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JULY 14-15, 2007

Volume 6 Issue 209



Santa Monica Daily Press

ORDINARY SUPERSTARS
SEE PAGE 3

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE STURDY AND DIRTY ISSUE

Where the Heart Is

Behind closed doors, the residents of Santa Monica's affordable housing run the gamut

Story by Kevin Herrera Page 16

Photos by Christine Chang, photo illustration by Frances Casareno news@smdp.com

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Calendar

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WEEKEND EDITION, JULY 14-15, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



'You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown'

601 Pico Blvd., 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" is returning to the Westside at Santa Monica High School's Humanities Center Theater. Tickets are on sale now, by phone at (310) 458-5939, or online at SMCLO.org. Show tickets are \$15 for students and \$20 for adults.

Spy the cuckoo at the cemetery

6000 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood, gates open at 7:30 p.m.

Cinespia presents "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery. \$10 donation tickets available at the gate. For more information, visit www.cemeteryscreenings.com.

Get down with the Low

1429 Third Street Promenade, 2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

As part of the "Let's Meet At Starbucks" Summer Series, acoustic rock band the Low Stars will perform a free concert featuring songs off their debut, self-titled album at the Starbucks Hear Music Coffee Shop. The Low Stars have played with Bruce Springsteen at Carnegie Hall, toured with Edwin McCain, and have been featured on "Last Call with Carson Daly."

New Wave Rave 2007

7021 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, 8:30 p.m.

Cure tribute band, The Cured, and Depeche Mode tribute band, Blasphemous Rumors, are romancing New Wave at the Knitting Factory. Tickets are \$10. For more information, visit www.knittingfactory.com.

Sunday, July 15, 2007

Blues by the Sea — Celebrating Turning Point

1700 Ocean, noon — 2:30 p.m.

Now in its sixth year, Blues by the Sea salutes individuals, groups and businesses for their support of Turning Point Transitional Housing. The fundraiser will include a champagne reception, silent auction, buffet brunch and live jazz music by the Sam Graham Trio. Tickets are \$50 per person. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Donna Miller at (310) 264-6646, ext. 235 or dmiller@opcc.net.

Santa Monica-UCLA ER opening community celebration

15th Street and Arizona Avenue, 1 p.m. — 4 p.m.

Community event celebrating the opening of the new J.B. Nethercutt Emergency Center at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital. Activities will include tours of the new facility, food and refreshments, musical entertainment, kids' activities and health screenings.

'Bunny Tales Episode IV: Bunny Wars'

2437 Main St., 4 p.m.

"Bunny Tales Episode IV: Bunny Wars." is an adaptation of the classic story, "The Tale of Peter Rabbit." This updated re-telling combines traditional theater with active audience participation. For reservations, go to www.westofbroadway.com or call (310) 428-3343. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$20 for premium seats.

Plays-in-Progress

1006 E. Main St., Ventura, 7 p.m.

Rubicon Theatre Company's 'Plays-in-Progress' series allows theater lovers to gain insight into the process of new play development. Audience members watch renowned actors tackle new roles, meet the playwrights and provide feedback on various aspects of the script. This year's play centers on a filmmaker who sets out to make a docudrama about a man whose college roommate went on to be elected president of the United States. Admission is free, but tickets are required. To make a reservation, call the box office at (805) 667-2900.

Telling Thomas' story

1311-C Montana Ave., 1:30 p.m.

The Every Picture Tells a Story book store is hosting an afternoon of "Thomas and the Magic Railroad." The exhibit will feature artwork and memorabilia from creator Britt Allcroft's personal collection, stories, snacks and a screening. Event will benefit the Audrey Hepburn Children's Fund. For more information, call (310) 451-2700.

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.





Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com

MODEL CITIZEN: Edizen Stowell captures a local business owner on the Venice Boardwalk. The photographer works for venicepaparazzi.com, a photoblog started in 2006 that treats locals like the stars. The site's creators hope to also include video footage of local activity in the coming months.

Everybody is a star

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

VENICE They call themselves the paparazzi, but they don't hide behind bushes or jump in dumpsters to get that million dollar shot of a celebrity and their new love necking at the Ivy. They don't even take pictures of the rich and famous.

Instead, Edizen Stowell and Aoy Austin are two amateur photogs who get a kick out of snapping pictures of the regular, making locals the real stars of the show.

They are the Venice Paparazzi.

What began as a means to make some extra cash — taking tourists' pictures on the famed boardwalk — has evolved into something much more befitting the star set.

The two aren't exactly sure what that is yet, but they are excited about the possibility of turning their online photo gallery (www.venicepaparazzi.com) into the leading resource for those looking to learn something about the funky seaside community that is going through some growing pains of its own, as the affluent clash with the bohemian.

"It's really all about just taking photos and trying to document the cutting-edge culture and everything that is Venice," said Stowell, a professional boxer from Canada who started Venice Paparazzi in the fall of 2006 along with her husband Alex, a Soviet strength-training specialist.

"It's an online photo album where people can view themselves, their friends and

their neighbors to see what they're up to," Stowell added.

At first, the site (previously www.edizens.com) was simply a place where Stowell could post personal photos for friends and family back home. But as time passed, Stowell, who was making extra money taking pictures of tourists on the boardwalk, envisioned turning her hobby into something more.

She thought it would be fun to go out and focus on the many different people she came across each day, aiming her lens at locals.

Austin, who was taking boxing lessons from Stowell, signed on a few months later, along with another volunteer, Sara Gepp, and things just took off. Taking pictures on the boardwalk

SEE PAPARAZZI PAGE 18

Officials pull plug on orders

Confidentiality pacts were problematic for City Council members

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS In an effort to demonstrate good faith and cash in on \$530,000 for the upcoming fiscal year, the Board of Education temporarily pulled the plug on controversial confidentiality agreements related to the special education program.

In authorizing a moratorium effective Thursday, the school board is accepting one of several conditions placed upon it by the City Council last month on the Master Facility Use Agreement between City Hall and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

"The school board is responsive and we will today place a moratorium," said School Board Vice President Oscar de la Torre, before he made a motion to institute an immediate halt to the pacts. "We can at least take that action today."

The use agreement is a contract where City Hall provides revenue to the district in exchange for the use of school facilities. The district could receive an additional \$530,000 during fiscal year 2007-08 — on top of the annual \$6.5 million already included in the contract — if it complies with provisions imposed by the council.

Another provision includes hiring an independent third party to conduct a full analysis of the district's special education program by the end of March 2008, which the board has already pledged to do. Superintendent Dianne Talarico contacted several superintendents in the state to determine if it is common to conduct a review of a special education program, discovering that many of the districts had indeed gone through a similar review during the past two years.

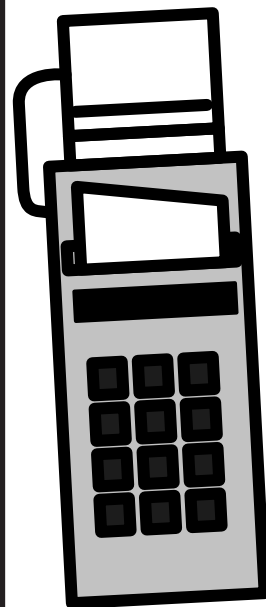
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grocery strike would gouge us all

Editor:

(Re: “Not again!” July 7-8)
No one wins, we all lose. I was away for two weeks, and when I returned to do my shopping (mostly at Von’s), I found almost everything more expensive. While I was looking for less expensive off brands, I spoke to many customers who have also noticed about prices. I have given up meat, but the prices of fruits and vegetables are also very high. I think they jacked up the prices in advance of the strike.

I believe that all employees should have a livable wage, and benefits, maybe the big chains should take a little less profits, and let the employees and customers benefit.

Thank God for McDonald’s, at lease people (and homeless ones) can still buy food at their reasonable prices and \$1 menu.

Too many problems today in every direction. I’m an old woman and worry about our young people. If more people were to write how they feel, they would feel better.

Sara Binder
Santa Monica

War funding check written in blood

Editor:

Congress recently bowed to the will of George W. Bush over the will of the American people by funding Bush’s Iraq war with no meaningful accountability. Rather than accepting their Constitutional war powers responsibility and using the power of the purse to end this failed war as they did with the Vietnam war, Congress timidly caved in to Bush.

In so doing, Congress and Bush will continue sending our sons and daughters to die in a dishonest and incompetent war that, according to our intelligence agencies, promotes anti-U.S. terrorism and endangers our country. This is an absolute outrage and a betrayal of our troops, our democracy and our country.

Speaker of the House Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Reid say they will still try to end the war. But why would Bush end his war when Congress has proven they lack the spine to stand up to him? Even Reid and many other Democrats voted to continue this endless war with a check written with the blood of our troops.

Most members of Congress failed to stand up to Bush. For the sake of our country, we must stand up to those members of Congress in the next election.

Doug Long
Rio Rancho, NM

Bush’s approval rating sounds right

Editor:

The man’s a fool. President Bush defies Congress and refuses to let ex-aides (the latest — Harriet Miers) testify on firings of federal prosecutors. It’s like screaming “I’m guilty” and my aides are guilty of the unconfirmed charges.

George W. deserves his new 29 percent approval rating.

Ron Lowe
Santa Monica



Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Lucky in love?

THIS PAST SATURDAY — 7/7/07 — WAS thought to have been the most popular wedding date in history. Because many people think seven is a lucky number, and three sevens is even luckier, an estimated 65,000 couples got married on the seventh day of the seventh month of the seventh year. I was lucky enough to be invited to one of those weddings. It’s far too early to tell if the wedding I attended — or the tens of thousands that I wasn’t invited to — will have any special magic attached to them. Will the “lucky number” of their anniversary help them to have a lucky marriage?

As luck would have it, a study on successful marriages came out shortly before July 7. However, the “lucky number feature” wasn’t even listed among the top factors that people associate with a successful marriage.

Some people found religious or spiritual significance in 7/7/07, but, obviously, others got married on July 7, 2007 for superstitious reasons. To them, the number seven is a lucky number, just as the number 13 is unlucky. Seven is known for all kinds of things: There are Seven Wonders of the World, seven colors of the rainbow, and my favorite — seven openings in the human head.

But what happened to romance? Shouldn’t people in love feel that any date on which they choose to get married is lucky?

Getting back to this latest survey, it was conducted by the Pew Research Center. As I said, the wedding date didn’t even make the list of things people thought were important to marriage. One of the most significant things to come out of the recent survey is that in the 1990 survey, children were considered the third most important factor in having a successful marriage. Now, children have fallen to Number 8.

The entire list is, as follows:
1. Faithfulness
2. A happy sexual relationship
3. Sharing household chores
4. Adequate income
5. Good housing
6. Shared religious beliefs
7. Shared tastes and interests
8. Children
9. Agreement on politics

Why do you think that “household chores” replaced “children” as number three? Are kids getting more difficult to handle, or are more and more couples arguing over who should

start their day by plowing the North 40?

