices rolled back to levels last seen in August 2004. The index fell by 15.3 percent in April versus a year ago. The narrower 10-city index declined 16.3 percent in April, the largest decline in its more than two-decade history.

Economists expect home prices to keep dropping through 2009, with the most pessimistic saying the total decline will be double the drop so far.

That uncertainty is reflected in consumers' moods. The index of consumers' expectations for the future hit an all-time low, declining to 41.0 from 47.3 in May. The index has fallen by half over the last year.

Consumers' appraisal of the current job market also grew more pessimistic.

Those saying that jobs are "hard to get" increased to 30.5 percent from 28.3 percent in May. Those claiming jobs are "plentiful" declined to 14.1 percent from 16.1 percent.

Expectations for the job market in the months ahead also deteriorated, with 35.5 percent of consumers expecting fewer jobs available, up from 32.3 percent in May. The proportion of consumers expecting their incomes to increase declined to 12.3 percent from 14.1 percent.

The consumer confidence report is derived from responses received through June 18 from a survey of 5,000 representative U.S. households.

On Wall Street, stocks sagged after a day of seesaw trading. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 34.93 to 11,807.43 after falling more than 100 points in earlier trading. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 3.71 to 1,314.29, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 17.46 to 2,368.28.

LEGAL NEWS

'Jacob the Jeweler' gets 2 1/2 years in fed prison

DAVID N. GOODMAN
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT The New York businessman known in the hip-hop world as "Jacob the Jeweler" was sentenced Tuesday to 2 1/2 years in federal prison for lying to investigators looking into a multistate drug ring.

Jacob Arabov, 43, pleaded guilty in October to falsifying records and giving false statements as part of a deal with federal prosecutors.

"I feel ashamed that I broke the laws of this country, a country that has been so good for me," the Soviet immigrant told U.S. District Judge Avern Cohn. "I will carry this shame for the rest of my life."

The plea deal called for a recommended sentence of three years, one month to three years, 10 months in prison. Cohn shaved

seven months off the minimum term, citing Arabov's extensive philanthropic work and noting many letters of support.

"He's a very charitable man," Cohn said, ruling Arabov would remain free on bond and report to prison Jan. 15.

Cohn fined Arabov \$50,000 and ordered him to make a \$2 million forfeiture payment to the government. A defense lawyer handed an Internal Revenue Service agent a cashier's check for \$2 million. U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said people who sell jewelry and other expensive goods "are in an easy position to help narcotics dealers hide their assets."

"Today's sentence should be a strong warning that such conduct carries serious consequences," Murphy said in a news release.

Arabov was arrested in 2006 on accusations that he and others conspired to launder about \$270 million in drug profits.

World now has 10 million millionaires, report says

BY CANDICE CHOI
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Add an extra zero to the ranks of the millionaires club.

The number of people around the world with at least \$1 million in assets passed 10 million for the first time last year, according to a new report. And their bank accounts are growing even faster.

The combined wealth of the globe's millionaires grew to nearly \$41 trillion last year, an increase of 9 percent from a year before, Merrill Lynch & Co. and consulting firm Capgemini Group said Tuesday. That means their average wealth was more than \$4 million, the highest it's ever been. Home values were not included in asset totals.

"The growth of their wealth is outpacing the growth of their population, and that's a trend that's going to continue in coming years," said Ileana Van Der Linde, a principal with Capgemini.

The ranks of the wealthy are growing fastest in the developing economies of India, China and Brazil. The number of millionaires in India grew by about 23 percent.

The United States still reigns supreme when it comes to fat wallets, though: One in every three millionaires in the world lives in America. Combined, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America account for just one in 10.

All told, there were about 600,000 more millionaires in the world in 2007 than in

THE GROWTH OF THEIR WEALTH IS OUTPACING THE GROWTH OF THEIR POPULATION, AND THAT'S A TREND THAT'S GOING TO CONTINUE IN COMING YEARS."

Ileana Van Der Linde
Principal with Capgemini

2006, for a total of about 10.1 million. That's a 6 percent increase from the previous year.

Ten million may seem like a big number for such an elite club, but it still represents less than one-fifth of 1 percent of the world's 6.7 billion people.

