



MEET 'THE QUACKERS'
SEE PAGE 5

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE AT LENGTH ISSUE



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

MAINTAINING: Jose Mendoza tends to the landscaping on the Third Street Promenade last week. Downtown property owners are being asked to vote on a proposed assessment that would provide the area with increased revenues to enhance the various services the district requires.

A district divided

Vote over new assessment district exposes rift between property owners

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN Some property owners, including the City Council and the owners of Santa Monica Place, believe it will help Downtown remain a premier shopping and entertainment destination in Southern California while others feel it may price them out of the neighborhood, becoming more of a burden than a boon.

Both sides will have an opportunity to voice their opinions tonight at City Hall when property Downtown owners cast their vote in favor of or in opposition to it — a new assessment district that could gen-

erate roughly \$3.7 million a year (with a 5 percent annual increase) for the next 20 years.

The assessment requires a simple majority vote, which is weighed based on the amount a property owner would pay in new assessments. After 10 years, property owners will have the opportunity to kill it or extend it.

The vote, which is expected to be close (roughly 200 of the 256 property owners have already submitted their ballots, which have yet to be counted), will bring to an end a nearly three-year-process that has exposed deep rifts between property owners on Third Street and those in surround-

ing areas as well as City Hall.

The consultant who oversaw the process has referred to himself as a therapist at times, helping resolve long-standing differences, such as the one existing between City Hall and property owners who felt tax money was not being used wisely to maintain Downtown. Some elected officials felt the property owners were trying to take control over what is considered Santa Monica's living room, continually reminding property owners that even though the promenade is not open to vehicle traffic it is still a public street, created and supported

SEE DISTRICT PAGE 8

Anti-panhandling campaign receives additional funding

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CITY HALL Educating people about the negative aspects of giving money to panhandlers is proving to be quite costly, with the City Council expected tonight to spend \$237,000 to further study the extent of the problem and what alternatives exist for those willing to donate.

The consulting contract with GMMB, which will receive a total of \$337,000 once the anti-panhandling campaign is complete, is part of a nearly \$870,000 spending package that council will be asked to approve, featuring everything from repairs to the Big Blue Bus' fleet of liquefied natural gas coaches to janitorial services at the Public Safety Facility.

The most expensive item is the contract with GMMB, which has been working for City Hall since February on an education campaign to visibly reduce panhandling while redirecting people's generosity toward alternative methods of giving.

Between March and June, GMMB has gathered input from stakeholders and experts, surveyed over 300 residents and visitors to determine their motivations for handing over their cash, and tested ad campaigns with focus groups.

Phase two of the campaign will include further research on the extent of panhandling, developing a way to measure the campaign's success, exploring alternative ways to give, advertisement production and distribution and planning an event to launch the campaign. Signs about panhandling could end up being placed in highly visible locations, including city-owned parking structures Downtown.

The effort is part of the council's "Action Plan to Address Homelessness in Santa Monica."

City officials want donations to go to legitimate organizations that can provide services, such as counseling, job training and housing.

City Hall hopes to launch the ad campaign in the fall.

SEE CONSENT PAGE 9

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Calendar

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

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Workouts for teens

3026 Nebraska Ave., 3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Max offers two daily classes teaching teens how to exercise and eat properly in a cool and fun environment. They get to hang out afterwards in the wi-fi lounge, play Nintendo Wii, or simply surf the Internet. For information, call (310) 867-1650.

Art on the menu

1701 Ocean Park Blvd., 7 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Check out the work of artist and photographer Brian Asher at the Sunset Grill. 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.

Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Children's summer program

1501 California Ave., 8:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
Help your child shake off the dog days of summer with the Council of PTAs' Summer Adventure program. Summer Adventure is going to be held at Franklin Elementary, Lincoln Middle School and Point Dume Marine Science School from June 30 — July 25th from 8:30am-12:30pm. Reading, writing, computers, science, math, drama, sports and art are all a part of this fun and educational summer experience. You can find brochures and applications online at www.smmpta.org.

Midday labyrinth walks

1008 11th St., Noon — 1 p.m.
Give yourself the gift of some quiet moments in the middle of the week. Walk and meditate on the new permanent Labyrinth in Simkins Hall. Walks are available every Wednesday throughout the summer.

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.



Comic book icon laughs at politics

BY CHRISTINA YOON
Special to the Daily Press

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY President George W. Bush pounds his podium emphatically, exclaiming, “By presidential decree, I declare ... It’s pronounced ‘nookular.’”

Barack Obama stands by a sign printed with his campaign slogan: “Change we can believe in.” As he shakes the hand of an admirer, Obama turns to him and says, “No, you misread the sign. I don’t have four quarters for a dollar.”

This is politics, Stan Lee-style. In his new photo book “Election Daze,” the 85-year-old creator of superheroes such as Spider-Man, Iron Man, the Hulk and the Fantastic Four switches gears, poking fun at some of the most visible and influential political figures today. Photographs of politicians including Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and John McCain taken by Capitol Hill photographer Lauren Victoria Burke are enhanced by Lee’s goofy one-liners.

“It’s the type of writing I enjoy doing,” Lee said. “And it’s the kind of thing I can do quick, so it doesn’t interfere with my regular work.”

The wisecracking writer signed copies of “Election Daze,” as well as carefully preserved copies of rare comic books, prized figurines and even an adult-sized Spider-Man costume, at the Santa Monica Public Library last Wednesday. The event was planned in conjunction with comic book store Hi-De-Ho on Santa Monica



Photo courtesy Thomas H. Kang

REACHING OUT: Comic book icon Stan Lee recently released a photo book titled ‘Election Daze.’

Boulevard. Anxious fans of all ages snaked around the building, awaiting the man who many consider to be the godfather of comic books.

Fan Dino Andrade fell in love with Spider-Man as a kid and is so devoted to comic book culture that he has started Soulgeek.com, a dating site and online community for “fan-guys” and “fan-gals” who are just as obsessed with science fiction, horror, fantasy and animation. Waiting patiently at the library for Lee’s arrival, Andrade showed his support for his latest work despite its departure from the classic comic book genre.

“The guy’s earned the right to be able to do what he wants,” Andrade said. “He’s con-

sidered one of the great icons.”

Lee said that he’s received an overwhelmingly warm reception by his devoted fans to “Election Daze.”

“If you’re a fan of mine you have to have a sense of humor,” he said.

This is not the first time Lee has explored the genre of the photo book. He previously released the photo book “Monsters Unlimited,” which matched stills from old horror movies with humorous captions. In the 1960s, Lee published a magazine called “You Don’t Say,” which poked fun at the era’s superstar politicians like presidents John Kennedy, Richard Nixon and Lyndon Johnson.

“It’s almost therapeutic,” Lee said of writ-

ing photo books. “You don’t feel like you’re working.”

This was especially true for Lee as he wrote “Election Daze,” as he was able to think up material just by watching the constant news coverage surrounding this year’s contentious presidential campaigns.

“It is interesting as hell,” Lee said of politics. “I wish they had a debate every night. I like when two people argue about the same thing.”

As for his own political views, Lee is unsure about where he’s leaning this year.

“I’m more inclined to vote Democratic but I haven’t totally made up my mind,” he said.