It’s a little disappointing that, with the exception of numbers one and two, romance seems to be unimportant to those surveyed. And there’s no mention of listening to each other or mutual respect. The people who were surveyed obviously didn’t have the attitude of, “all you need is love.” They were much more practical.

But even in the practical area, there are some glaring omissions from the list.

In my opinion, in no meaningful order, they include:

1. Work out who gets to have the television remote control and when.
2. Have enough bathrooms in the house.
3. Don’t criticize the other person’s driving.
4. Try your best never to interrupt your spouse’s story by saying something like, “All right, all right. Get to the point.”
5. Every once in a while, switch sides of the bed.
6. Did I mention that you should work out the remote control thing?

So, like the Pew people, getting married on a “lucky” day doesn’t even make my list for contributing to a successful marriage. I believe that if a couple is depending on a lucky number to ensure a good marriage, they’re in trouble. But one group that has its corporate fingers on the pulse of America seemed to recognize the importance of a 7/7/07 wedding. Wal-Mart held a contest in which seven lucky winners got to have an all-expenses-paid wedding at their “closest Wal-Mart Super Center Lawn and Garden Area.” Perhaps some couples felt that being near the fertilizer department would help their marriage grow.

I guess there are only two ways to find out if this number seven thing will really mean anything to all these marriages. The first is to wait a while and then compare them to weddings held on “ordinary” days. The other way is that I would like to hear from people who were either married or attended a wedding on the previous 7/7/07 — July 7, 1907. If you fall into that category, please e-mail me and I will put a column together consisting of those e-mails. It’s bound to be an interesting column, but it will probably be quite a bit shorter than this one.

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

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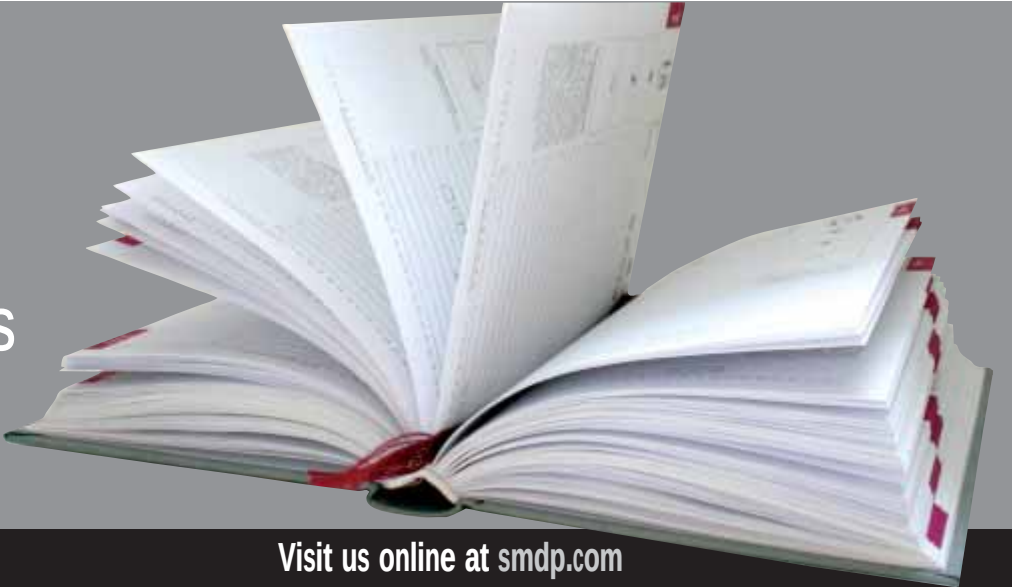
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STRAY talk

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

“Had it not been for her, I think that the whole subject of the environment might not have been introduced to the public stage in just the way it was and just the time it was.”

— Harry Middleton, retired director of the LBJ Library and Museum, on Lady Bird Johnson's contribution to American history. The former first lady died Wednesday at the age of 94.

“They should just leave you alone during the summer, or at least, not give you homework.”

— 15-year-old Samohi sophomore Vanika Palmatier, on having responsibilities during the summer break

“We like to lock the doors at night and wander around naked.”

— Soccer star David Beckham, joking in a W magazine interview as to why he and wife Victoria lack live-in help

“This is not a popularity contest. You are dealing with people's lives, money and time.”

— Attorney Ken Kutcher, speaking on behalf of his client, Mark Woollen, who wants to build an addition to a turn-of-the-century Bungalow and is receiving resistance from the Landmarks Commission

“I wouldn't do anything that would cause holes in your brain or your nasal cavity. Call me Texan, but I don't think of marijuana like that.”

— Singer Kelly Clarkson on not smoking marijuana, though she ate a marijuana cookie in Amsterdam

“I don't like your music. I don't like your dancing. And I would never carry your f----- umbrella.”

— A response to rap mogul Sean “Diddy” Combs' help wanted ad seeking an assistant. He hopes to hire a fan.

“To perform on a tennis court is to keep with tradition.”

— Shakespeare Santa Monica founder John Farmanesch-Bocca on how this summer's performances connect with original Shakespearean performances

“What's wrong with this town?!”

— Actress Rose McGowan's reaction to meeting 14-year-old paparazzo, Austin, outside a restaurant as he took her picture

Quotations captured and compiled with care by Cynthia Vazquez.



ODDS OF A CHILD PERFORMING AT CARNEGIE HALL:
1 in 73,000

ODDS OF A CHILD BEING DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM:
1 in 166

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Study: Back Pain Sufferers Benefit From New Technology

Santa Monica – “A new study shows that technology may have finally found a non-surgical solution for chronic back pain and sciatica sufferers.”

That's what Santa Monica Chiropractor, Dr. Tim Bullock is saying about a treatment called Spinal Decompression. Dr. Bullock has been using FDA approved non-surgical spinal decompression in his office for over two years now. This treatment is a drug free breakthrough to treat back pain, disc herniation and sciatica.

“I am amazed at the results spinal decompression gets with patients who were about to give up searching for a solution for their problem. And how safe and easy it is... even for patients who have already had surgery. I am also shocked to learn that so few doctors throughout the country have this new technology available in their office,” commented Dr. Bullock.

Due to the tremendous success in back pain patients using this technology, Dr. Bullock has made a copy of the Study available to anyone suffering from a painful back caused by disc herniation, for FREE!

“I want back pain sufferers to know they have an option other than drugs and surgery... an option that really works. I want to let them know there is finally REAL hope for their condition. Learn all the details in this free report.”

To get your free copy of Dr. Bullock's recently released Research Case Study report titled, “The Effectiveness Of Spinal Decompression Therapy In Patients With Back Pain, Herniated Disc and Sciatica” just call (310) 562-6700 and listen to the 24 hr recorded message on how to have it mailed to you free. Call now, supply is limited. Or log on to www.lordexsamo.com and click on “Free Report.”



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The QLine

GROCERY STRIKE A MIXED BAG

This past week, Q-line asked:

Would you support another strike or do you think grocery store workers should rethink their work stoppage plans?

Here are your responses:

"THE UNION MEMBERS SHOULD definitely veto another strike and show the union bosses they have the guts to say no to their latest manipulative plans that benefit them the most and, once again, shaft the consumer. I would not back or support another strike, and if there is one, would switch to a non-union market forever. Enough already."

"I DO FULLY SUPPORT A STRIKE IN THE supermarket workers because not only will I cross the picket lines, I will cross the picket lines and work. If those idiots don't want to work, to hell with them. I'll work and take their jobs if they don't want them, fine. I'd rather work as a strike-breaker than be unemployed. It's more money than I'm making now. What they don't want, I'll take. So let them go on strike and stay on strike."

"EMPLOYERS SHOULD DEDICATE themselves to fulfilling the needs of their employees. Once this is done, employees should dedicate themselves to providing the finest work effort on behalf of their employers and the business of their employers. The worst thing an employer can do is deprecate and depreciate the work efforts of an excellent employee and rate that employee as being expendable. This form of action by the employer short circuits the very foundation of the work ethic; a shocking short circuit that the employee will never forget. I, personally, as a consumer, hope that a strike can be averted due to my thought that the consumer will not be as understanding as during the previous strike that was lost by the employees; a strike that created a horrible inconvenience to the consumer."

"OF COURSE I WOULD SUPPORT THE supermarket workers if they have to strike to secure decent wages and benefits. In fact, all California workers deserve fair compensation in this very expensive state to live in."

"I DO NOT SUPPORT ANOTHER supermarket strike. They should be happy with what they have. Quit messing around with the lives of the people who live in Santa Monica. The strike is a bad idea."

"NO, I WOULD NOT SUPPORT ANOTHER strike for the supermarket. I would walk right through those people. Their sticking point is that the new hires get the same benefits as far as health and other benefits that the older hires have. And I think it's reasonable and just that the seniority or hierarchy of employment dictates according to what the current environment allows. The truth is health care costs are skyrocketing, and those people are very lucky to have health care, and I think that this time they are just pushing the envelope a little too hard. So no, I would not support it this time. It was a nightmare last time and I supported it, but I've got to shop, got to eat, and doing things on principle just doesn't work sometimes and it can be very disruptive."

"I DO SUPPORT ANOTHER STRIKE FOR the market workers. What happened last time was that the proceeding workers had a different deal from the preceding ones. The new deal is not that good for newer workers, they're hardly able to sustain themselves. The employer's argument with regards to Wal-Mart and the Costcos coming in is not valid right now. So check, there's profits versus how much they're really not paying the new workers under pretty trying conditions. Check out the Steve Lopez article in the LA Times. Yeah, I totally support it."

"I'M A STRONG UNION MEMBER AND I have problems with the upcoming strike as far as the markets because I feel that many of the unions are corrupt. They don't go to their leadership and I've been told this by people in other unions, and I don't see why we should be hurt by higher prices for giving them help and benefits. I really have a problem with that. So, I have a serious problem and would not support a strike if it happens."

"I CERTAINLY WON'T BE SUPPORTING another strike from the grocery workers. I found after going to Ralph's in West LA, where they have their own scanning service for groceries, that I do it myself and it's quicker than standing in line. I don't get a discount for doing it and I don't have any employees helping me. They should rethink before they go on strike."

"I WOULD SUPPORT THE MARKET workers in their legitimate effort to secure fair compensation. If you were working there, you'd do the same."

"IN 1970, WHEN I WORKED AT MAYFAIR Market on 18th and Wilshire, the checkers made \$7 an hour and the box boys – excuse me, bag persons – made \$1.75 per hour, triple on holidays and an increase after midnight. I don't like the idea of two-tiered union employees, but why should a 30-year employee sacrifice benefits for a six-month employee? The workers must rethink the triple holiday pay and maybe a deductible on their medical, but there should be a bonus system if the store or chain meets both parties' approved percentage increase. I did not cross the picket line on the last strike. Both sides need to get rid of big egos and use common sense to compete with Target, Wal-Mart and Whole Foods – non-union stores. Management and the union must eliminate the socialist post office of school-district economic mentality to be able to compete. It's a money-making business. Also, the employers should be the most valuable resource."