The rarefied group of the superrich — those with at least \$30 million in assets — got richer, too. There were 103,000 of them around the world last year, 9 percent more than the year before, and their wealth grew by nearly 15 percent.

The 600,000 new millionaires was unsurprising to Brian Bethune, an economist with Global Insight, who said inflation and the expansion of the world economy accounts for the growth. Besides, \$1 million isn't what it used to be. One million dollars in 1996, the first year the report was issued, would have been worth about \$1.3 million last year, Van Der Linde said.

Steady growth powered economies worldwide in the first half of 2007, but more

mature markets were hammered in the second half by the U.S. housing and credit crises. Emerging economies were largely unaffected, the report found.

The downturn started catching up with emerging economies in the beginning of 2008, Van Der Linde said. Already, the report found, the millionaires club wasn't expanding as fast as before. From 2005 to 2006, the group swelled by more than 8 percent. The club has grown every year since the report was started.

Because of the economic slowdown, the wealthy tended to shift their money to safer investments such as bonds and money-market savings accounts, and away from less stable investments such as real estate, the report found. Cash deposits and fixed-income securities accounted for 44 percent of the assets of the world's millionaires, up from 35 percent in 2006.

The wealth of the world's richest is projected to reach almost \$60 trillion by 2012, the report said.

U.S. home prices tumble in April at record rate

BY J.W. ELPHINSTONE
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK No matter who's measuring, the results are the same: Housing prices are tumbling at the sharpest rates ever with a bottom still at least a year away, economists say.

Both the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price indices and the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight index on Tuesday reported record year-over-year declines in April, a sobering signal that the housing slump not only is deepening, but also engulfing markets once above water.

The last holdout in the Case-Shiller index, Charlotte, N.C., finally succumbed to the national housing downturn, with prices slipping 0.1 percent from a year ago. No city in the Case-Shiller 20-city index appreciated in April, the first time that's happened since its inception in 2000.

"I think that's the most disturbing part of the report," said Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody's Economy.com. "It shows the declines are now across all markets, that this is a nationwide housing collapse rather than one in a few markets."

The 20-city index dropped by 15.3 percent in April versus last year, while the narrower 10-city index plunged 16.3 percent, its biggest decline in its 21-year history.

The OFHEO index showed prices falling 4.6 percent in April from the same month last year, when the index peaked. That was the biggest decline since record-keeping started in January 1991.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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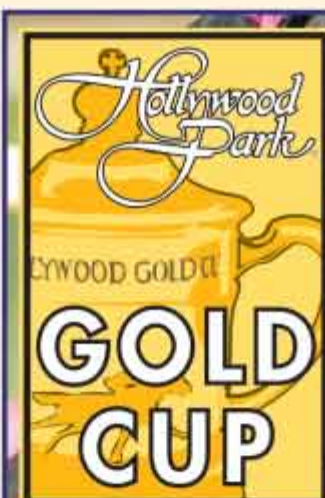
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City officials to file opening brief on appeal next month

FROM BAN PAGE 1

authority to ban aircraft from the municipal airport."

While it would not legally obligate the FAA to respect the ordinance, the resolution came as good news to City Hall and local advocates, glad to receive as much high-level support as possible.

"It's positive to have all levels of government on the same page regarding safety," Kate Vernez, assistant to the city manager on government relations, said.

City officials plan to request several technical amendments to the resolution, including changing the identification of SMO as the Santa Monica General Aviation Airport to the Santa Monica Municipal Airport, which shows that City Hall is a proprietor, Vernez said.

Runway safety has long been an issue at the airport where homes are situated less than 300 feet from both ends of the runway.

"It's a recognition of the importance of this safety issue," Brian Bland, a member of neighborhood group the Friends of Sunset Park, said. "One would hope that the FAA would realize that this is a serious safety issue and would look beyond their tendency to put the interest of a relatively small segment of aviation ahead of safety concerns of our city."

The FAA has presented several proposals in the past, including an option to install at 70-knot Emergency Material Arresting System that would be designed to stop roughly 97 percent of operations at the airport, including 90 percent of categories C and D. The enhanced safety measures would

consume more runway than the 40-knot EMAS, which the FAA previously proposed.