However, Lee assured his fans that people of all political persuasions, and even those who have no interest in the current campaigns at all, would still get a kick out of “Election Daze.”

“It’s not a book of politics,” he said. “It’s a book of humor.”

The slapstick humor of “Election Daze” is a reflection of Lee’s lighthearted view on life.

“I’ve always been kind of foolish,” he said. “I remember my teacher saying I always act like the class clown. I’m a real ham!”

There are plans for more photo books in the future, including those with sports and celebrity themes. And Lee shows no signs of slowing down any time soon.

“You’ve heard of the old cowboys who want to die with their boots on? I want to die with my fingers on my keyboard.”

news@smdp.com

Former Olympic sports come right from playground

BY JOHN MARSHALL
AP Sports Writer

If you’ve been swimming, you probably tried it at least once: dive into the water and see how far you can get without taking a stroke. Coast past 62 feet and you could have earned a gold medal at the 1904 Olympics.

The tug-of-war you played with friends at school? That could have been worth a podium spot at six Games. A gym class favorite like the rope climb and a game that looked like hopscotch — the standing hop, step, jump — also were once medal events.

Long before the corporate sponsorships and billion-dollar television deals, the

Olympic Games were more like games kids might play in the backyard. Some of the events may seem a bit strange — club swinging, anyone? — but there was certainly a fun factor to the early days of the Olympics.

“It’s was a different thing, kind of catch as catch can, particularly the very early days before it got formalized,” said David Wallechinsky, vice president of the International Society of Olympic Historians. “Eventually, as it got bigger, they had to take it a lot more serious.”

The first few modern Olympics, which started in Athens in 1896, were loosely organized. There were no national teams — athletes could just sign up, pay an entry fee

and compete — and the host countries were allowed to pick what events were to be held.

That changed after World War I, when the International Olympic Committee took over selection of the Olympic program because Sweden wouldn’t allow boxing at the 1912 Stockholm Games.

And while there has always been a political slant to the Olympics — St. Louis pulled a back-room deal to snatch the 1904 Games from Chicago — there wasn’t much worldwide attention paid to the early Games.

A wild finish in the marathon at the 1908 Games — Italy’s Dorando Pietri was disqualified for being helped across the finish line by two officials after collapsing several

times — and the Nazi presence at the 1936 Berlin Games helped increase media interest, eventually turning the Olympics into the financial and political monster of today.

Before all that happened, though, the Olympics were a more simple affair, filled with some, uh, interesting events.

One was the dueling pistols at the 1906 Athens Summer Olympics. Despite the Wild West connotations, the participants didn’t actually shoot each other; they fired upon mannequins dressed in frock coats with bull-eyes on their chests.

Running deer shoot, where participants shot at moving cutouts of animals, was another worse-than-it-sounds competition.

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SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No more water increases
Editor:

To the City Clerk,
As property owners of Santa Monica we strongly object to the proposed 60 percent rate increase for our water/wastewater. We especially protest the increases in employee salary and benefits and administrative indirect costs. This is fiscally irresponsible. It is wrong, wrong, wrong to increase water rates that far exceed the actual increased water costs and the projected rate of inflation!
Any proposed improvements should be put to a vote as a city bond so everyone has a chance to vote on them. This is a vital cost of living issue and a life necessity; it is not at all appropriate to bankroll two city bureaucracies on the backs of city residents. Shame on you.

Susan Grant
Santa Monica

City should seek public's opinion
Editor:

Dear City Council members,
I wish to protest the egregious rate increases being considered by the city. I think rates should be considered on a year-by-year basis, and reflect the actual cost of water and wastewater services rather than projections which may or may not be accurate.
I also wish to protest the way in which this has been handled. Because so few people know about it – after all, how many people actually read the stuffers in their utility bills? – I doubt you will get more than a handful of letters, whereas if you were to put this on a ballot, everyone would have a chance to make their voice heard. Even opening the door to e-mail, phone or in-person protests would make the process much fairer to the citizens who have to bear the burden. It's not like we have a choice, either. One can go without food, gas or shelter, but not water.
I feel the City Council has let its constituents down by slipping these increases through without an adequate public forum to find out what those who pay the bills really think.

Phil Harnage
Santa Monica

Great prose, Breen
Editor:

I was in town for a hospital visit and had sometime to kill and picked up your daily.
What a pleasant surprise. Steve Breen's prose is great ... he reminds me of the late Mike Royko, of my native Chicago.
How often does he write in the Daily?
Since I live in Malibu and do not have a place to pick up the SMDP, may I subscribe?
Keep up the good work.

Ron Stackler
Malibu

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What's the Point?

David Pizarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Stability takes on flexibility

YOU ARE NOT ENTITLED. YOU ARE NOT entitled a home in Santa Monica, a good paying job, and low gas prices. Neither am I. There has been much complaining of late about how the “oil companies are ripping people off,” and how unfair it all is. That is a load of cow manure.

Yes, prices are high, yes, the companies are making a profit. That is their job. They are supposed to make a profit. They owe it to their shareholders, the little old ladies in Omaha who put their savings into oil companies.

You know what doesn't make a profit? Medicare, the government health insurance program for the elderly. And do you know how they support that? With your taxes. That is an entitlement. If you live long enough, and if Medicare survives in its present form, you will then be “entitled” to receive benefits.

Gasoline, home values, rents, good jobs, these are all controlled by a market. How you do in that market is in many ways beyond your ability to decide, granted.

But, nowhere in our U.S. Constitution, State Constitution, local municipal codes or in our society does it say that you are entitled to cheap gas, low rent and a high paying job.

Those of us who choose to live in Santa Monica, picked it because of its beautiful weather, small town feel, proximity to the beach and the lifestyle that it affords us. We choose to live here because our life is short and we want to live in the best place we can afford.

That's a key thought, “what we can afford.” Because so much of our position in life boils down to our income, and our income is an outgrowth of the work that we have put in, to get to where we are, and the choices that we make.

I'm an entrepreneur, I'm a lawyer, I like being self-employed. I enjoy the freedom that it affords me to enjoy my life. It comes at a price. I never know for certain what my next week's income is going to be.

We go through lean times, periods when there are no new clients coming in with divorces, no new child custody battles. It is those periods when the thought occurs to me that a regular salaried job sounds really good.

The security of working for someone else is a safety blanket that many of us choose, for all sorts of reasons.

When I was in law school, I needed to have a job because I did not have the time to go find clients, do the administrative work of running a company and be able to study. So I took a job waiting tables at Rusty's on the pier. It was a good job, tips were decent, my hourly rate was standard minimum wage and it got me through the hell that is law school.

For those people who have a family, you need to have the security of knowing where the next meal is coming from. You have

chosen to put someone else in charge of worrying about the overall health of the business, and you get to enjoy your kids.

The price for your stability and security of income however, comes at the price of elasticity of your income.

So long as you are working for someone else, there is an agreed upon, set wage schedule.

... NOWHERE IN OUR U.S. CONSTITUTION, STATE CONSTITUTION, LOCAL MUNICIPAL CODES OR IN OUR SOCIETY DOES IT SAY THAT YOU ARE ENTITLED TO CHEAP GAS, LOW RENT AND A HIGH PAYING JOB.