"I'M SUGGESTING THAT YOU ARE ASKING the wrong question. The question in my mind is, considering the fact that the supermarkets have made huge profits in the year 2006, why aren't they willing to share their profits fairly with their employees? Kroger, the parent company of Ralph's, made \$3.4 billion in 2006; Supervalu, which is the parent company of Albertsons, made \$2.4 billion in 2006; and Safeway, the parent company of Vons, made \$2.6 billion of profit in 2006. Now my question is: The workers helped make those profits possible, why aren't they being offered a fairer share of it? That's an honest and fairer question."

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Dispatcher dismissed early Tahoe fire calls

BY SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Two dispatchers with the California Highway Patrol initially dismissed 911 calls that came in reporting a fire on the south rim of Lake Tahoe, causing a seven-to-nine minute delay in their response, recordings of the 911 calls that were released Friday show.

On the tape from five calls answered by the CHP Truckee field office, dispatchers tell callers the smoke they are seeing is from a controlled burn in the area. The smoke actually came from a fire that ultimately destroyed 254 homes and burned 3,100 acres of mountain wilderness.

"I'm on the golf course, it's — uh — Lake Tahoe Country Club, and we can see smoke coming off the mountain to the west of us," a man reported, according to a transcript of the first call received by the CHP's Truckee communications center at 2:02 p.m. on June 24.

"Yeah. Yeah, they're doing a — a control burn there," the dispatcher responded.

"Thank you," the unidentified male caller responded. "Sorry to bother you."

Capt. Gary Ross, commander of the CHP field office in Truckee, said their dismissals caused a delayed response to the fire.

The dispatchers also did not follow CHP policy, in which they are instructed to keep callers on the line and transfer them to a local fire department in such situations. Instead, they let the callers hang up.

Both dispatchers have been reassigned while the CHP investigates, Ross said.

"We have policies in place to make sure these type of things don't happen," he said.

The CHP said it will not release the names of the dispatchers. One is a 27-year CHP veteran and the other has been a dispatcher for 17 years, Ross said.

The Angora fire started June 24 after an illegal campfire was built about a quarter mile south of Seneca Pond, a popular recreation area south of Lake Tahoe. An army of firefighters descended on Tahoe, containing the blaze on July 2. The cost of suppressing the fire was \$12.1 million.

Assemblyman Ted Gaines, R-Granite Bay, said the delay shows that California's 911 system should be modified to route calls directly to county emergency responders.

"I'm shocked there would be that much of a delay before it got to the fire department," said Gaines, who spent Friday touring the charred forest. "People's homes could have been saved or at least some of their personal possessions and pets."

Homeowner Tony Colombo, 52, who lost his home in the fire, said he didn't want to "play the blame game" but added, "I find it disgusting, because we knew this

basin was a tinderbox."
"There were people who dropped the ball in the jobs," he added.

A spokeswoman for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said the governor was concerned.

"We take this matter very seriously," said spokeswoman Sabrina Lockhart "We are awaiting the outcome of the CHP investigation."

The 911 calls first came from golfers at a course at the base of a hill within three miles of where the fire began. Within 10 minutes, people as far as 10 miles away on gondola at Heavenly Ski Resort could see the smoke, according to the recording.

I'M SHOCKED THERE WOULD BE THAT MUCH OF A DELAY BEFORE IT GOT TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. PEOPLE'S HOMES COULD HAVE BEEN SAVED OR AT LEAST SOME OF THEIR PERSONAL POSSESSIONS AND PETS."

Assemblyman Ted Gaines
R-Granite Bay

At first dispatchers were dismissive, telling at least five callers that the smoke was from a controlled burn — a purposely set fire which is often used to clear forests. The U.S. Forest Service did not immediately respond to a message late Friday from The Associated Press, but The Sacramento Bee reported there were no controlled burns in the area on the day the wildfire started.

As additional calls came in to dispatchers on the afternoon the fire began, they became less sure about the existence of a controlled burn.

"Yeah, we've got a bunch of reports on it," a dispatcher told a female caller at 2:12 p.m.

"Do you know what the story is with that? I live over there," the caller responded.

"Oh, you — well, I'm not sure," the dispatcher answered. "Yeah, I'm trying to get through to fire to verify if it's a control burn or not."

Eight minutes later, another caller described seeing flames from the golf course.

"Yes, we've got a number of calls from everybody on every fairway," the dispatcher responded.

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Photo courtesy State of California

AS IT WAS: The city of Los Angeles has revived a 62-mile portion of the Owens River that was dried up by diverting water to the metropolis to the south.

Judge declares stretch of river restored

By the Associated Press

INDEPENDENCE The city of Los Angeles has sufficiently restored a stretch of river along the Sierra Nevada it siphoned off decades ago by aqueduct and no longer has to pay fines of \$5,000 a day, a judge ruled Wednesday.

Inyo County Superior Court Judge Lee Cooper said the city has revived a 62-mile

section of the lower Owens River that was left essentially dry in 1913 when its flows were diverted to the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

"I can now officially declare that the lower Owens River is a river," Cooper said.

Water was directed back to the riverbed in December, marking a concession in an infamous water war between Los Angeles and the valley 200 miles north of the city.

Ecologists said the revived river was mak-

ing a remarkable recovery and reported seeing birds, fish, and plants in the channel.

The judge had imposed the \$5,000 fine per day in July 2005 when he grew frustrated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's long-delayed plan to restore the river.

During a hearing Wednesday, Cooper also approved an agreement between the DWP, Inyo County officials, residents and

environmentalists that spells out requirements for the city to keep the water flowing. The judge warned he would impose fines under the deal if the city didn't meet its obligations.

"The restoration of the river has been a long-term goal of Inyo County and we are heartened that river's recovery is well under way," Jim Bilyeu, chairman of the county's board of supervisors, said in a statement.

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Moving up

White House taps career prosecutor as U.S. attorney in L.A.

By the Associated Press

WASHINGTON The White House on Thursday nominated Thomas P. O'Brien, a career prosecutor, as the new U.S. attorney in Los Angeles.

The announcement had been expected. O'Brien was the leading candidate and Senate offices were notified of the planned nomination several weeks ago.

"I am honored that the president has nominated me for this position and look forward to serving as United States attorney for the Central District of California," said O'Brien. "This office has always done great work, and I am pleased that I will now have the opportunity to lead our efforts to continue this tradition."

O'Brien, a Republican and former Naval officer, has been chief of the office's criminal division since 2000 and before that worked in the Los Angeles County district attorney's hardcore gang division.

If approved by the Senate, O'Brien would fill the vacancy created when Debra Wong Yang resigned last October to go into private practice.

Yang was not among the eight U.S. attorneys whose firings last year have turned into

a controversy for the Justice Department and has said she left of her own accord.

But Democrats have questioned the circumstances of her departure. She left while her office was investigating a powerful Republican, Rep. Jerry Lewis of Redlands, and then she went to work for the firm representing him, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP.

Officials with the Los Angeles U.S. attorney's office and with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher have denied any connection and said Yang recused herself properly in the matter.

O'Brien's appointment would still leave California with two of its four U.S. attorney positions unfilled, though the Bush administration is moving to fill them.

The other vacancies, in San Diego and San Francisco, were created when U.S. attorneys Carol Lam and Kevin Ryan were dumped in the mass dismissals last year.

In San Diego, interim U.S. attorney Karen P. Hewitt could be made permanent.

In San Francisco, attorney Joseph Russoniello appears to be the leading candidate to replace Ryan. Russoniello held the same post under President Ronald Reagan from 1982 to 1990.

The Eastern District in Sacramento is the one district in California that hasn't seen recent turnover. McGregor Scott has been U.S. attorney there since 2003.

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Vigilance in the summertime

Schwarzenegger orders officials to track heat-related deaths

BY DON THOMPSON | Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Thursday ordered health officials to more accurately track the death toll from heat waves, after an Associated Press investigation found hundreds may have died from two weeks of triple-digit temperatures last year.

The AP found that the number of deaths in July 2006 was 466 higher than the average over the previous six years — a spike many health officials attributed to the record heat. The figure is three times more than the 143 people the state said officially died from the heat.

"We are very concerned that the state's numbers may have underestimated the true death toll from last year's heat wave," said Schwarzenegger spokesman Adam Mendelsohn.

The governor ordered his Department of Public Health to make sure the state's 58 county coroners start reporting contributing factors like heat or cold in addi-

tion to the main cause of each death.

"The state needs accurate counts from the counties so that we can implement the most effective statewide contingency plans when excessive heat emergencies arise," Mendelsohn said in a statement.

Assemblyman Pedro Nava, who chairs the Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Services and Homeland Security, said public health and emergency officials should be able to develop better methods for detecting when heat kills.

"All that needs to be done is bring the right people together," said Nava, D-Santa Barbara. "I don't think that we've had the impetus to do that — but maybe we do now."

Sen. Dean Florez said he will convene a hearing of his Senate Governmental Organization Committee next week after learning that the state takes two years to compile death statistics such as those gathered independently by the AP.

"That's just not acceptable," said Florez, a Democrat

whose San Joaquin Valley legislative district was among the hardest hit by the heat wave. "It's pretty sad that the media has to pull the statistics together."

The California Department of Health Services warned in a recently completed study of last summer's heat fatalities that the official number "may underestimate the true toll."

The AP found no evidence of a deliberate undercount. Rather, officials said they often have trouble distinguishing between deaths caused by heat, old age or a medical condition. Deaths are often attributed to a primary cause, such as a medical condition, with no indication that heat was a factor.

Florez said the acknowledgment by state officials that they have difficulty getting an accurate tally demonstrates the state's "lackadaisical" response to last summer's heat wave.

"No governor wants to say his response was inadequate, but your statistics show it was not just inadequate — it was three times inadequate," said Florez.

Magistrate orders ringleaders in alleged Laos plot released

BY AARON C. DAVIS

Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO A federal magistrate ordered the alleged ringleader of a plot to overthrow the communist government of Laos released on bail Thursday, letting former Laotian Gen. Vang Pao return to his Southern California home under extremely strict conditions.

U.S. Magistrate Dale Drozd also approved bail for seven other defendants, including the other central figure in the case, Harrison

Jack, 60, a former Army Ranger accused of acting as a middle man between the Hmong leaders and a presumed arms dealer who was really an undercover federal agent.

Drozd put off bail hearings for three other defendants until Friday. But after more than seven hours of arguments Thursday, he appeared poised to release all 11 of the men accused in the plot.

The rulings by Drozd followed a dramatic morning in court in which two defendants were hospitalized as their attorneys argued

they should be freed while they await trial.

Drozd's decision will confine 77-year-old Vang Pao, who is considered a leader of Hmong who emigrated to America after the Vietnam War, to his home in Westminster and allow him to see only his family, doctors and attorneys.

His home and those of four other family members and friends valued at a total of \$1.5 million will be offered as bond. Drozd said if Vang Pao violates any condition of his release all five could lose their homes.