The ordinance was set to go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on April 24 but was suspended that day after the FAA filed a temporary restraining order, which was later granted by a U.S. District Court judge. The order continued when the judge issued a preliminary injunction until the final results of the FAA internal review. The initial results of the review were released last month.

A hearing officer was recently appointed to handle City Hall's administrative hearing on the FAA internal review. A hearing would most likely be scheduled for later this summer, according to Deputy City Attorney Martin Tachiki.

City Hall also filed an appeal to the preliminary injunction in May. An opening brief is expected to be filed in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco on July 2.

The resolution received support from groups like the Concerned Residents About Airport Pollution, which has lobbied airport officials to cut down on jet activity because of toxic emissions.

But the group's backing of the resolution has nothing to do with airport pollution, according to CRAAP Director Martin Rubin.

"This is a necessary safety issue that is long overdue for being addressed," Rubin said. "Yet we will continue to lobby for addressing the airport pollution issue that is so critical to the quality of life and health of the people close to the airport."

melodyh@smdp.com

School officials could consider joint-use library at Edison site

FROM LIBRARY PAGE 1

Now would be an ideal time to discuss a shared-use library, according to Ralph Mechur, a school board member who serves as a liaison to the Measure BB District Advisory Committee.

The school is currently located along Kansas Avenue and the new school would be built along Virginia Avenue, allowing classes to remain in operation during construction. The new library would fall along the Virginia Avenue side, making it accessible to the public.

"Certainly accommodation could be made to provide additional space for a neighborhood-serving library," Mechur said.

The site poses two issues when it comes to a joint-use library — cost and size, according to Chris Jimenez y West, one of the PTA presidents for the Edison Language Academy.

Jimenez y West said that the school is below the state standard in terms of the physical footprint and adding an additional dimension to the library would be a challenge, though not insurmountable.

"But again the question comes down to the resources, who is going to provide the resources and staffing," he said.

The PNA would be seeking a library that would be open to the public outside of school hours, understanding that the collection at Edison would not be on the same

level as at the other branches.

Many Pico residents currently used the Fairview Branch Library in the Sunset Park neighborhood.

"If there is going to be a large development in the community, we want to make sure that it's ... mutually beneficial, that there is a community benefit because it is a neighborhood school," Loya said. "This is a neighborhood asset in many ways."

Greg Mullen, the head librarian for the Santa Monica Public Library, said he has been involved in talks with the Edison Language Academy about the features for the new library, adding that joint-use opportunities might be possible. The challenge would be to find the money to expand the services at the facility.

He added that the Fairview Branch Library does offer a Latino Outreach Service and additional programs for students, including a Youth Tech Center and tutoring for math and science.

City and school officials have agreed on shared-use opportunities for after-school activities at the school library, but Mullen said he does not necessarily see it aligning with the needs for which the PNA is asking.

"We need to really work with the Pico Neighborhood and other stakeholders and determine what the needs are and respond to them," Mullen said.

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Living on the run

FROM CARS PAGE 3

City. It cost me \$500 to get it out," said Desiri Hawkins, who lives in a small RV in Venice. "I got ticketed in Santa Monica and had to go to court."

Tourist states with temperate climates, such as California and Florida, have long been magnets for the homeless. Los Angeles is the nation's homelessness capital, with an estimated 73,000 people on the streets. A survey of 3,230 homeless people last year in Los Angeles County found nearly 7 percent living in vehicles, according to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

"It's trending toward an increase," said Michael Stoop, acting executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless. "People would rather live in a vehicle than wind up in a shelter, and you can't stay on a friend's couch forever."

People living out of their cars or campers tend to be more well-off than the homeless on the street. They usually have jobs or disability checks that enable them to maintain an old camper but do not allow them to afford rent.

"For more working-class and lower-middle-class people, the car is the first stop of being homeless, and sometimes it turns out to be a long stop," said Gary Blasi, a University of California, Los Angeles, law

professor and activist on homeless issues.