This stability allows you to budget and plan, but the problem is that you have no elasticity in your income. That is why a spike in the price of gasoline hurts so much.

For someone who is a regular wage earner, they don't see an increase in their income until their annual review, and then it's likely to be a small percentage of their wages. This is the trap of being a wage earner.

Self-employed people on the other hand, those who don't have security in their income stream, who do have to worry about where their next clients are coming from, have the flexibility, the elasticity in their income to adapt to price increases in gasoline, food and housing.

As a self-employed person, I have much greater control over my income, but I also have more risk.

Life is all about balance, so is the marketplace. For years we have had cheap gasoline in America, the market is finally catching up to us.

The whiners amongst us need to lose their sense of entitlement and recognize that the choices they make are nothing more than a tradeoff. Some of us chose security over risk — that gives stability in income; it comes at the cost of adaptability and elasticity in income level.

DAVID PISARRA is a Family Law Attorney focusing on Father's Rights and Men's Issues, in the Santa Monica firm of Pizarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

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The Ouackers

Phyllis Chavez

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Photo courtesy Phyllis Chavez

The Chronicles begin: Part one

Editor's note: Meet the "Quackers," three young surf ducks, born and raised in the canals of Venice, Calif. Their passion in life: Surfing and saving the earth. Their mission: To surf and spread the word about saving the earth, cleaning up pollution and stopping global warming, to anyone who will listen.

My name is Sidney J. Quacker. I'm the studious, good-looking duck with the blue glasses and the blue and white-striped tie. They say I'm a brain. It is probably true. I do love math, computers and most of all reading. I often bring a book along, in a reusable waterproof bag of course, to read while I wait for the next perfect wave.

My brother, Richard Quacker, is the quiet, introspective one in the green string tie. He loves swimming, of course, also hiking, gardening and just observing the wonders of nature. His green thumb supplies us with healthy veggies from his organic garden. I forgot to mention his love for Puccini Operas. He has been heartbroken over the recent passing of Luciano Pavarotti.

Rusty Quacker is the daredevil of our group. He is not exactly the Evel Knievel of the duck world but definitely the classic risk taker. He is the energetic one sporting the blue beanie and that bright red bow tie. In addition to swimming and surfing he also loves snorkeling and sky diving. If you knew him, you would not be surprised that he has surfed Cortes Bank!

The three of us were born and raised along the canals of Venice, Calif. For generations the Quackers have raised their families there. The first Quackers, let's call them the "pioneer Quackers," discovered the canals during their yearly migration. On what was to be just a short stop over, they found a wonderful climate, plenty of water, and bountiful sources of fresh food. It seemed to be the perfect place to raise future generations. Their decision to stay and settle was also greatly influenced by the warmth and welcoming attitude of the Venetians. The mild winters and near perfect

weather allowed them, for the first time, to really settle down and have a permanent home. You have heard the corny saying about "taking to it like ducks to water?" Well, they did! There would be no need for yearly migrations here. They could stay put, year round, forever.

The pioneer Quackers were also taken with the beauty of their new environment. They loved the graceful bridges over the canals, the ebb and flow of the water and the wild vegetation. They felt they had found the perfect home, a paradise where they could raise their families.

Having lived in the canals for so many years, the Quackers were able to witness many dramatic changes to the area. They were there when the canals became little more than stagnant mud flats and people called the houses "shacks." To many it was the "other side of the tracks" but to us it was still a wonderful place to be and definitely "home sweet home." It was during that time that our Great, great grandfather Charles Quacker and his best buddy, Jeff Yellowduck, began surfing. It's my guess that being able to settle in one place and have constant access to food, water and shelter allowed them to develop new skills. They were the first ducks ever to surf. Through trial and error they fashioned their own boards from pieces of driftwood they found washed up in the canals. They sanded and smoothed. They adjusted and tested. Then they hit the waves. At first they both fell off their boards more than they stayed on. Good thing ducks love water! They never gave up. They kept trying and practicing. They took wipe out after wipe out before finally mastering it. They became legends. Our grandpa was known as "The Big Duckuna" and his buddy, Jeff was known as "Duckdoggy." They took trips up and down the coast that they called "surfing safaris."

PHYLLIS AND THE QUACKERS may be reached at Phyllis@phyllischavez.com

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The Q-Line

Safe catch?

California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHA) recently released a report relaxing weekly consumption limits of sport fish. Environmentalists say the report is not as protective of public health as it should be.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you feel safe eating fish caught in the Santa Monica Bay?

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



Kate Bransfield
Estates Director

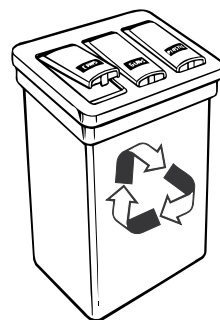
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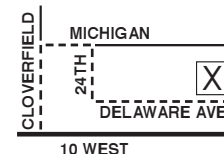
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1.2 Million Gallon Free Gas Giveaway launches new Eco-Friendly home cooling breakthrough that uses the same energy as a 60 watt light bulb

Public has 48 hours to snatch up their share of 1.2 Million gallons in free gasoline along with energy saving air coolers that roll anywhere to quietly throw off ice cooled air with no windows, no vents and no freon



■ ENERGY SAVINGS: Everyone wants to get free gasoline and save on their energy bills. The Cool Surge eco-friendly air cooler helps you do both and stay cool. So all of those that beat the 48 hour deadline by calling 1-800-789-3198 to order the Cool Surge portable air cooler at two-hundred twenty-eight dollars are actually getting a fifty dollar gas card absolutely free.

By RONALD BERRY
Universal Media Syndicate

(UMS) Everyone wants to keep cool this summer. But with high gas prices, we can barely afford to drive our cars; let alone shell out \$1,500 or more for a whole house air conditioner.

And for those who have a window air conditioner, just turning it on sucks the money right out of your pockets. Well now, the all new Cool Surge eco-friendly air cooler will

help solve that problem.

It blasts out ice cooled air but uses about 93% less electricity than a typical window air conditioner. And here's the best part, readers of this publication who beat the 48 hour deadline to order their Cool Surge eco-friendly air cooler are actually getting their share of up to 1.2 million gallons in free gasoline.

This is all happening to launch the brand new Cool Surge portable air cooler that easily rolls from room to room so you can take the ice cooled

air with you anywhere.

That way, everyone who gets them first can immediately fill up their gas tanks, turn down the air, save on their electric bill and never be hot again. The all new Cool Surge is only available direct from Universal Techtronics.

"We can only afford to give free gas to everyone who beats the 48 hour deadline because we've cut out the middleman. That's why you won't find the Cool Surge in the national chain stores," says Jeremiah Gray,

Operations Manager of Universal Techtronics.