Jack, of Woodland, Youa True Vang, 60, of Sanger; Lo Cha Thao, 34, of Clovis; Dang Vang, 48, of Fresno; Lo Thao 53, of Sacramento; Chue Lo, 59, of Stockton and Seng Vue, 68, of Fresno were all ordered released under similar terms.

In all, families and friends of the eight men combined put up nearly 30 homes, an apartment complex, and a family trust valued at a \$7.5 million.

He appeared in court in a wheelchair after being hospitalized for chest pains.

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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES
Vehicle pursuit ends in crash, arrest

A van driver fleeing police crashed into a stopped vehicle and was thrown onto a street, but managed to run off with a broken ankle before she was arrested in a church, authorities said.

Two undercover officers spotted the woman ingesting narcotics in the van at a gas station on Thursday, said Officer Karen Smith, a Police Department spokes-woman.

“When they tried to detain her she started the engine and drove off and clipped one of the officers in the arm” with the van door, said Smith.

The van sped through red lights and among cars until it hit another vehicle, which then hit the one in front of it. The van driver flopped out onto the street, but the other driv-ers were not injured.

The woman, who was not immediately identified, was treated for a broken ankle at a hospital and was to be booked for felony drug charges and assault with a deadly weapon on a police officer.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES
Ex-city worker allegedly lied about downtown attack

A former city worker was charged with lying about being stabbed by a group of men downtown.

Nestor Lopez, who at the time was a receptionist for Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, falsely reported he was stabbed June 3 at about 3:30 a.m. by attempted robbers, inves-tigators said.

When confronted by investigators later, Lopez said he had gone to the area for a sex-ual rendezvous with another man and mistakenly reached under a blanket and touched a sleeping homeless woman, who awakened and stabbed him.

Lopez was charged Thursday with two misdemeanor counts of filing a false police report, said Frank Mateljan, a spokesman for the city attorney’s office.

Police later determined Lopez was slashed by the homeless woman after touching her while she was sleeping under a blanket near the Civic Center subway station.

Lopez had also told police he had gone downtown to get a work-related item at City Hall.

Lopez left his City Hall job two days after the incident.

The mayor’s office declined to comment, calling the incident a personnel matter.

AP

OXNARD
Edison appealing city’s rejection of Mandalay peaker plant

Southern California Edison plans to appeal the city planning commission rejection of a \$50 million mini natural gas powered plant next to an existing generating station at Mandalay Beach.

The commission said Oxnard was the dumping ground for undesirable land uses and it rejected the state-mandated peaker plant, which Edison insists is needed to accommo-date growth in Ventura County’s largest city.

Edison said it will now appeal to the City Council at a July 24 meeting. If rejected again, Edison could appeal the matter to the California Coastal Commission.

Edison is building four other 45-megawatt “peaker” plants – in Norwalk, Ontario, Stanton and Rancho Cucamonga – for use during peak demand periods.

“We were interested in putting them in places where they would do the most good to support the system,” Edison project manager Michelle Nuttall said.

Last summer, California Public Utilities Commission president Michael Peevey ordered Edison to improve its ability to handle excess demand during prolonged heat waves.

Peevey said Thursday that Oxnard’s position was “regrettable,” adding Ventura County residents are shortsighted to oppose such needed energy enhancements.

“The plant wouldn’t run very often and would have very little air-quality impacts,” Peevey said.

AP

RIVERSIDE
Panel says dump electronic balloting, return to paper

Electronic touch-screen voting machines have failed to meet expectations in Riverside County, according to a county panel that recommends return to a paper-based voting system.

The five-member panel appointed by the Board of Supervisors said the Sequoia Voting Systems machines in use since 2000 haven’t gained voter confidence and they failed to meet reliability and cost savings expectations.

Riverside County was the first in California to adopt a touch-screen voting system. There was no evidence of errors or defects in the machines, the panel said.

Supervisors will discuss the recommendation to scrap the electronic machines on Tuesday. The county has spent about \$25 million on the electronic machines and there’s no cost estimate for replacing them.

Michelle Shafer, vice president of communications for Sequoia Voting Systems, said Thursday that she could not comment on the recommendations.

Secretary of State Debra Bowen is conducting a thorough review of electronic sys-tems, including Sequoia’s, and her findings will be released Aug. 3. Some machines could be decertified if they fail to pass security tests.

Riverside County has 3,700 electronic machines and the panel recommended those machines be kept available for voters with disabilities, which is required by federal law because the machines are easier to use.

In its report, the panel noted Alameda County’s abandonment of the touch-screen system as an example that should be followed.

Alameda County gave up its electronic system after passage of a 2006 state law requiring a paper readout for all touch-screen voting systems.

AP



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NOTICE OF CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Consideration of proposed resolution to automatically adjust the Affordable Housing Unit Development Cost for new market-rate multifamily development pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.56.070(c)

WHEN: Tuesday, July 24, 2007
5:45 P.M.

WHERE: Santa Monica City Hall, Council Chambers, Room #213
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The City Council will conduct a public hearing regarding the proposed adoption of a reso-lution which would automatically adjust the Affordable Housing Unit Development Cost that developers of multi-family projects may pay to the City pursuant to Section 9.56.070(c) of the City’s Affordable Housing Production Program. The Affordable Housing Unit Development Cost was originally estimated to be \$239,949 as detailed in the nexus study prepared by HR&A in 2005 to support the imposition of the Affordable Housing Unit Base Fee. The adjusted Affordable Housing Unit Development Cost would be \$265,632.00, effective on October 1, 2007.

The adjustments to the Affordable Housing Unit Development Cost reflect changes in land and construction costs based on a methodology adopted by the City Council on June 13, 2006. An explanation of this methodology and the resulting adjustment to the fee are set forth in a letter prepared for the City by Hamilton, Rabinovitz & Alschuler, Inc. (HR&A). A copy of this letter is now available at the City Clerk’s Office in Room 102 of City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California or the Housing Division Office at 2121 Cloverfield Boulevard, Suite 100, Santa Monica, California. This information is also avail-able on the City’s web site (Housing section).

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment on this matter. You or your repre-sentative, or any other persons may comment at the City Council’s public hearing or by writing a letter.

Letters should be addressed to: Mayor and City Council
City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
Further information may be obtained from the City Housing Division at the address above or by calling (310) 458-8702.

The meeting facility is handicapped accessible. If you have any special needs such as sign language interpreting, please contact the Office of the Disabled at (310) 458-8701.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequent-ly challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica, at or prior to the Public Hearing.

ESPANOL
Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para aumentar una tarifa sobre el desarrol-lo de alojamiento “multi-familiar” en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Ellen Comis en la División de Viviendas y Desarrollo al número (310) 458-8702.

Crews tame NorCal wildfires

BY GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press Writer

FRESNO Crews gained the upper hand on forest fires raging throughout Northern California on Thursday, but lost ground to a blaze threatening a rural community in a protected wilderness area north of Santa Barbara.

California's largest blaze in the Inyo National Forest was still sending up smoke visible from Highway 395, the main road along the eastern Sierra, but authorities sent the bulk of crews to help elsewhere, said Nancy Upham, a spokeswoman with the U.S. Forest Service.

Forest officials re-opened roads, camp-

grounds and trailheads impacted by the 35,000-acre fire, which was still listed as 80-percent contained since its western flank was smoldering in a rocky area too steep for crews to access, Upham said.

"It's moving very slowly and kind of creeping around in that very, very steep country," Upham said. "There's very little to burn right there."

The Inyo fire has cost \$3.2 million to fight, injured 11 firefighters and destroyed six homes in the area north of Mount Whitney, the tallest peak in the continental U.S.

Remaining crews might see more flare-ups over the weekend sparked by a thunderstorm expected to move through the mountains Saturday, said Chris Stachelski, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

A lightning strike Tuesday ignited 600 acres of sagebrush and Jeffrey pine near June Lake, just northwest of the Inyo fire, but that blaze had been put out by Thursday.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a state of emergency in Inyo County on Wednesday to free up state resources for fighting the blaze and helping residents of Independence whose water supply was contaminated by the fire.

In northern Santa Barbara County, firefighters were struggling to keep a 13,200-acre blaze in the Los Padres National Forest from spreading across a river, where it could threaten the small town of Tepusquet. The fire was 37 percent contained Thursday,

unchanged from the day before.

"It's a very rugged, broken landscape with no good places to construct control lines," said Kathy Good, a Los Padres spokeswoman. "We've got several dozen crews in there building lines as close to the fire's edge as they can safely do."

About 2,060 firefighters have been assigned to the fire, which has cost about \$11.4 million to fight, said state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Joel Vela.

The fire, started when sparks from grinding equipment used in repairing a water pipe ignited nearby brush, was burning dry chaparral in the San Rafael Wilderness, prompting authorities to close the wilderness.

Call of the mild: Urban mushing on rise, even in sunny California

BY NOAKI SCHWARTZ
Associated Press Writer

COSTA MESA Thousands of miles from the Alaskan wilderness, a pair of huskies charge down a dusty path with their master in tow.

There is no sled under the feet of Rancy Reyes. Instead, his hounds work up a lather pulling his two-wheeled scooter through the brush of a Southern California park as he shouts commands that are as foreign in this sunbaked part of the world as snowflakes.

In a city better known for its high-end indoor mall than high-energy outdoor activities, "urban mushing" has taken hold and

people are coming from more than two hours away to take part.

"I know plenty of Californians and nothing surprises me anymore," said Greg Sellentin, publisher of Alaska-based Mushing, the magazine of dog-powered adventure.

Though much has been altered in its warm weather translation, urban mushing — or dog scooting — is gaining popularity in snow-free parts of the country, particularly in California where dog lovers are always on the hunt for the latest canine trend.

As specialized dog bakeries, day care centers and strollers increasingly humanize

dogs, fans say urban mushing is a call to the animals' wild roots.

"They want to start running and hunting," said urban musher, Rob Fuechtenicht. "When you hook them to the scooter, you're riding behind them and they're in this doggy nirvana kind of stage."

Members of the national scooting group Dogs Across America say they've noticed a steady increase in membership since the organization was launched in 2005. The numbers have shot up, particularly in Texas, Washington and California, which has one of the country's fastest-growing groups of urban mushers.

A recent outing of the Southern California Working Snow Dogs included huskies, malamutes, Dobermans and a Dalmatian — many of which had never put paw to snow. Other scooting groups boast photos of more unexpected breeds, including standard poodles.

The Southern California group, which started in 2005, has about 240 members, about 50 of whom show up on most weekends to traverse the winding dirt trails at Fairview Park.

Yelping, restless dogs strapped into harnesses and leashes are tethered to a non-motorized scooter.

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Livestock emissions topic of new study

BY RICK CALLAHAN
Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS Scientists at eight universities are conducting the largest-ever study of air emissions at the nation's hog, dairy and poultry farms.

The study, which scientists hope will help improve methods of estimating any given farm's emissions, began this summer and will take an estimated 2 1/2 years to complete. It will measure levels of hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, nitrous oxide, particulate matter and other substances wafting from livestock buildings and manure lagoons at 20 farms in nine states.