Some Venice residents are clamoring for overnight parking restrictions. But parking limits in oceanfront neighborhoods are problematic because the California Coastal Commission requires communities to accommodate surfers, fishermen and other early-morning beachgoers.

"The complaints are getting louder and louder," said Los Angeles City Councilman Bill Rosendahl.

For years, some cities such as Santa Barbara, Calif., and Eugene, Ore., have accommodated people who live out of their vehicles. Activists in Venice are looking at some of those ideas. Santa Barbara, for example, allows vehicles to stay from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. in church and city parking lots.

Knoll said she can barely afford to drive around with the rising price of gasoline eating away at the \$950 monthly disability check she receives because of mental illness.

She said she is also sick of police waking her up in the wee hours by pounding on her vehicle with their nightsticks, and she is tired of fighting with residents who call her "lowlife scum" and hurl other insults.

"We need somewhere we can have a safe haven, where we won't be harassed," Knoll said as the wind from a passing car rocked her RV. "I never thought I'd be living like this, but I'm stuck. This is it for me."

Artist says state must halt use of whale tail plates

BY NOAKI SCHWARTZ
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A dispute is escalating over who should benefit from the annual proceeds of California's popular specialty auto license plate featuring an image of a whale tail.

Artist Robert Wyland, who created the image and gave it to the state to help raise funds for marine programs, said he would announce at a press conference Wednesday that the state can no longer use his work.

Wyland and his attorneys have been unsuccessfully demanding that 20 percent of the plate royalties go to his foundation — an estimated \$750,000 per year.

"At the end of the day, it's my art," Wyland, 51, said Tuesday. "How arrogant could you be to take \$40 million from an artist's image and not give any credit to the artist, his foundation and the artist's program?"

Peter Douglas, executive director of the California Coastal Commission, which negotiated the original deal with Wyland, says the state won't stop using the plate until a replacement image is found. The commission negotiated the handshake deal with Wyland, one that has resulted in nearly \$40 million in revenues since 1997.

"Unfortunately that's what we'll have to do as a result of this dispute," Douglas said.

The commission contends the artist handed over the rights with no strings attached, but Wyland said he never intended for his work to be used for free forever.

The artist, famous for his mammoth outdoor murals of whales, said he generously allowed the state to use his intellectual property for more than a decade. Wyland is upset that repeated requests for donations to his

Wyland Foundation in Laguna Hills went largely ignored until 2005 when it received about \$20,000.

According to recently filed tax documents, the nonprofit's "principal activity is to create art for and to disseminate art to public places throughout the U.S. and the world approximately every two years." Wyland and foundation members say they also educate children across the country on clean water issues and recently spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on a mobile lab that will tour Southern California this fall.

"I know the Coastal Commission has gotten a lot of money from his license plates and I think his request to get a little of it is reasonable," said Tony Haymet, director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla.

Others have been critical of the artist.

"My perspective is good riddance — that whale tail has always reminded me of an off-shore oil derrick," said Mark Massara, an attorney and director of the Sierra Club's California Coastal Program.

The whale tail license program was created by law in 1994 and has become a popular way for drivers to support coastal protection programs. The plates cost \$90 extra and another \$65 extra for renewal every year.

As of January, more than 126,000 drivers had purchased the plates and sales and renewal fees topped more than \$39.6 million for environmental programs.

The money is collected by the state Department of Motor Vehicles and put into a fund for distribution to agencies including the Coastal Commission, which uses it to pay for coastal programs including marine science summer camps and beach cleanup days.

Documentary uses rare footage to tell a love story

FROM FILM PAGE 3

Isherwood's famous and influential friends, to bring Isherwood's intelligence, humor and rebelliousness to life on film.

Mascara and Santi also employed two art students to animate drawings that Bachardy and Isherwood regularly used in their correspondence with one another: a cat character representing Bachardy and an old horse standing in for Isherwood.

"We wanted to find a way to help people into their magical world," Mascara said.

The filmmakers have found a way into the artists' "magical world" themselves. Santi had been good friends with Bachardy for over 20 years and had considered the film idea for some time, but had placed it on the back burner until he met Mascara. The two filmmakers soon became a couple and decided to embark on the project together. Making the documentary together brought Mascara into Bachardy's circle of friends as well. Mascara and Santi now cook dinner for Bachardy at his home about once a month.