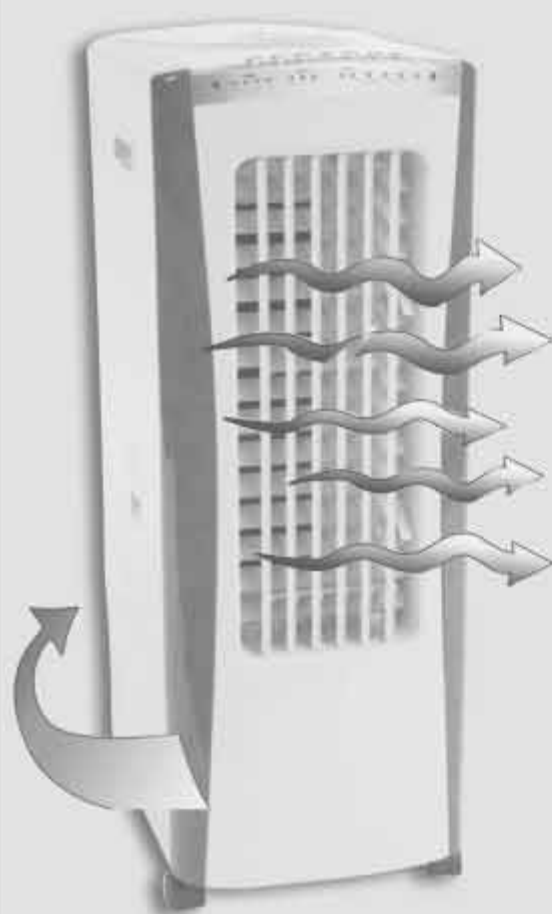
"People everywhere are going to be stampeding over one another to get one and get their share of the free gas. Our phones will be ringing off the hook," added Gray.

"That's because owning a Cool Surge is like having your own personal shade follow you around your home," says Dr. Joe Dietz, Director of Research and Development for Universal Techtronics.

Consumers have been wishing

COOL SURGE™

Portable Air Cooler



HOW IT WORKS: The Cool Surge eco-friendly air cooler is a work of engineering genius from the China coast so advanced that no windows, vents or freon are required. It's as easy to use as a baby's vaporizer and even includes the four hour extra cooling power of the reusable glacier ice blocks. It uses the same electricity as a 60 watt light bulb, yet it blasts out ice cooled air. The hi-efficiency motor cools the air around the unit up to ten degrees so you'll instantly feel cool and refreshed. The 3 cooling levels and auto shut off timer put all the comfort controls right at your finger tips. It's so impressive that it even comes with a full year Money Back Guarantee.

How to get your free gas

The National Toll Free Hotlines are now open. All those who beat the 48 hour deadline to order the Cool Surge portable air cooler plus shipping get a FREE \$50 gas card.

They have imposed a strict limit of 2 per household. Dealers will have to be turned away, but everyone else should be able to get all they need.

Use the map below to locate the weather zone you live in and call the Hotline number for your zone.



EVERYONE LIVING IN THE
Scalding Zone: 1
START CALLING AT
8:00 A.M. TODAY
1-800-789-3198

EVERYONE LIVING IN THE
Scorching Zone: 2
START CALLING AT
8:30 A.M. TODAY
1-800-781-3299

EVERYONE LIVING IN THE
Sizzling Zone: 3
START CALLING AT
9:00 A.M. TODAY
1-800-731-4851

there was a way to take the coolness with them from room-to-room for decades. The new Cool Surge portable air cooler makes it a snap.

It effortlessly rolls from room-to-room and is unbelievably lightweight. "But don't let its light weight fool you, this is one serious piece of equipment," added Dietz.

During the day, keep it in your living room and at night, roll it into your bedroom and enjoy a cool, comfortable night's sleep. The Cool Surge eco-friendly air cooler cools the air around the unit up to ten degrees but only costs about a penny

an hour to operate. So at only two hundred twenty-eight dollars it's a real steal.

"Everyone can use this new eco-friendly home cooling breakthrough," Dietz explained. "Air conditioners can cost thousands of dollars. And with a central air conditioner you are paying to cool areas of your home that you're not using. Window air conditioners are even worse because they weigh a ton so they're a hassle to move," confirms Dietz.

Getting the Cool Surge is the best way to slash summer electric bills

and still stay cool all summer long. And the free gas giveaway makes the Cool Surge an absolute must have.

It uses the same electricity as a 60 watt light bulb, yet throws off ice cooled air to keep you cool all day and night. The potential energy savings are absolutely incredible.

"We're bracing ourselves for all the calls because everyone wants to save on their electric bills and stay cool. But those that really want to save a ton will be telling our operators they want two and will double up on their share of the free

gasoline too," said Gray.

"So when the lines are busy keep trying or log onto www.coolsurge.com. We promise to get every call. Then we'll have a delivery truck out to you before the summer heat knocks on your door so you can stay cool and fill up your tank with your free gas right away," Gray said.

"You'll instantly feel the ice cooled air in any room. You will never have to be hot and miserable again," he said. ■

On the worldwide web: www.coolsurge.com

Saves Money: Uses about 93% less electricity than air conditioners, so leave it on all day long and never be hot again



■ **SAVES ON BILLS:** Everyone gets low bills and still stays cool and comfortable. Margaret Jones turned down the air and saved a ton of money with her new Cool Surge.



■ **STAY COOL:** Everyone keeps cool with the Cool Surge. It's where the kids will play and the family will relax, especially on those hot summer days.



■ **EASILY ROLLS ANYWHERE:** This is the eco-friendly Cool Surge portable air cooler that easily rolls from living room to bedroom. No vents, no windows and no freon. Just fill it up and plug it in.



■ **GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP:** The built in sleep setting automatically adjusts the cooling level throughout the night. Everyone wakes up cool and refreshed.



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

KEEPING DOWNTOWN TIDY: Jose Correa of Santa Monica's community maintenance department uses a high-pressure hose to clean the streets of the Third Street Promenade last week.

Process provides a chance to heal

FROM DISTRICT PAGE 1

with a mixture of tax dollars and an assessment.

Throughout the scores of public meetings on the subject, it has become clear that many feel something needs to be done to make Downtown competitive with places like The Grove, Old Town Pasadena, Hollywood & Highland Center and The Citadel Outlet. However, there is disagreement over how that should be done, with opponents of the proposed business improvement district saying the assessment formula needs to be reexamined.

"We are all in favor of cleaning up Downtown, but this is just too large, too much money," said Donna Alvarez, a long-time community activist and member of the board of directors for Santa Monica Christian Towers, an affordable, senior housing complex on Sixth Street between Wilshire Boulevard and Arizona Avenue. The board has voted against the assessment. If approved the Towers will pay roughly \$5,000 a year in assessments.

"We just feel all of this is essentially taking care of the promenade by getting others to pay for it," added Alvarez, who is a member of a political action committee opposed to the assessment, Property Owners against PBAD, which created a Web site and recently circulated a flyer to garner support for a no vote. "To me the city is responsible for cleaning the streets, not my tenants. These are elderly people on fixed incomes."

Alvarez is also worried about the cost of services provided by her dentist and others located in Downtown. The trickle-down effect could force people to move out, and that includes merchants as well as residents.

Supporters say everyone will benefit from a cleaner, safer environment that will increase property values while making streets more enjoyable for visitors and residents alike. Failing to do so could lead to a Downtown that is rundown, driving restaurants and retailers out, leading to boarded-up businesses and more crime.

"We are all competing for the same customers, people choosing to come here over San Diego, San Francisco or Las Vegas, and we want to make sure they have a great experience here so they want to come back," said Chris Jones, general manager of the Holiday Inn on Colorado Avenue at Second Street.