Al Heber, a Purdue professor of agricultural and biological engineering who's leading the \$14.6 million study, said it will collect two continuous years of emissions data at each site.

Sensors will collect real-time data that are expected to help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency devise science-based guidelines for livestock air emissions, which the agency regulates. Results are expected by the end of 2009, followed by a peer-review process.

"The bottom line is we're going to get just a ton of data and I think people all over the country are expecting that — regulators, livestock producers, everybody knows we're going to get a lot of good data," he said.

The study is required under a 2005 compliance agreement between the Environmental Protection Agency and the livestock industry. Although the agency is supervising the project, it's being financed



Photo courtesy Carnegie Mellow University

LOW EMISSIONS: Livestock are major contributors to air pollution according to a number of studies.

by money livestock producers agreed to pay into a research fund under the agreement.

To date, more than 2,600 agreements have been signed with livestock companies that operate about 14,000 swine, dairy, egg-layer and broiler chicken farms in 42 states, said Jon Scholl, EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson's agriculture adviser.

A 2002 report by the National Academy of Sciences called on the EPA to improve its methods for estimating emissions from big livestock farms — research that will help determine if farms are complying

with the Clean Air Act.

"We found that we really don't have the level of scientific information and data that's needed to make some sound policy calls in this area," Scholl said.

He said it's unclear whether the study's findings will have any impact on federal or state-level environmental regulations. The participating farms are in California, Indiana, Iowa, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin.

One of the farms is a 20,000-head hog farm about 50 miles northwest of Indianapolis in Carroll County owned by

Marion Huffer and his relatives. Huffer said his farm was chosen in part because it's only about 30 miles from the main campus at Purdue, which is leading the study.

"We're hog farmers and we try to abide by all of the laws and be a good neighbor, so we just wanted to help out. It's good for us and it's good for the industry," he said.

But some environmental groups aren't convinced that the study will produce useful results.

The Washington-based Environmental Integrity Project is one of six environmental groups, including the Sierra Club, that's sued the EPA and livestock groups over their compliance agreement, contending that it essentially exempts livestock farms from the Clean Air Act.

Karla Raettig, a lawyer for the group, questions whether the study's sample size — 20 farms out of the 14,000 that have signed onto the compliance agreement — is too small to produce results that will reflect typical emissions from the nation's livestock farms.

"We're concerned that the sample size is awfully small — too small to yield data for what the EPA says they want it for," she said. "Without a bigger sample, we're very concerned that the data is not going to be reliable."

Heber said the 20-farm study is big enough to produce good science.

"We'd always like more, but this is going to get us a lot closer to the truth than what we have right now," he said. "It's a huge step forward scientifically for understanding farm emissions."



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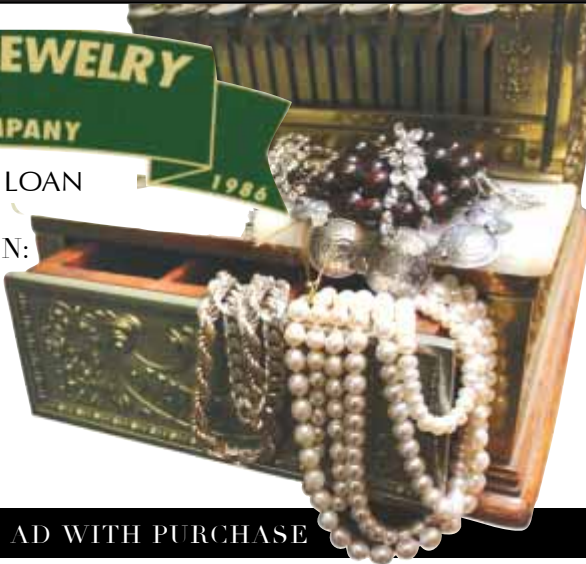
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One-way plan irks local residents

BY EMILY SKEHAN

Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN While most Santa Monicans can agree that traffic congestion is a major quality-of-life issue, a new proposal to reconfigure Pico and Olympic boulevards into one-way streets may not get the green light from residents.

Many questioned the viability of a clockwise, one-way traffic flow on the major thoroughfares on Thursday during a public discussion held by the city's Planning and Community Development Department.

"It seems like this plan is a huge benefit for commuters going between Downtown (LA) and Santa Monica," said one attendee. "But it's of no benefit to Santa Monica residents."

With prior proposals of the one-way traffic movement stopping short of the Santa Monica city line, current talks have centered around maintaining five lanes of traffic heading in the "main" direction and two lanes of "contra-flow" direction on each street throughout Downtown LA and Beverly Hills, heading towards Santa Monica.

The "main" lanes would be open to all traffic, with left-turns prohibited during peak hours. In the "contra-flow" lanes, left turns would be banned at all times, and local traffic would be allowed only during non-peak hours. During weekday peak hours, such lanes would be designated exclusively for buses and van-pools, and no parking would be allowed along either Pico or Olympic boulevards.

On weekends and non-peak hours, parking on both sides of the arterials would be allowed. Emergency vehicles would have access to all

lanes at all times under the proposal.

A one-way loop, with Olympic Boulevard heading exclusively east and Pico Boulevard moving only west, might be the best solution, said Allyn Rifkin, the transportation planner commissioned by County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky to create a proposal to reduce congestion between Santa Monica and Downtown LA.

Still, he placed emphasis on local support for the project.

"The whole idea of this proposal is that we're presenting a study with an initial idea," said Rifkin, "and now we're taking it to the communities and asking what parts of the idea you like and what parts you don't like. This cannot just be implemented next week by one of the city councils."

"I think that all three city councils need to work together to solve the traffic problem on the Westside."

Those affected by the change, however, don't seem quite as enthusiastic as Rifkin may have hoped.

"We have so many problems as it is with our north and south traffic that we anticipate the plan will just create a larger area of cut-through traffic ... and more of it" said Lorraine Sanchez, a board member of the Friends of Sunset Park neighborhood coalition. "In general, there's no solid support for the project, there are just a lot of questions and a lot of potential problems that are feared."

Attendees of Thursday's discussion at the Ken Edwards Center raised numerous concerns, most of which revolved around the technicalities of the proposal. Some wondered how Santa Monica would accommo-

date the overflow created by the five lanes of one-way traffic being reduced to one lane, as Pico Boulevard funnels from Downtown Los Angeles to narrower areas in Santa Monica.

Other objections included the possibility of major cut-through traffic in residential areas and the potential to cripple local businesses.

"Getting traffic moving is a great idea," said Louis Galper, who manages sales at McCabes Guitar Shop, located at Pico Boulevard and 31st Street, "but people would just go through residential areas, and eliminating parking is a horrible idea."

Galper pointed out that the residential side streets in the corridor have permit-only parking, and that customers would have no place to park during peak hours.

"We would have no business during those hours," he said. "It would be a ghost town."

Up the block, Joker's Lounge bartender Keith Davies agreed.

"It could help," he said, pointing out that it can take him an hour to get to his home in West Los Angeles. "Obviously, they want to make traffic flow much better than it is now, but parking is what they need to work on first. Our parking lot is so congested it's off the board, and if they got rid of parking along Pico, there's no place for customers to park because of the permits."

Joker's owner Marvin Machmueller wasn't so optimistic.

"I think it sounds like a ridiculous idea," he said. "It's better to leave it just like it is."

While businesses and residents might be peeved by parking shortages and cut-through traffic, Rifkin says the proposal aims to encourage use of public transit and van pools — an

efficient way to reduce traffic problems.

"Subways and light rail lines might be needed," said Rifkin, "but those sorts of improvements are 10 years or more away. This is a faster, cheaper solution that could significantly increase corridor capacity while putting an emphasis on public transport."

During the initial phases of the project, many Angelenos recommended using reversible lanes such as those employed during the 1984 Olympics. This kind of system — where the boulevards would convert to one-way traffic during certain hours — is impractical, argues Rifkin.

"The surveys we conducted during peak hours really reflected a diversity of destinations" he said. "It's much more difficult to do that sort of improvement because you can't predict a predominant, sustainable flow in one direction."

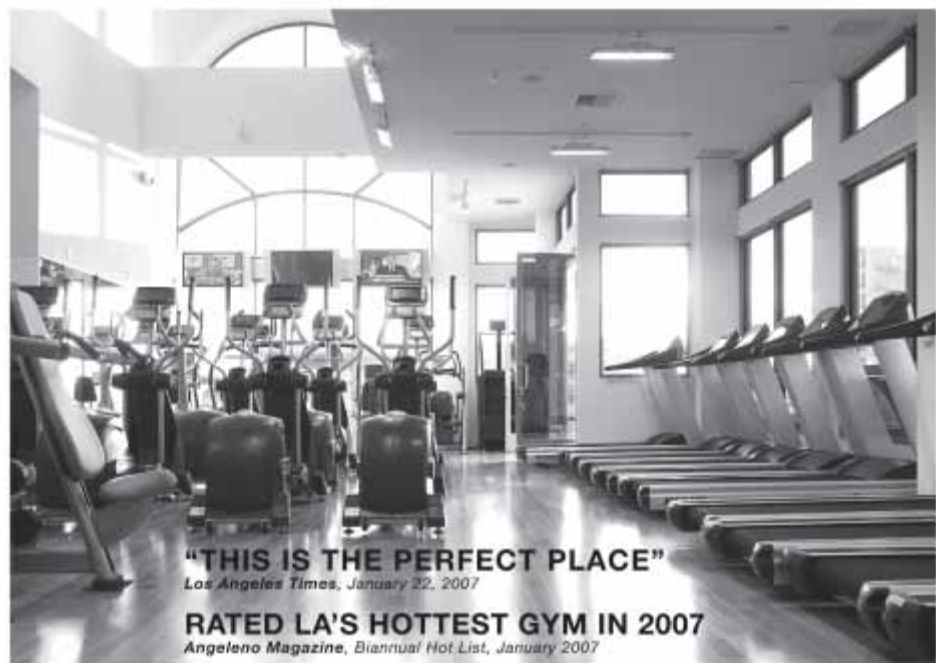
The proposal is still under much consideration and apt to change before it is implemented. However, those involved hope residents won't force the project to make a total U-turn.

"We need to think about something that will work for the whole corridor," said Lucy Dyke, head of Transportation Management for Santa Monica.

Some residents fear the solution is only temporary, and the costs might outweigh the benefits.

"This was a problem that could have been taken care of a long time ago," said Sanchez, noting that MTA subways don't extend to Santa Monica, and the lack of incentives for carpooling, "We've screwed ourselves."

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Musical act Plena Libre brought sizzling Afro-Cuban rhythms and Latin DJ grooves to the Santa Monica Pier on Thursday night. The weekly Twilight Dance Series of summer concerts continues this Thursday with performances by Samba Mapangala, Orchestra Virunga and José Conde y Ola Fresca.

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Christine Change news@smdp.com

AFFORDABLE OASIS: This 41-unit affordable housing project at 15th Street and Broadway is managed by Community Corp. of Santa Monica, the city's leading developer of housing for low- and moderate-income households. Around 50 percent of the tenants living there are from Santa Monica or work in Santa Monica. The building opened earlier this year.