The filmmakers said that they drew strength from Bachardy and Isherwood's stories as they faced the inevitable challenges surrounding independent filmmaking. They were especially inspired by Bachardy, who at 74 still has a model come to his home every morning so he can paint, and travels internationally to do commissioned portraits. Once overshadowed by his celebrated partner, Bachardy is now a prolific and highly sought-after artist, having painted the portraits of famous figures including Jane Fonda, Katharine Hepburn and Jerry Brown.

WE WANTED TO FIND A WAY TO HELP PEOPLE INTO THEIR MAGICAL WORLD."

Tina Mascara
Filmmaker

"His commitment to his art has been an inspiration to us at moments when we had no money and wanted to go back to paying jobs. We would say, 'What would Don do?'" Santi said.

Mascara agreed.

"His work ethic is unlike anyone's, even at 74," she said. "He lives intentionally — every second is accounted for."

Mascara and Santi hope that audiences see the universal themes of love, art and creativity in the true story of this unique couple.

"It's an important piece of history for L.A. and important for the gay community," said Santi, "but it's a film that has emotions in it that everyone can relate to."

Tickets for the June 25 screening of "Chris & Don: A Love Story" at the Aero are \$35. There are a limited number of tickets available for the June 29 reception for \$150. Proceeds from both events benefit the Santa Monica Conservancy. To purchase tickets, visit www.smconservancy.org.

news@smdp.com



Jack Shear

ART IMITATES LIFE: Don Bachardy (right) paints a portrait of his mate, Christopher Isherwood. Bachardy has completed sittings with dozens of well-known public figures.

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Getting dissed on the red carpet

BY TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE
Special to the Daily Press

There's nothing quite as exciting as walking the red carpet at the Mann Village Theatre in Westwood, holding your head high amidst the paparazzi as their flashbulbs go off, seeing you're several feet away from the stars of the film.

There's also nothing quite as embarrassing a being turned away at the door because you don't have a ticket. Access denied!

Yes, that's right, folks, I almost didn't make it to the premiere of "Wanted" (an amazing film BTW, see my review later this week).

After being dissed a festival volunteer informs me my tickets are at the press booth, but the press booth doesn't have them and suggests I check with Los Angeles Film Festival will call. Will call, upon learning I am with the press, sends me back to the press booth; who then sends me back to will call. Do we see a pattern of insanity here?

After 15 minutes of dickering between tables (so much for meeting Mr. McAvoy) I am told there are no tickets available. Fortunately, a contact at mPRm graciously offers me an extra, but to obtain it I have to trudge (in high heels, mind you) to the overflow theatre across Wilshire Boulevard. I am not a happy camper.

Once at the Majestic, a congenial woman takes the stage, this is Dawn Hudson, the executive director of LAFF and I have to say a bright star in my evening of mishaps.

She introduces the film explaining how exited LAFF is to present Bekmanbetov's "Wanted" since they screened "Night Watch" back in 2005. Hudson is so warm and friendly that I find myself forgetting the events that have transpired and settling into the best film I've seen in years.

An after-party hosted by festival supporter Jameson Irish Whiskey follows the debut, and thankfully there are shuttles at the ready.

I am a Tommy Bahama Rum drinker, so I'm not impressed with the booze situation nevertheless I opt for a whiskey sour. It is hideous; but soon I am tipsy and the next one tastes halfway decent. At the party I meet aspiring actress, Amy Garris who laments, "Last year they gave us gift bags."

There's no swag at this party. In fact, there are actually two parties occurring simultaneously: the "Plebeian Party" for us common folk (where I was), and the "Patrician Event" hosted by Universal (where Berkmanbetov was, and the reason I didn't get my interview), both are filled to capacity the distinction being Universal's is packed with mucky-mucks.