The trust which owns the hotel has voted in favor of the assessment, agreeing to pay around \$30,000 a year, a relatively small amount considering the hotel pays City Hall over \$1 million a year in lodging taxes.

"We looked at this carefully and we don't want to vote for something just so that our taxes go up," Jones said. "We want to see something for it, and we think we will with this program."

THE DETAILS

Approved by the council in April, the plan would revamp the Bayside District Corp. board and the way it is chosen, giving property owners the power to appoint six members, the council six and the city manager one. The assessment would generate an additional \$3.6 million to boost maintenance, enhance marketing efforts and create an ambassador program to inform visitors and help keep the streets safe.

Under the proposed plan, assessments would be based on the property's size, type of use and location in an expanded district divided into three zones — one comprised of the promenade, another along Second and Fourth streets and Ocean Avenue, and a third between Fifth and Seventh streets.

A property on the promenade would pay the most at 76 cents a square foot per year, properties on neighboring Second and Fourth streets and Ocean Avenue would pay 34 cents, while those on Fifth and Seventh would pay 19 cents. Government buildings and non-profits would pay considerably less, the reasoning being that they are already providing services to the community and would not benefit in the same manner as others from a marketing campaign.

Under the plan, the streets would reap benefits proportional to the assessments paid by their property owners, with those on the promenade paying the most while receiving the most services.

RESPONSE

This has angered some nonprofits, including the Santa Monica Family YMCA, which has voted against the assessment, sending a strongly-worded letter to the council detailing the "negative financial impact that will result" from the proposed assessment.

Kathleen Rawson, executive director of the Bayside District Corp., which helps man-

age and maintain Downtown and was the driving force behind the creation of a new assessment district, said nonprofits must be included in the process under state law. She said she has tried to explain to nonprofits the benefits of paying more (after nonprofits balked at the original assessment formula, their contributions were reduced). She emphasized that nonprofits will not have to pay for a marketing campaign, but will have access to a rapid response maintenance team like everyone located in the district.

Rawson also responded to claims by commercial property owners that they will see little to no benefit. Douglas Emmett Inc., which owns several large commercial and residential properties in Downtown, has come out against the assessment, the vote accounting for roughly 11 percent of the total, making them a major player in the election. A representative from Douglas Emmett said the company believes improvements are needed, but questioned the amount Douglas Emmett will have to pay, around \$300,000 a year.

"A well-funded (business improvement district) shows a significant positive impact on property values," Rawson said. "A healthy, clean promenade is a big benefit and reflects positively on rents you can receive from office tenants. Having a vibrant Downtown with multiple options for lunch ... with parking and great access, all those things are very important. ... You get what you pay for."

Opponents have complained that the process was not as open as supporters would like the public to believe and feel that the assessment formula was drafted by property owners on the promenade who have the greatest to gain. Some said they were not aware of the vote and had not received their ballot because they moved to another location or were out of state.

Supporters said the process has been very inclusive and Bayside has made many efforts to reach out to as many property owners as possible, sending out mailers, e-mails and making phone calls to spread the word. Scores of public meetings were held, including a hearing before the City Council. Local media outlets have also covered the issue.

"The process was really good," said Tod Lipka, executive director of Step Up on Second, a mental health provider that voted in support of the assessment. "There were

focus groups held early on, nonprofits were called in for meetings ..."

Lipka did argue for more homeless outreach as part of the ambassador program, hoping to create some synergy with outreach being done by service providers, City Hall and the police department, but that was not included in the plan to the extent he would have liked. That said, he still feels the assessment is a positive even though Step Up will have to do more fundraising to pay for the added expense if the assessment is approved.

Rawson is confident the plan will receive the votes needed for approval, however, she believes it will be close. If it fails, it is her fear that the process, which has been grueling at times, will not start again for several years as there will be many who are too exhausted or frustrated to start again. The momentum is here now, she said, and property owners should not waste the opportunity to do something positive for Downtown, especially with the new Santa Monica Place scheduled for reopening in fall of 2009.

"We are trying to get organized to implement this plan once the money starts flowing," Rawson said. "We want to put the money to use as quickly as possible."

No matter what the vote ends up being, the one positive thing to come out of the entire process is healing, said Jennifer Hranilovich, a Bayside board member who has worked for land trusts and has experience with business improvement district.

"I understand that there has been distrust before and I think we are moving in a positive direction," she said. "I really hope it passes because it will give us continued opportunities to work on those relationships and build a better district."

Property owners would finally have more say on how their money is spent with a new board of directors, while the council will still maintain influence over Downtown, with the city manager providing the tie-breaker if necessary. A new board is evidence at how far property owners and public officials have come, Rawson said.

"It has definitely been an interesting two years," she said. "The process we have gone through has done a lot to mend fences between the public and private sector ... with both realizing that they need each other in order to make success happen."

kevinh@smdp.com

City TV may get new digs

FROM CONSENT PAGE 1

THE WHEELS GO 'ROUND AND 'ROUND

To ensure that BBB keeps moving along, the council will be asked to approve a maintenance contract with AFV Fleet Services for the refurbishment of LNG tanks and related parts. The contract, which is for one year with two additional one-year renewals, is worth \$225,000.

Over the life span of an LNG powered bus, which is estimated to be 12 years, LNG components are subject to severe temperature changes during normal use. The changes over time will weaken the tank's ability to maintain a vacuum, the loss of which reduces the time LNG will remain cold causing the temperature and pressure to rise. The rise in pressure will cause the tank to vent methane into the atmosphere, according to a city staff report.

The refurbishment and maintenance of the gas tanks will prevent that from happening and enhance fuel efficiency. AFV Fleet, the only bidder to respond to a request for proposals, has been repairing and servicing the LNG tanks on BBB coaches since 2005.

The cost of the contract over three years is estimated to be \$755,000.

A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME

While City TV, Santa Monica's public access channel, has called offices at 525 Broadway home since 1999, it hasn't been the ideal location for producing quality programming. City TV has managed to win many awards despite the restrictions that come with operating in a confined space. But imagine what could be possible with more room?

The answer to that question could come sooner than another prime-time drama involving doctors in a busy ER. That's because the council is expected to ask the city manager to enter into a lease agreement for a 4,700-square-foot facility on 19th Street that is large enough to accommodate the creation of new shows.

Currently, City TV must rent studio space or shoot entirely on location in lieu of taping in a studio, which has hindered the development of new programming, according to a city staff report. With the new space, which is currently an auto repair shop at 1654 19th St., City TV could expand its programming.

As part of the lease agreement, City Hall would be able to purchase the facility during the first year of the lease at an estimated cost of \$3.2 million. It would also have the right of first refusal.

If City Hall decides not to buy the space, its lease would be good for 10 years, with two five-year-renewal options. Rent for the first year is estimated at \$168,100. Additional costs to City Hall include janitorial services and utilities, which are estimated to be \$2,100 per month. On-site parking is free. City Hall would also have to make tenant improvements — studio and control room, lighting, sound proofing, acoustics, equipment, editing bays, painting and carpeting — to the tune of \$1.5 million.

To help offset the costs, City Hall plans to use funding from Time Warner, the city's cable provider, which is required by law to provide 1 percent of its gross revenues to facilitate public, education, and government access to the cable system. So far City Hall has received approximately \$240,000 per quarter.