Affording something better

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID CITY Jessica Ruiz values hard work, but no matter how much time she invested in her job, the single mother of two young boys couldn't seem to break into a higher income bracket, making it increasingly difficult for her to afford to live in Santa Monica, the place she calls home.

Two years ago, she had just been through a painful divorce and had very little experience in the corporate world when she was faced with the decision to move out of the city or apply for affordable housing.

"It was scary to be on your own like that with two kids," said Ruiz, who is taking night classes at Argosy University so she can become a paralegal and elevate her income. "It was hard to keep my head up and keep going."

Ruiz had heard all the horror stories about how long it would take to land an apartment. Some people told her she was wasting her time, that she'd never be approved, considering the supply of affordable units is so low compared to the ever-increasing demand.

In the beginning, Ruiz tried to keep the faith, but after a year and a half, she too had her doubts. Then came the phone call that changed her life. Ruiz and her two sons had been approved for an apartment in a new building on 15th Street and Broadway. The mother felt like she had won the lottery after taking up residence in March.

"I couldn't believe it," Ruiz said, standing in the doorway of her new home. "It took a while for it to sink in."

Since moving in, Ruiz has noticed a significant change within herself, both physically and emotionally.

"It's made me stress a little less so that I can be more present for my children," Ruiz said. "I can laugh a little louder, a little harder. I'm really grateful for the opportunity to make a better life."

Ruiz isn't the only one. In affordable housing developments all across the city, tenants who make anywhere between \$20,000 and \$30,000 a year are expressing their gratitude at having been lucky enough to land an apartment that doesn't feature broken plumbing or soiled carpets.

They are seniors barely making it on Social Security; the disabled who can't work; new immigrants from Iran and Central America looking to escape religious persecu-

tion or poverty; large families; and young couples experiencing parenthood for the first time.

They are Santa Monica, but does Santa Monica want them?

The answer seems to be a resounding "yes." Elected officials, at the request of residents, have enacted aggressive policies requiring the construction of affordable housing to counteract market influences that have pushed moderate- and low-income residents out, taking with them the diversity that many cherish and are fighting to maintain.

A LONG WAY FROM WATTS

Santa Monica has been praised for its efforts in regards to building affordable housing, but there are critics who believe City Hall is doing more than its fair share. The dissenters believe the city has enough affordable housing and that more units should be set aside strictly for Santa Monica residents.

Others fear the developments will depress property values and bring more crime by grouping together large numbers of low-income residents.

While such arguments against affordable-housing projects may apply in less desirable areas of the county — most notably Jordan Downs in Watts, where poverty and gang warfare have a stranglehold — those in Santa Monica typically attract only the most qualified and responsible tenants — those who've passed an extensive background check before signing a lease, said Joan Ling, executive director of Community Corp. of Santa Monica (CCSM), the leading developer of affordable housing in the city.

"If you have bad credit, bad landlord references, previous evictions, you are not eligible," Ling said. "We have these rules to protect neighborhoods and protect the tenants who live there. It weeds out quite a few."

While there are federally-funded developments in the city that cater mostly to those living outside the city, Ling said CCSM is required to give a preference to Santa Monica residents or those who work in the city.

But because of the background checks, there are some Santa Monicans who do not qualify, opening the door for others waiting for an apartment. CCSM cannot discriminate against people just because they do not live in Santa Monica, Ling said.

Also, City Hall does not contribute 100 percent of the

funds for the affordable units. CCSM and other developers build the majority of their projects with a combination of funding sources, some taking out traditional loans from a bank or selling tax credits to investors. Others apply for state and federal funds to make ends meet.

The development at 15th Street and Broadway, a CCSM project, was partially funded by City Hall — around 40 percent — and roughly half of its tenants either worked or lived in Santa Monica before moving in, a good return on the investment, according to Ling.

"When people move here, they will find a job here, just like anybody else would," Ling said. "We have to ask ourselves, do we want to just close the door and say we are never going to serve anyone who currently has no relation to the city?"

Then there are those who once lived in Santa Monica, but had to move to surrounding communities like Mar Vista, Venice or Inglewood because they could no longer afford to live in their hometown.

"They all want to come back, so just because they have moved out, or were forced out of Santa Monica, are we going to say, 'Oh, we don't want you?'" Ling posed. "You can't have a sealed system. It's a good thing, not a bad thing."

A closed system could be ripe for abuse, she said.

TACKLING PERCEPTIONS

The majority of housing provided by CCSM comes in the form of rehabbed apartments that would have otherwise been demolished, forcing long-time residents to look elsewhere for housing, possibly in another city, Ling said.

Of the roughly 1,400 units CCSM manages, two-thirds are rehab as opposed to new construction. Of new construction, Ling said more than half of the units are awarded to people who lived or worked in Santa Monica before they moved in.

A lot of the negative comments about affordable housing stem from misinformation, Ling said, pointing out there is a very big distinction between the housing that CCSM and City Hall build, and those that are funded by the federal government — which has no preference in place for Santa Monica residents.

"It seems like there's not a story there," Ling said. "If the story

SEE HOUSING PAGE 17

Christine Change news@smdp.com

HOMEODIES: The Morales family (L-R Juan, family friend Cynthia Sanchez, father Luiz and Guadalupe) pose for a picture in their new, two-bedroom apartment, located at the corner of 26th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. Luiz works in restaurants in Santa Monica and Malibu.

SM's sweetest price

FROM HOUSING PAGE 16

is that the city is spending money, but not helping its residents, that's not true. Yes, there have been problems with federal housing serving local residents, but there's never been a problem with us, who do family housing."

The federal projects are not done by developers who are in tune with the communities they build in, like CCSM is with Santa Monica, Ling said. That creates more confusion and resentment.

The biggest hurdle seems to be perception. Some just have negative thoughts when it comes to affordable, or low-income housing. Even some of the tenants in CCSM buildings had reservations about living there.

"In the beginning, we didn't know what to expect," said Sammy Gonzales, who lives with her family in a three-bedroom apartment in a new CCSM development at the corner of 26th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard.

Like many people, Gonzales thought living in a low-income housing project would be a lot like what is portrayed in movies, meaning run-down apartments with unemployed thugs hanging out front causing trouble.

"But that wasn't what we've experienced at all," said Gonzales, who was living in a cramped two-bedroom apartment with five other people before moving to Santa Monica. Her parents, meanwhile, pay \$1,100 a month for a three-bedroom, compared to \$1,700 for their old place.

"Everyone here is very nice, very friendly," she said. "It's a lot of families with young kids playing out front, just working-class people. It's nothing like what we expected, and that's been a great surprise."

Across from Gonzales lives Luiz Morales, his wife, two sons and his young daughter, who enjoys playing on a jungle gym in the complex courtyard.

Morales works in restaurants in Santa Monica and Malibu, while his wife cleans offices a few blocks from their apartment. Their new home is much different from where they used to live in Venice, where they paid \$822 a month, plus utilities, for a one-bedroom apartment, instead of the \$922 he pays now for two bedrooms, a larger kitchen and a patio.

"Here, we have more space, a nice

kitchen, a dining room. It's so much better," Morales said. "We are very happy here."

Morales said he is looking forward to enrolling his children in Santa Monica schools.

"This is the first time we've lived in such a beautiful place," Morales said, smiling as he looked around the complex.

Dawn Izen, the manager of the building at 15th Street and Broadway, said she believes her fellow tenants are much better than those she lived with in the San Fernando Valley, where she also managed a building.

"Just because you are low-income doesn't mean you're a bad person," said Izen, who lives with her husband, an administrative assistant, and two young daughters. "People are people, regardless if you make \$1 million or \$20."

Izen, who stays home with her daughters, one of whom just celebrated her first birthday, said she has always dreamed of moving to Santa Monica, but never thought her family could afford it. Then she saw an advertisement for a building manager and she jumped at the chance. Now, she and her husband are able to save money and hope to one day buy a home.

"This really helps people get back on their feet," said Izen, who praised CCSM for the assistance they give to tenants, helping to pay for gymnastics classes and other activities for her oldest daughter. "We consider ourselves very fortunate."

As does Ruiz, the recent divorcee with two sons trying to hold it together until she can get a better job. Once that happens, Ruiz said she plans to save up enough money to move out and pass on the apartment to another family so that they too can experience life without having to worry about how they are going to pay the rent next month.

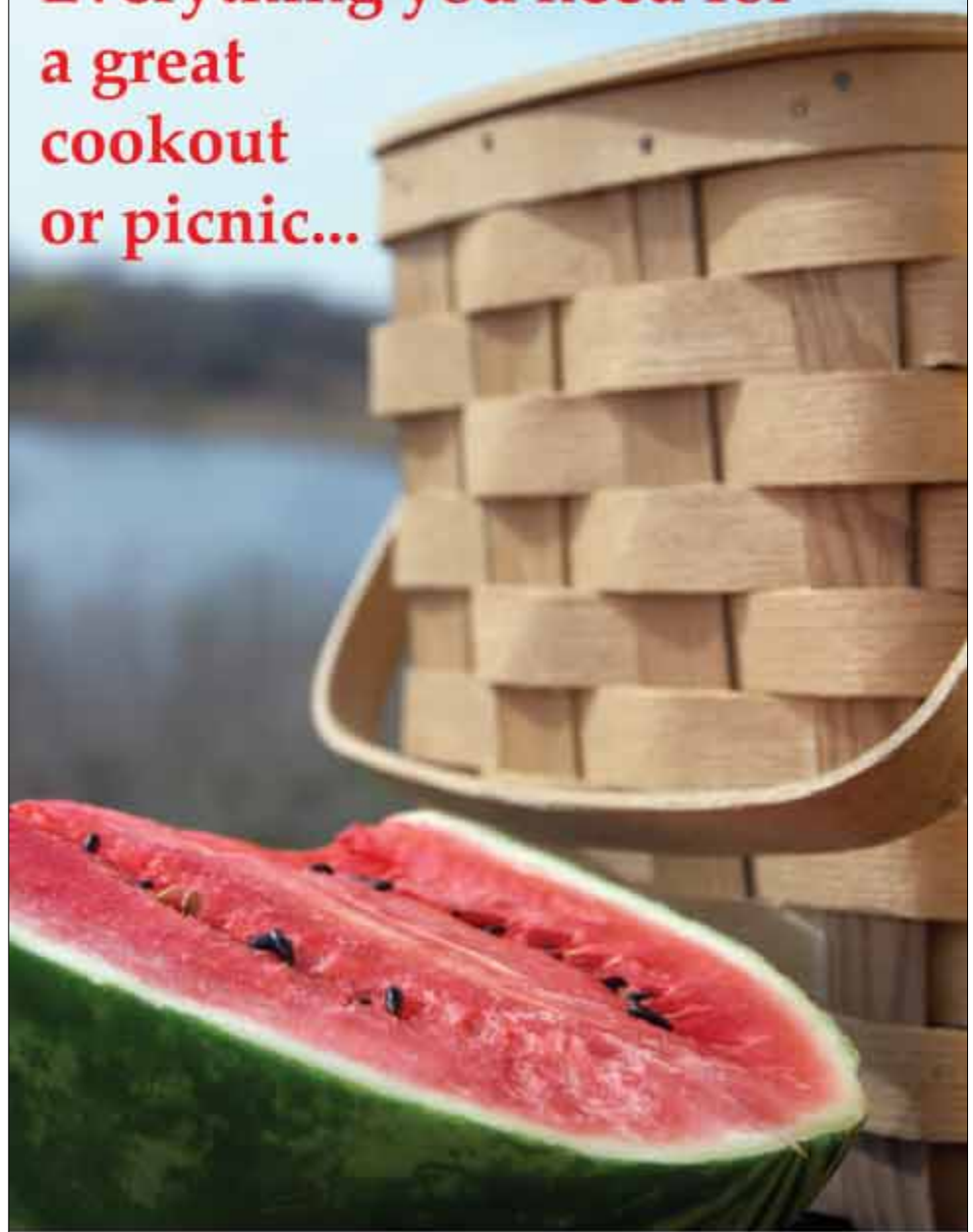
"I think we have to remember to be grateful and to serve others," Ruiz said. "This hasn't been an easy road and I'm very appreciative of what I've been given, and for the most part, so is everyone else I've come in contact with here."