GENERAL FESTIVAL TIPS

- Before 5 p.m., there is \$3 parking behind the AVCO and the Majestic's lot is only \$4. If you're not wearing heels, the walk across Wilshire will do you good.
- With the closing of more than three Westwood theaters, movies seem to be situated further apart. Schedule your film viewing days at the Landmark; the Avco & Majestic (south of Wilshire); and those in the heart of Westwood on separate days.
- Valet parking at the restaurants runs about \$4 with a stamp. If you stop into the bar and grab a quick soda (or a nice shot of Tommy Bahama rum) they'll validate. It ends up being the same price or lower than most of the lots and it's hassle free.
- Wear flat, comfortable shoes; you'll be walking a lot.
- And if you have a question make sure you speak to someone in authority, not a volunteer.

Knowing this, why I should try in earnest to cajole the bouncer poised between the two events to pass me a comp ticket strikes me as psychotic.

I blame it on the Jameson. The bouncer remains stalwart ... until a 90 year-old woman approaches claiming a "misplaced ticket," and he permits her entry. Life is cruel.

Dejectedly I slink back to the Plebeians where in no due time a heavy woman collapses in a dead drunk heap on the pavement at my feet, signaling my cue to leave.

The consensus from the Plebeians interviewed is that the festival has outgrown itself; in year's past the crowd was not severed from interacting with talent, and no one appreciates being roped off from the industry executives; most of them don't know the execs so they can't be faulted for their ignorance in this matter.

From the get go the festival has been beset with problems, from: obtaining credentials to figuring out which events require hard tickets, and hoping the volunteers will be responsive and well informed.

There's no question that coordinating an event such as LAFF is a daunting and almost impossible task, but the next day the publicity team (Julie Siegel and Petra Kauraisa) works quickly and efficiently to ameliorate the situation; within 10 minutes I am officially "hooked up" and feeling much better.

Don't let a few minor set backs hastened by uninformed volunteers ruin what is otherwise an amazing event.

TAYLOR VAN ARSDALE is a writer/producer and movie reviewer for the Daily Press. She can be reached at Tailfish@roadrunner.com.



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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP: 68°**

SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)
The 25th wind swell should remain in the chest high range for west facing breaks as southern hemi drops off to knee to waist. Winds should be light in the AM, but with a little eddy texture likely. Tide stays fairly shallow for the morning hours.

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TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



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 18, 2008**

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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 — 4
	Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 35 / 2
	Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather — 10 / 6

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Cienegas Beach, at Arroyo Seco Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
El Pescadero State Beach, between Lachasa and Las Aliso creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Morado State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	D	ns
Escamido Creek, just east of Escamido State Beach	C	ns
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth	F	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	C	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	D	ns
Sunridge Beach at Malibu Colony fences	A+	ns
Sunridge Beach (beach location)— daily	C	A+
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 18948 PCH stairs	A	ns
Pine Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	F
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	B	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	ns	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17260 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Del Air Bay Club drain near fence	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chantreaga)	C	B
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	D	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	D	C
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kanter storm drain	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	ns
Venice Beach— projection of Tappan St.	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach— lifeguard tower	A	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of B&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



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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.