DIRTY COPS GET CLEAN

City staff is asking the council to approve a month-to-month extension of a custodial services contract with L.A. Cha Maintenance Co. at the Public Safety Facility until new janitors can be found.

The new monthly rate is \$19,573, for a total contract of \$97,865. City staff estimates that a new company will be selected by November. City staff is looking for a new company after

L.A. Cha informed them that they would not be able to honor their second one-year renewal rate. Custodial services include regular cleaning of offices, restrooms, kitchen areas, and floor care.

MOVING EXPENSES

In the interest of those living at the Village Trailer Park, the council is being asked to approve a consulting contract with Del Richardson & Associates, Inc., to study the impact the closure will have on park residents.

The contract is for \$86,500. The impact report, as well as a relocation plan are required pursuant to state law since City Hall has entered into a development agreement with the park's owner. The Village currently has 109-rent-controlled spaces, of which approximately 83 are occupied. The plans to demolish the park and build a mixed-use project.

THE BIG PICTURE

To keep the Third Street Promenade a bustling shopping and entertainment center, the council is being asked to amend a consulting contract with IJM Enterprises to study the potential redevelopment of movie theaters.

The contract amendment will be for \$50,000 and pay for IJM's assistance in evaluating offers to redevelop Parking Structure No. 3 on Fourth Street, creating a mixed-use project that would include a state-of-the-art theater.

The Promenade Uses Task Force, which was created by the council in 2001 to study the best way to enhance the vitality of Downtown and maintain the proper balance of uses on the promenade, looked at the mix of retail, restaurant and entertainment options and concluded that the existing cinemas in the Bayside District are outdated and likely will become less competitive in the near future unless than can provide amenities like stadium seating.

WATER BILL

In adjusting wastewater rates, the council has relied on consultant Raftelis Financial Consultants, Inc. for expert financial analysis.

Raftelis, which is looking for an additional \$4,665, helped develop rates for the next five years. Final adoption of the new rates is scheduled for tonight.

IN THE BLACK

Spending money is not the only thing the council is being asked to do.

To bolster homeland security, the council will receive a \$273,800 federal grant as part of the Urban Area Security Initiative, which provides no-match funding for costs associated with preventing and responding to threats of incidents of terrorism.

The program was created to support large "core" cities and those other cities with contiguous borders to the core city. Los Angeles acts as the core city and allots funds to Santa Monica, according to the staff report. City Hall has received approximately \$3.6 million of funding since 2001. These funds have paid for equipment, supplies and training.

The new funds will be used to purchase a detection and data linking system for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive attacks and provide added safety equipment for officers and firefighters.

Over at the Santa Monica Airport, two fixed-based operators who refuel and maintain planes are looking to renew their leases with City Hall. Justice Aviation and Santa Monica Aviation, two long-time tenants, are looking to pay \$4,822 and \$4,778 per month respectively, and make improvements to the tune of \$75,000 and \$160,000. Rents are subject to annual adjustments relative to inflation.

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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 59-71°

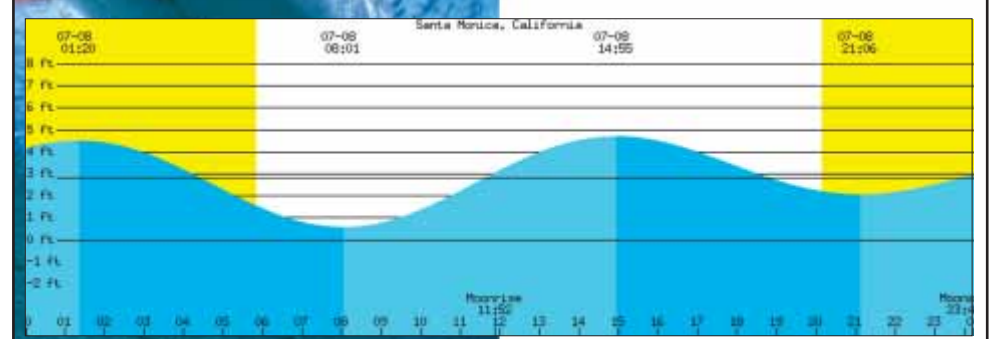
SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)

The southern hemi should back off. It looks like some, but not much, NW wind swell will sneak into SoCal. Overall though, most all breaks are looking at waist to maybe chest high surf when conditions are prime. Winds look like and variable in the AM, and then onshore to 15 in the afternoon. Tide on Tuesday looks quite low during the early AM hours. Weather should warm up some.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SMALLER SURF DURING SECOND HALF OF THE WEEK...

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 **July 1, 2008**

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

QUICK STATS

(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 1

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 1

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 48 / 48

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 48

The Beach Report Card is made possible by

Goldhirsh FOUNDATION

the James H. Irwin Foundation

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	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Camille Beach, at Arroyo Sepulch Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Palms Canyon storm drain	A	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lockwood and Las Alitas creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Tenacious Canyon drain	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chatsworth)	A	ns
Bread Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	D	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wilshire Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	C	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Venice storm drain	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurant)	A+	ns
Laguna Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	ns
Selkirk Canyon at San Block County Beach	A	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	C	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Marine Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	D	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Calvary fences	A	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily	F	ns	Venice Beach- projection of Topaz St.	A+	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	F	ns	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	A	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (joint zone)	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 18048 PCH stairs	C	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Palo Verde Creek at Las Flores County Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DWR jetty)	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hygienic Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	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)	A+	ns			



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

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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 debris 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 these areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

OLYMPICS

Americans sending a deep squad to the Summer Games

BY PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

EUGENE, Ore. Sprinter Tyson Gay elicited gasps and groans with his performance at the U.S. track and field trials.

The crowd went “wow” over his wind-aided time of 9.68 seconds in the 100 meters, then cried “whoa” a week later when he crumpled to the ground in the 200 quarter-finals with a strained left leg.

Just like that, Gay lost his shot at the sprint double at the Beijing Olympics. As did Allyson Felix, who made the team in the 200 but failed to qualify in the 100.

Now, American track and field is still looking for its next big star. The sport lacks a superstar such as swimmer Michael Phelps, who will go for eight gold medals this August, or gymnast Shawn Johnson, who's being called the next Mary Lou.

“I know all eyes are on Michael Phelps right now and a few other people,” said sprinter Lauryn Williams, who qualified in the 100, the event in which she won a silver medal the 2004 Athens Olympics. “But I think track and field has always naturally been in the limelight at the Olympics. ... I can't understand why we wouldn't take the spotlight back.”

Sanya Richards certainly welcomes the bright lights. She returned to her dominant form in the 400 after a year of battling an illness that caused painful ulcers in her mouth and on her legs.

Then there's the shot-put trio of Reese Hoffa, Christian Cantwell and Adam Nelson, looking for a USA sweep.

And distance runner Bernard Lagat — the only athlete to win two titles at the trials,

the 1,500 and 5,000 — will get plenty of air time. Lagat, who won has won bronze and silver in the 1,500 for his native Kenya, will compete as an American Olympian for the first time in Beijing.

“It shows that America is the place where dreams can happen,” Lagat said. “My goal now is to do my best for this country.”