"These people are really great people, and if they didn't live in Santa Monica before," Ruiz said, "they do now, and I think we're all better off for it."

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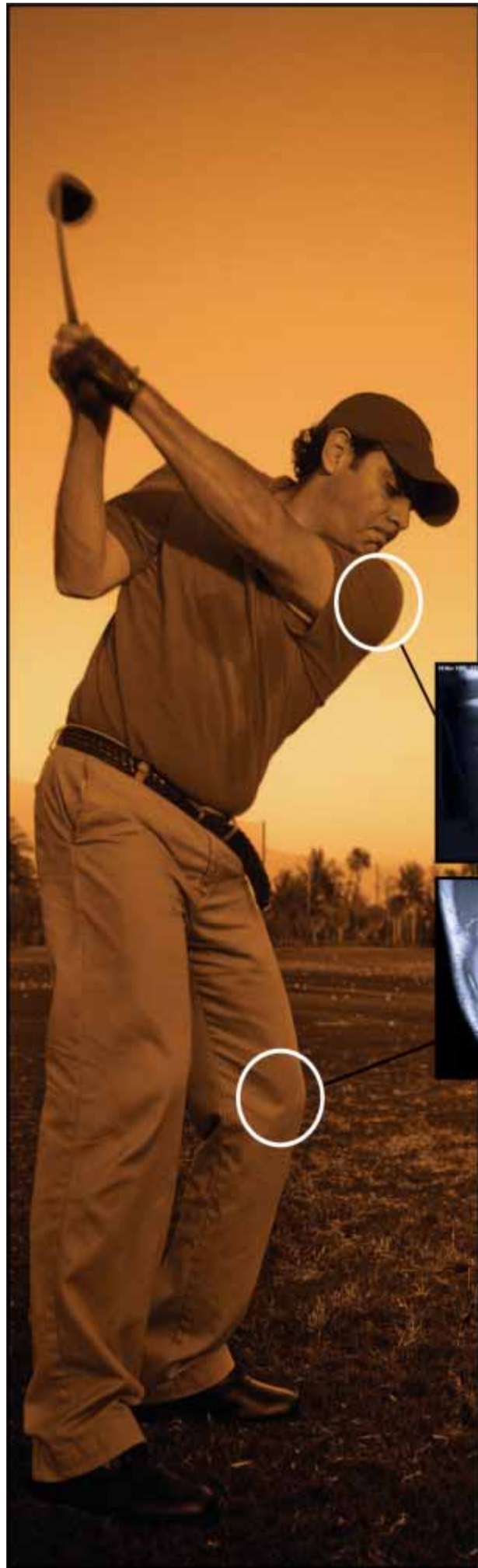
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Photogs at home in Venice

FROM PAPARAZZI PAGE 3

soon turned into covering art openings, weightlifting competitions and business mixers — all taking place within Venice.

Presently, no one is getting paid for their efforts. It's still all about having fun and learning more about the art of photography. There is hope that more sponsors will come aboard and provide some funds to help pay for supplies, but in the meantime, the staff at Venice Paparazzi continue to volunteer their time, cameras and interest in the everyday.

"It's just the pure joy of it all," said Austin, who just recently learned how to take photographs. "It's just about meeting new people and bringing the community together."

Things weren't so easy in the beginning.

"Not everyone wants to have their picture taken and put on a website, but since we've been doing this, only two people have asked for their pictures to be removed — one because she didn't like the way her hair looked," Stowell said.

Now, whenever Stowell and Austin stride into an event like a paddle tennis competition, "people are yelling out, 'Hey, Venice Paparazzi,'" Austin said.

The photogs have received a lot of support from local merchants, artisans and the City of Los Angeles, most notably the Department of Recreation and Parks, where Stowell used to work, and Councilman Bill Rosendahl's office.

"Who wouldn't want a group like the Venice Paparazzi," said Jeffrey Solomon with the Venice Chamber of Commerce, which invited Venice Paparazzi to cover a few chamber mixers.

With so many community events taking place and so few reporters to cover them, Solomon said the Venice Paparazzi are needed to keep residents informed and to document the spirit of Venice.

"Our property values have risen substantially, far ahead of almost any other area in Los Angeles County, but what you may not know is that Venice is also championing a cultural renaissance," Solomon said. "I'm sure that the Venice Paparazzi will shoot the entire movement."



**IT'S JUST ABOUT MEETING
NEW PEOPLE AND BRINGING
THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER."**

Aoy Austin, Photographer with VenicePaparazzi.com

When Stowell and Austin are out taking photos, they use their charm and infectious enthusiasm to get their subjects to let their guard down and play with their poses. After each photo is taken, the two hand out their cards, which tease people by saying, "See if you made the cut." Subjects are then encouraged to go online and check out that day's gallery to find out if they have indeed made the cut.

"The thrill of going to their website to see if 'You made the cut,' is awesome," said Solomon, who described the photographers as "fireballs."

"Since they are so professional, well mannered and doing a great job, I have not heard one comment that was negative," Solomon added.

The next step for the site is to offer video clips of events and continue to add more information about Venice.

"We are really trying to be the most up-to-date website on Venice out there," Stowell said. "It's definitely going to evolve."

So the next time you're walking through Venice, be prepared to say "Cheese!" You never know where the paparazzi will be lurking.

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LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION

Moratorium on gag orders

FROM ORDERS PAGE 3

The agency that many of these administrators suggested was the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team, which conducted a review of the school district's finances earlier this year.

"When they do the audit, they assemble experts to come in and we identify what it is we want them to look at," Talarico said, mentioning that FCMAT would look at the financial data of the special education program, as well as the policies and practices in place.

The moratorium is to stay in place until the independent review is completed and the Board of Education plans out its next steps.

After a tough year in which the district administration was criticized by the public over the practice of confidentiality agreements — both in special education and in high-level management contracts — school officials hope to finally move on, closing the chapter on an unusual and contentious situation.

Talarico reiterated her commitment to accountability in all levels of the school district at the board meeting on Thursday, stressing that it would be the "overarching theme for the next school year" and throughout the duration of her tenure.

At the center of the dispute is the practice of confidentiality agreements in specialized programs for students whose parents are dissatisfied with the development of their child's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). If a disagreement exists, parents and district officials meet as part of a dispute resolution process, from which a new agreement is drafted wherein a confidentiality clause could exist.

Those parents whose children are tied under the confidentiality agreement are barred from speaking to a third party about the services outlined in the IEP.

The moratorium came as good news to those who have spoken out against what has been derided as "gag orders."

"I think they took the responsible and really the only action they should've taken and it's a big step forward," said Mayor Pro Tem Herb Katz, who along with City Council

member Bob Holbrook have stated that they were disturbed by parent's fears because they had to stay tight-lipped on IEP matters.

On top of placing a moratorium, the Board of Education authorized Talarico to meet with City Manager P. Lamont Ewell to schedule another session of the Adjustment Conference Committee to discuss the language of the stipulations under the facilities use agreement. The committee is a subgroup of the City Council and Board of Education that determined the funding formula under the use agreement.

The board originally intended to send a letter to the City Council, accepting the provisions with a few clarifications related to the confidentiality clauses, but decided to reconvene the adjustment committee instead after several members of the public spoke out during a recent school board meeting. They blasted the clarifications as confusing, filled with holes, and not in spirit with the wishes of the Council.

"From what I heard from people I spoke to, it doesn't read in a trusting way," said Sheila Forsander, referring to a clarification that the confidentiality agreements would be suspended unless requested by a parent.

The language in the agreement is city language, said Board President Kathy Wisnicki, adding that administrators were not trying to be underhanded or sneaky.

The school board members in attendance unanimously supported the moratorium, but two in particular — de la Torre and Maria Leon-Vazquez — favored a temporary halt on confidentiality agreements even before the City Council meeting in June. The two had decided not to bring the matter before the school board, feeling they did not have enough support to push it forward.

"I supported the moratorium before this discussion and I still support it now," de la Torre said.

melodyh@smdp.com

✉ WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEF

Friendly grants make for bargain gardens

Many homes in Santa Monica use more than 200 gallons of water each day — the equivalent of five bathtubs — to irrigate landscape, much of it simply running off onto sidewalks, streets and alleys. Research shows that converting turf and other water-thirsty plants to California Friendly® plants and converting traditional, high-volume sprinkler irrigation systems to water-efficient systems can save up to 80 percent of water and 60 percent of maintenance costs.

The city of Santa Monica offers competitive landscape grants to help property owners take up the conversion challenge, providing partial funding for new or remodeled innovative gardens. To qualify for a grant, the landscaping plan must include water-efficient irrigation, plus one or more of the following: California native plants, water-efficient plants, storm-water management systems, graywater systems and/or other innovative water-saving features.

The city provides funding up to \$20,000 for such landscape projects in Santa Monica. Applications for the current grant cycle will be accepted through Sept. 27.

The landscape grant program is one of 15 programs the city offers to save water and reduce ocean pollution. For more information, visit www.smepe.org or call (866) 728-3229.

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NOTICE OF CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING

BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Consideration of proposed resolution to automatically adjust the Affordable Housing Base Unit Fee for new market-rate multifamily development pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 9.56.070(b)

WHEN: Tuesday, July 24, 2007
5:45 P.M.

WHERE: Santa Monica City Hall, Council Chambers, Room #213
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City Council will conduct a public hearing regarding the proposed adoption of a resolution which would automatically adjust the Affordable Housing Unit Base Fee that developers of multi-family projects may pay to the City pursuant to Section 9.56.070(b) of the City's Affordable Housing Production Program. The existing Affordable Housing Unit Base fee for new market rate apartments of \$24.10 per square foot would be increased by \$1.21 per square foot of floor area and the existing Affordable Housing Unit Base fee for new market rate condominiums of \$28.15 would be increased by \$1.41 per square foot of floor area. Effective on October 1, 2007, the adjusted Affordable Housing Unit Base fee would be \$25.31 per square foot of floor area for new market rate apartments and would be \$29.56 per square foot of floor area for new market rate condominiums.