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MOVIE TIMES

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Easy does it, Capricorn

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★ Take your time getting involved in others' interests. Being somewhat of a cynic will help you much more than you think! Your strong mental acumen and high energy come out when dealing with others. Tonight: Nap and then decide.	LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Accomplishment is the name of the game, whatever you are doing. A problem could result because of a need to be in control and have things your way. How you deal with someone could change as a result. Tonight: Give in to another's wishes.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Aim for exactly what you want with determination. Ask yourself if you are willing to create much more of what you want. You are full of fun and liveliness. Think positively, and you could be delighted by what occurs. Tonight: A friend could disappoint you.	SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Your creativity emerges when dealing with a child or loved one. You seem to have an endless resource of ideas. Slowing you down could be close to impossible. Think positively. Tonight: On top of your game!
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ Make an effort with a child or loved one. A boss or work-related situation could be touchy at best and hard to work with. Give this situation all the time necessary. A partner helps you grasp the ramifications of a financial issue. Tonight: Where the action is.	SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★ You come from a sincere place, but getting others to agree takes more than talent. Allow greater creativity and humor into your life. Investigate what might be happening openly and directly. Surprises could actually shock you. Tonight: Nap and then let the Force lead you!
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ You might be in a lot deeper than you realize. Know when to say that enough is enough. Loosen up and relax with someone who often causes you a problem. Tonight: A late night.	CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★ What you hear could stun you. On the other hand, you might experience an insight that will open you up to potential changes. Act quickly, or expect to wait awhile. You might not be getting the answers you want. Tonight: Easy does it.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ You might want to open doors, but are dependent on a partner and his or her good will. You could find letting go and allowing others to reveal their true colors the best way to go. Emphasize work, errands and getting the job done. Tonight: Might it be time for a diet?	AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★ Expenses could overwhelm you. How you deal with a personal matter could change dramatically because of a sudden or swift change of events. Relax and know that given time, you will get a better handle on a personal matter. Tonight: Happy as a cat.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★ Others seem to be on top of their game, and you could be supremely exhausted or tired. You might need to evaluate a partnership with new eyes, especially if relating is driving you crazy. Tonight: Say yes.	PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ You smile, and someone else grins. Your mood is contagious and has a greater impact than you realize. Think positively about a personal bond or relationship. Relax with a financial matter. Tonight: Let go and relax.

Happy birthday

Many of your goals and dreams become possible the first half of this birthday year. You need to ask for what you want more often and discover what it is you need to make yourself happy. You often think one way and suddenly a flash of insight transforms your thinking. You are growing and evolving in new ways. The second half of your year, new people, new intellectual and spiritual concepts and/or potential travel will define this period. If you are single, you will have to work to keep this status. You have many admirers. If you are attached, you'll find that your relationship must grow if it is to maintain its validity. ARIES can trigger you.

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

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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 ★★★

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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The Meaning of Lila

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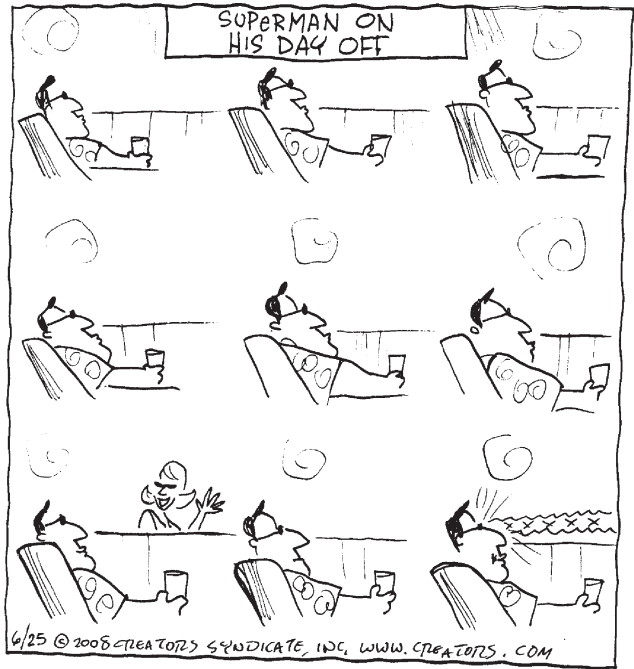
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The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to editor@smdp.com.

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 46 Ally of "War-Games"
 - 1 Look over 7 Miles off
 - 11 Wide street
 - 12 Print measure
 - 13 Stealthy
 - 14 Kitchen fixture
 - 15 Interfere
 - 17 Casual eatery
 - 20 Suspect's story
 - 23 "The Greatest"
 - 24 Toiled
 - 26 Watering hole
 - 27 "— Believer"
 - 28 Raw metal
 - 29 Parental warning
 - 31 Arts-funding org.
 - 32 Sleep inhibitor
 - 33 Swift jets
 - 34 Total at the register
 - 37 Parka part
 - 39 Coral isles
 - 43 One of the Brontës
 - 44 Outcast
 - 45 Clutter
- DOWN**
- 1 Brit. fliers
 - 2 Holiday lead-in
 - 3 Hair goo
 - 4 Japanese film genre
 - 5 Old letter
 - 6 Title page
 - 7 Artemis's twin
 - 8 Mashies
 - 9 Casino card
 - 10 Hightailed it
 - 16 Sponge gently
 - 17 Woodland home