That common goal is shared by 200 champion Walter Dix and 100 winner Muna Lee, who will go for a double in the 100 and 200 sprints — events where a blazing run can create a lifetime legacy. Especially in the 100.

The anticipated showdown between Gay and Jamaican teammates Asafa Powell and Usain Bolt in that event will lose some of its thunder if Gay's health is in question come Aug. 15.

“We're going to need him for the Olympic spirit,” said Dix, who won the 200 and was second in the 100.

To think, Gay almost didn't make it in the 100 as well, coming close to a monumental slip-up in his opening heat. The sprinter eased up, had the field catch him and was forced to accelerate again, lunging across in fourth place, just good enough to advance.

Pole vaulter Jenn Stuczynski, too, had a close call. She needed to clear her opening height on her final attempt just to make the team, and then went on to set an American record.

Defending Olympic 400 champion Jeremy Wariner made the squad, but lost his cloak of invincibility when LaShawn Merritt won the final, his second upset of the year over the world's supposed fastest 400-meter runner.



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MOVIE TIMES

AERO THEATRE 1328 Montana Ave. (323) 466-FILM	Get Smart (PG-13) 1 hr 50 min 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:00	MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599
Call theatre for information.	Kung Fu Panda (PG) 1hr 31min 2:00, 4:30, 6:50, 9:20	You Don't Mess With The Zohan (PG-13) 1hr 53min 11:00 a.m., 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:20
AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4 1441 Third Street Promenade	Wanted (R) 1hr 48min 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20	Iron Man (PG-13) 2 hrs 6 min 1:20pm, 4:40pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm
Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13) 2hrs 00min 1:10, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30	Hancock (PG-13) 1hr 32min 12:30, 1:45, 3:00, 4:15, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30	Kit Kittredge: An American Girl (G) 1 hr 31 min 11:10am, 1:40pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm
Hancock (PG-13) 1hr 32min 12:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00	LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741	The Love Guru (PG-13) 1hr 28 min 12:30pm, 2:50pm, 5:10pm, 7:30pm, 9:50pm
Get Smart (PG-13) 1hr 50min 2:00, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20	Expired (NR) 1hr 50min 1:30, 7:20	Sex and the City (R) 2hrs 15min 12:10pm, 3:20pm, 6:50pm, 10:10pm
Wanted (R) 1hr 48min 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45	Mongol (R) 2hr 6 min 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55	The Incredible Hulk (PG-13) 1hr 54min 10:50am, 1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm
AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262	The Wackness (R) 1hr 35min 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45	
WALL-E (G) 1hr 37min 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:05, 10:05	David & Fatima (NR) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50	
	Last Mistress (Une vieille maitresse), The (NR) 1hr 49min 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50	

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

The party continues, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ Accomplish as much as possible by noon. Suddenly meetings, networking and socializing seem very tempting and will continue a budding convivial tone. Know when to cut out. Tonight: And the party continues!	LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ Move into your day slowly. You could be more tired and worn out than you realize. What is happening behind the scenes could be subject to a radical twist or change. Listen to news floating in your direction. Tonight: As you like it.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ As you reach out to others, more effort comes from them. An opportunity reveals itself, though it could have been there for quiet a while. Investigate new ideas and think positively. Tonight: Easy does it.	SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Go over a decision with a bright friend. If something feels a tad off, honor that feeling. You might know a lot more than you are willing to acknowledge. A lot could happen quite quickly. Tonight: Make a gracious yet mysterious exit.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ You are coming from a basic point of view. How you deal with others and the choices you make could make a substantial difference. Creative brainstorming removes a roadblock. Tonight: Where are your dancing shoes?	SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Your smile eases a lot of pressure. How you see a situation and what comes up could make a huge difference. Decide what you need to do to make a situation work. Step up to the plate and become a leader. Evaluate what is happening with care. Tonight: Just don't be alone.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★ Ask more questions. If someone becomes reactive, know that you hit a sore spot. Pull back and honor this person's sensitivity and observe now that you have a sense of what is happening. Check out an investment, especially if it involves real estate. Tonight: Fun and games.	CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. Work with a hot situation that could change radically. Your sense of humor emerges when dealing with the many people in your life. A situation forces you to take action. Tonight: A must appearance.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★ Be aware of your spending and how much you can get done. Increase your potential value by networking and getting to the bottom of a problem. Be open to sharing and perhaps doing something differently. Tonight: Out and about.	AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Work with individuals. During the process, you'll see situations with renewed eyes and a much better perspective. You need to act on what you know. Try to break out of the box in your thinking. Tonight: Go where jazz or blues can be found.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You are full of energy this morning and could be a bit of an armored tank dealing with others. Slow down and try to look at life from their perspective. Doesn't understanding help? You could see your life with renewed spirit and energy. A financial matter has a twist. Trust that. Tonight: Get your bills together.	PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ You might want to defer and handle a situation with much more vivacity and energy at a later date. You'll also gain a lot of information, and quite quickly at that, if you postpone. Tonight: Fun and games.

Happy birthday

You make waves this year. You present options and a sense of renewal, which encourages others to head in your direction. How you handle someone and the choices you make could vary considerably. Ask questions, but also take your time mulling over the answers. If you are single, you enter a dynamic year in which you have many suitors. It is your call. If you are attached, the two of you assume a carefree and vibrant quality. LIBRA can anchor you, more than you might like.

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

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Meeting on the LUCE
Tuesday, July 8th

6:45PM in Council Chambers

Special Meeting on the LUCE Added!
Wednesday, July 9th

5:45PM in Council Chambers

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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 ★★

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

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

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

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Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

7/8

SINGLE VS. NOT SINGLE

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The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