G	O	F	E	R		R	I	S	E	N
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A	R	G	U	E		T	U	L	I	P
B	E	S	T	S		A	T	L	A	S

Yesterday's answer

- 18 Texas landmark
- 19 Poker, tongs, etc.
- 21 Floppy top
- 22 Notions
- 24 Sheets
- 25 Paris pal
- 30 Actor's comments
- 33 Future fungi
- 35 Ravines
- 36 Golden Spike state
- 37 Bad actor
- 38 Early hour
- 40 Fiction
- 41 Young man
- 42 Retiring

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1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
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43					44					
45					46					

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS	11 17 25 36 42 Meganumber: 13 Jackpot: \$25M
Super LOTTO	10 29 30 33 41 Meganumber: 18 Jackpot: \$19M
Fantasy 5	7 9 12 18 23
DAILY 3	MIDDAY: 3 7 6 EVENING: 1 7 6
DAILY DERRY	1st: 11 Money Bags 2nd: 07 Eureka 3rd: 03 Hot Shot RACE TIME: 1:44:89

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Police in Mesa, Ariz., chased driver Christopher Psomas, 38, in May after his companion, Ashley Strahan, 20, allegedly tried to pass a forged check at a business. The pair's car ran red lights at high speeds to get out of town, then left the road near the Salt River Reservation, and when the car became disabled, kept going on foot. However, they ran smack into a bed of cholla cactus, becoming virtual pin cushions. At Banner Desert Medical Center, as nurses plucked the needles from his body, Psomas, in pain and in tears, said, "I am so stupid. This is what I get for trying to run from the police."

■ In March, News of the Weird reported the bratty behavior of two Boynton Beach, Fla., high school girls who not only swiped money from a Girl Scout selling cookies at a supermarket, but then told a TV station on camera that they were "pissed" because they got caught and had to give the money back. One of the girls, Stefanie Woods, 18, chose to go to trial on the theft charge in May, but was quickly convicted and will be sentenced in June. A week after the conviction, she also pleaded no-contest to an intervening event in which she allegedly skipped out on a \$28 dinner tab at a Denny's. She said she was sorry for the theft, but that "I still don't think it gives (the public) the right to be screaming things at me" around town. "People scream things at me every single day, and it's getting really hard."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1807 Napoleon I of France and Russian Czar Alexander I met near Tilsit to discuss terms for ending war between their empires.

1876 Lt. Col. George A. Custer and his Seventh Cavalry were wiped out by Sioux and Cheyenne Indians in the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana.

1906 architect Stanford White was shot to death atop Madison Square Garden, which he had designed, by millionaire Harry K. Thaw, the jealous husband of Evelyn Nesbit.

WORD UP!

glutinous \GLOOT-nuhs\, *adjective*: Of the nature of glue; resembling glue; sticky.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Wonderful Architecture
3 + 2 Home

Easy to Show
Call for an Appointment



2470 Hill Street
\$2,288,000

'Contemporary Mediterranean'
4 + 3 Home



Open Sunday, June 29th
2:00 - 5:00 PM

1533 Princeton St # 3
\$518,000

Fully Remodeled
2 + 1.75 Condo



Easy to Show
Call for an Appointment

907 12th Street # 4
\$699,000

North of Wilshire
3 + 2 Condo



Easy to Show
Call for an Appointment

1506 Corinth Ave # 201
\$509,000

Contemporary
2 + 2.5 Condo

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

Single Family Homes

Condos & Townhomes

Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 2,269,000	No Listings
North of Montana	=	\$ 4,108,148	\$ 1,671,111
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 3,160,091	\$ 992,700
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,059,539	\$ 738,756
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,480,630	\$ 615,938
Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,866,667	\$ 1,349,523

Statistics updated every Wednesday

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

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

Santa Monica Conservancy



CHRIS & DON:
A LOVE STORY
Wednesday, June 25

7:30 pm

Aero Theatre

1328 Montana Avenue

Santa Monica

Reception Sunday, June 29

3:00 - 5:00