7/8

The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside

7-08

Garfield

By Jim Davis

7-B

Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

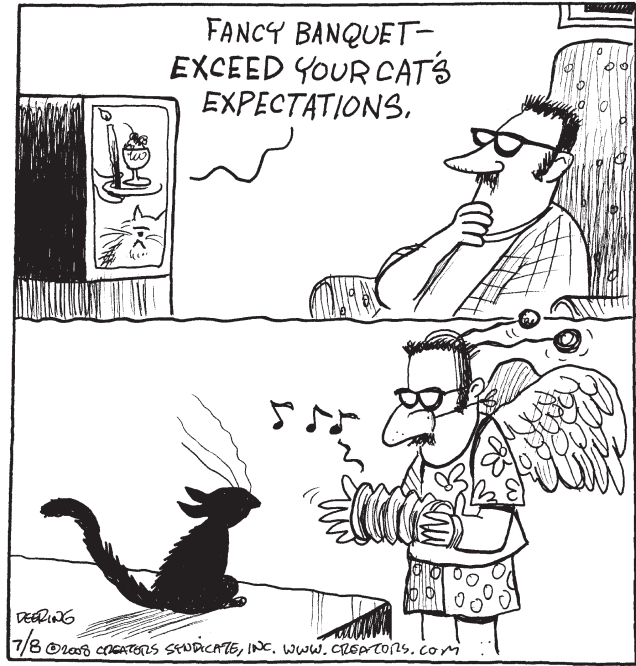
7/8

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



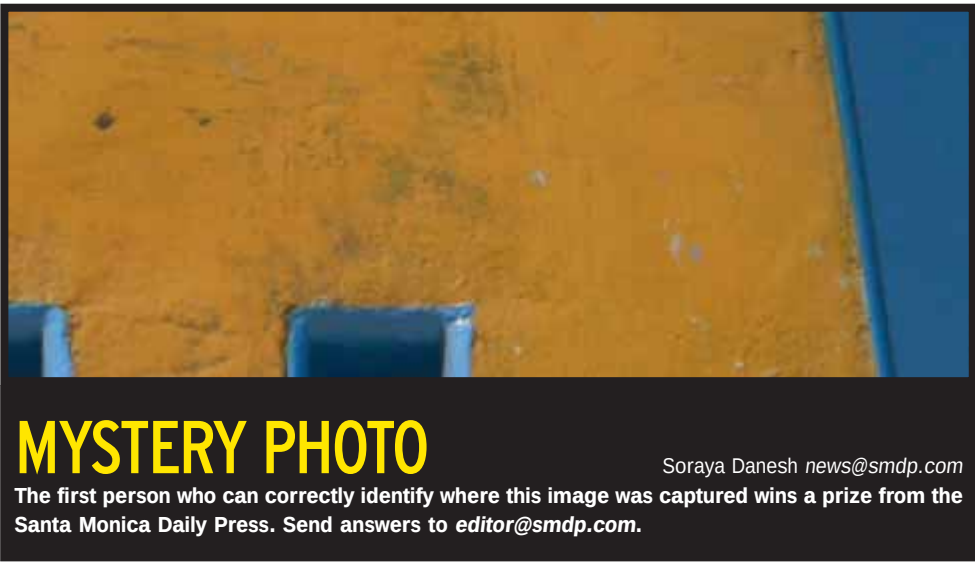
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



MYSTERY PHOTO

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

Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Vatican leader
- 5 Vent cover
- 10 Zodiac ram
- 12 Indy entrant
- 13 Be in control
- 15 Summer in France
- 16 Floor cover
- 17 Comic Bernie
- 18 Deli sandwich
- 20 Circus sight
- 21 Velocity
- 22 Hill insects
- 23 Razor sharpener
- 25 Horn sound
- 28 Put forth
- 31 Hockey's Bobby and family
- 32 Maroon
- 34 French article
- 35 Pig's place
- 36 Old French coin
- 37 Take attendance
- 40 Bewildered

- 41 Opera's Beverly
- 42 Poor
- 43 Monument Valley sight

DOWN

- 1 Indiana player
- 2 Makes speeches
- 3 Accumulate
- 4 Long fish
- 5 Golfer Norman
- 6 Scoundrel
- 7 Shrewdness
- 8 Lease signer
- 9 Puts up
- 11 Block side
- 14 Centenarian's birthday
- 19 Outdoes
- 20 Uses a VCR
- 24 Some daisies
- 25 Big-billed bird
- 26 Fancy

- 27 Threat words
- 29 Fix shoes
- 30 Fishes with a line
- 33 Oklahoma city
- 35 Remain
- 38 Was ahead
- 39 Edge

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

Yesterday's answer

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12			
13					14				
15				16				17	
18			19				20		
	21					22			
			23			24			
25	26	27			28			29	30
31					32				33
34				35				36	
37			38				39		
40						41			
42							43		

7-8

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS	1 3 12 19 20 Meganumber: 28 Jackpot: \$64M
Super LOTTO	7 22 27 28 32 Meganumber: 20 Jackpot: \$27M
Fantasy 5	1 3 16 21 33
DAILY 3	MIDDAY: 7 8 1 EVENING: 1 0 6
DAILY DERBY	1st: 01 Gold Rush 2nd: 08 Gorgeous George 3rd: 04 Big Ben RACE TIME: 1:43.25

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

■ Car dealer Walter Moore of Max Motors in Butler, Mo. (an hour south of Kansas City), announced in May a free premium to every car purchaser: either \$250 worth of gasoline or a gift certificate for a handgun. He told KMBC-TV that 80 percent of customers choose the gun.

■ BBC filmmakers announced in June that they had captured, for perhaps the first time ever, an episode of pandas mating in the wild, for the "Wild China" TV series. A male is shown fighting off other males to coax a female down from a tree. What follows that, said producer Glenn Maxwell, are "loud calls which will make viewers think instantly of the Wookie character from the 'Star Wars' movies. I liken it to Chewbacca in a pub brawl." Eventually, the female descends, and the pair get to work, "breathing hard and panting," said Maxwell. "You can see the steam coming out of their mouths."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1663 King Charles II of England granted a Royal Charter to Rhode Island.

1776 Col. John Nixon gave the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, in Philadelphia.

1853 an expedition led by Commodore Matthew Perry arrived in Yedo Bay, Japan, on a mission to seek diplomatic and trade relations with the Japanese.

1889 The Wall Street Journal was first published.

1907 Florenz Ziegfeld staged his first "Follies," on the roof of the New York Theater.

1919 President Wilson received a tumultuous welcome in New York City after his return from the Versailles Peace Conference in France.

1947 demolition work began in New York City to make way for the new permanent headquarters of the United Nations.

1950 President Truman named Gen. Douglas MacArthur commander-in-chief of United Nations forces in Korea.

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OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale assisted living community is looking for evening receptionists, FT and PT. The shift is from 4p-12a and must be available weekends and holidays. Must have great customer service skills and previous experience is a plus. Also responsible for computer data entry. If interested please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405. EOE

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale assisted living community, is looking for dining room servers to help serve our senior residents. Prior serving experience is preferred, but will train. Shifts available are 11a-8p and 4-8p, PT & FT. Must be available on weekends and holidays. Benefits eligible for all FT. If interested, please fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405. EOE

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale assisted living community, is looking for a Dining Room Supervisor, to oversee and manage our dining room server staff. The shift is 11a-8p Wed-Sun, must be available on holidays. Benefits eligible after 90 days. Must have previous restaurant and supervision experience and great customer service skills. If interested, please fax resumes to (310) 314-7356 or come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405 or email crodezn0@brookdaleliving.com EOE

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale assisted living community, is looking for care-givers and medication technicians for a variety of shifts 6a-2:30p and 2p-10:30p. FT and PT available. Must have previous experience with seniors and a great attitude. Must also be available on weekends and holidays. If interested, please fax a resume to (310) 314-7356 or come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405. EOE

OCEAN HOUSE, an upscale retirement community is looking for a maintenance assistant who can help with daily work orders, paint apartments, and assist with common area maintenance. If interested, please fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405. Must have clear criminal background and be drug free.

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2:00 - 5:00 pm

1135 Berkeley Street

\$1,995,000

Two Story Traditional 5 + 3 Home
w/ Large Backyard



Easy to Show
Call for an Appointment

907 12th Street # 4

\$699,000

North of Wilshire
3 + 2 Condo

Average Price of All Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Early July 2008

Single Family Homes

Condos & Townhomes

Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 2,774,769	\$ 6,695,000
North of Montana	=	\$ 4,068,222	\$ 2,146,421
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 3,270,300	\$ 1,001,655
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 952,985	\$ 696,283
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,403,883	\$ 741,919
Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,904,923	\$ 1,326,579

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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