The adjustments to the Affordable Housing Base Unit Fee reflect changes in land and construction costs based on a methodology adopted by the City Council on June 13, 2006. An explanation of this methodology and the resulting adjustment to the fee are set forth in a letter prepared for the City by Hamilton, Rabinovitz & Alschuler, Inc. (HR&A). A copy of this letter is now available at the City Clerk's Office in Room 102 of City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California or the Housing Division Office at 2121 Cloverfield Boulevard, Suite 100, Santa Monica, California. This information is also available on the City's web site (Housing section).

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment on this matter. You or your representative, or any other persons may comment at the City Council's public hearing or by writing a letter.

Letters should be addressed to: Mayor and City Council
City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION

Further information may be obtained from the City Housing Division at the address above or by calling (310) 458-8702.

The meeting facility is handicapped accessible. If you have any special needs such as sign language interpreting, please contact the Office of the Disabled at (310) 458-8701.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica, at or prior to the Public Hearing.

ESPAÑOL

Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para aumentar una tarifa sobre el desarrollo de alojamiento "multi-familiar" en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Ellen Comis en la División de Viviendas y Desarrollo al número (310) 458-8702.

Elk aren't bothered by wolves in vicinity

By the Associated Press

JACKSON, Wyo. A new study by a University of Wyoming researcher concludes that the presence of wolves doesn't cause elk to vary their foraging behavior enough to allow for the recovery of aspen stands that elk feed on. The findings may contradict earlier research.

Matt Kauffman, professor of zoology and physiology, finished the three-year study this year. He and other researchers analyzed 700 elk kill sites in the northern range of Yellowstone.

The study found that elk are more likely to be killed in open meadows than in forested areas. And it found that elk forage where food is available and don't change their foraging patterns based on which areas offer a higher risk of being killed by wolves.

That conclusion contradicts a recent Oregon State University study that found a thriving wolf population changes where and how elk browse. The study found that an "ecology of fear" kept elk from feeding at stream crossings and other areas when wolves were present.

The Oregon study concluded that the



Photo courtesy U.S. Parks Service

CRYING WOLF: Researches have determined that wolves don't necessarily disrupt the eating habits of elk.

presence of wolves resulted in an increase in the number of willows growing next to streams. More vegetation along streams, in turn, cools the water for fish and provides habitat for birds and amphibians.

Kauffman said his team's research found that elk will move into forested areas when

wolves are present but will return to open areas when wolves leave.

While the Oregon study focused on willows, Kauffman's study focused more on aspens. Kauffman said aspens do not regenerate more quickly in areas considered "high risk" for elk.

Kauffman's study looked at 16 aspen sites selected at random in areas where elk would face both high and low risk of being preyed upon by wolves.

The study found that aspen stands do better in areas of high productivity for the trees, namely in wetter areas.

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Anchorage cancels Wi-Fi

BY JAMES HALPIN
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska A contract that would have paved the way for free wireless access in downtown Anchorage has been canceled because the company demanded a fee that was not a part of the original deal, Mayor Mark Begich said Friday.

The agreement with Mountain View, Calif.-based MetroFi, Inc. called for an advertising-supported Internet network that would have cost the city nothing for the downtown connection, but the company reneged when it asked the municipality to pay a \$3,000 monthly fee, Begich said.

It was only after the project moved into the next phase — Wi-Fi access for the entire city — that the city was to begin paying for certain services, Begich said.

"Before we went down that path we wanted to make sure the system worked," he said. "Even though it was a small amount, it's really the principle of the matter. That's not what we asked for."

Officials at MetroFi didn't immediately respond to interview requests Friday.

The city announced the deal last month, saying the company would set up the connection using fixtures such as city-owned light poles and buildings, which the company would use for free.

The Anchorage Assembly approved a tentative agreement on June 26 after MetroFi officials told members there would be no cost or risk to the city.

Economic bummer

Consumer confidences hit lowest point in nearly a year due to inflation

BY JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Consumer confidence slid to its lowest point in almost a year as worries about job availability, high gasoline prices and the severity of the housing slump weighed on peoples' minds.

The steep drop disappointed economists and raised fresh questions about consumers' appetite to spend in the months ahead; their spending is a major shaper of the country's economic health.

The RBC Cash Index showed that confidence tumbled to 76.1 in July. That was considerably weaker than June's 81.4 and was the worst reading since last August. The index is based on the results from the international polling firm Ipsos.

To a lesser extent, the deterioration in confidence also may have been influenced by concerns about terrorism — fanned by the attempted car bombings last month in London and Glasgow — and violence in Iraq, analysts said.

"Consumers feel more pessimistic. There is a spreading sense of insecurity and concern," said Bill Cheney, chief economist at John Hancock Financial Services.

The erosion in confidence comes as the

public gave President Bush a job-approval rating of just 33 percent in July, according to a separate AP-Ipsos poll. On the economy, only 37 percent approve of his performance. Both figures are close to record lows.

Much of consumers' angst is over how the economy and their own financial fortunes will fare in the next six months. This expectations measure dropped to an 11-month low of 23.1 in July.

housing slump will worsen and drag down home prices, economists said. During the five-year housing boom, rising home values made people feel more wealthy. They borrowed against their homes and spent lavishly. Weaker home values — a byproduct of the housing slump — have made some more cautious.

Meanwhile, peoples' sentiments about current economic conditions were mostly stable. This current conditions gauge clocked in at 95.8 in July, close to 96.8 in June.

Yet, a measure tracking consumers' feelings about the nation's employment climate fell to 116.8 in July. While that was still decent, it was a sharp drop from June's 126.9 and was the weakest showing in 14 months.

CONSUMERS FEEL MORE PESSIMISTIC. THERE IS A SPREADING SENSE OF INSECURITY AND CONCERN."

Bill Cheney, Chief economist at John Hancock Financial Services

Whether gasoline prices, which recently started to creep up again, will continue to climb was one factor blamed for consumers' growing unease about the future. Gasoline prices nationwide are now hovering around \$2.98 a gallon, up a bit from \$2.96 a gallon at the beginning of July, according to the Energy Department. Prices spiked past \$3 a gallon in May.

Another factor depressing consumers' feelings about the future is whether the yearlong

July's reading suggested consumers are feeling a bit edgy about the job market.

Although the national unemployment rate in June stayed at a low 4.5 percent for the third straight month, the creation of new jobs has slowed.

In the first half of the year, job growth averaged 145,000 a month. That was weaker than the average monthly gain of 189,000 for 2006, according to Labor Department.



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WHY PAY OFF YOUR MORTGAGE In half the time?

Article by Douglas Andrew, Best-Selling Author of *Missed Fortune 101* and *Last Chance Millionaire*



Raul D. Martinez, Certified Missed Fortune™ Provider

Most homeowners have the misconception that the wisest method to accelerate the pay-off of their home is to simply pay extra principal payments on their mortgages. Other homeowners are lured into thinking that bi-weekly mortgage payment plans are the answer. Still other homeowners utilize a 15-year mortgage rather than a 30-year mortgage. In actuality, none of these methods usually prove to be the wisest method to accomplish a "free and clear" home.

You can accumulate sufficient cash in a conservative tax-deferred mortgage acceleration plan to pay off a home just as soon or sooner than utilizing the methods described above. Besides accomplishing your goal of paying off your home (typically in less than half the time), you will also have the following advantages.

First, you will be able to maintain flexibility, liquidity, and safety of principal by allow-

ing the equity to grow in a separate side fund where it is accessible in case of emergency, temporary disability, or unemployment.

Second, you will be able to maximize one of the few real tax-deductible interest expenses allowed by keeping the loan balance as high as possible until you have the cash accumulated to pay off your home in a lump sum. In fact, you can potentially pay off a 30-year mortgage faster than a 15-year mortgage by partially using Uncle Sam's money instead of your own with the methods described above.

Third, you will be able to maintain control of your home equity, increase its rate of return, and keep the equity portable. For example, most homeowners relocate every seven years, and if you need to relocate during a soft real estate market, your home will likely sell faster and for a higher amount if you have a high mortgage balance rather than a

low mortgage balance.

To understand how to accelerate the pay-off of your home mortgage wisely, Chatham Street Mortgage Services is conducting an educational seminar entitled "Equity Management and Asset Optimization."

It will be taught on Wednesday, July 18, 2007, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at The Olympic Collection, State Room, located at 11301 Olympic Blvd., West Los Angeles, CA, 90064. There is easy access from the 405 and 10 freeways with plenty of lighted parking.

This educational seminar is taught nationally at a normal tuition of \$99.00. However, California homeowners are cordially invited to attend this presentation at no charge, compliments of our sponsor, Chatham Street Mortgage Services. Seating is limited for this free seminar. Thus, please RSVP at 310-592-2015 to guarantee your seat.



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IAEA says Iran has agreed to concessions

BY GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press Writer

VIENNA, Austria Iran has lifted its ban on visits to a nuclear facility by U.N. experts and now will allow them to inspect the site, the International Atomic Energy Agency said Friday.

It also said Tehran was ready to answer key questions on past suspicious experiments that the international community fears could be linked to a weapons program.

The IAEA — the U.N. nuclear monitor — said Iran promised the concessions earlier this week in meeting between its officials

and a senior delegation from the Vienna-based agency.

Years of Iranian stonewalling have left the IAEA unable to ascertain whether Tehran is telling the truth in asserting that it has no nuclear weapons ambitions and that its atomic activities are meant strictly to generate power. Its refusal to cooperate with the agency was the trigger that prompted U.N. Security Council involvement last year that led to two sets of sanctions.

Any decision by the Islamic republic to end its foot dragging and cooperate with the agency would thus be a major compromise on its part. As such, it could weaken a push

by the United States and its Western allies on the council to impose new U.N. sanctions — even if Tehran continues to defy the council's main demand that it freeze its uranium enrichment program.

In talks between Iranian officials and IAEA Deputy Director General Olli Heinonen, "agreement was reached on ... a visit of agency inspectors the heavy water research reactor at Arak by the end of July," said a statement from the Vienna-based agency.

The two sides also agreed on how "to resolve reaming issues regarding Iran's past plutonium experiments;" appointing new inspectors in the place of those banned by

Iran earlier this year; finalizing ways of fuller IAEA supervision of uranium enrichment activities, and "clarifying the open issues regarding associated with the score and content of Iran's enrichment program," said the statement.

The "open issues" include "uranium contamination found on equipment at a specific location," said the agency, alluding to traces of enriched uranium at a military site — which could indicate links to a weapons program — as "well as studies related to specified projects," again shorthand for nuclear work that could have military applications.

Report implies Baghdad buildup won't work unless troops stay

BY ROBERT BURNS | AP Military Writer

WASHINGTON While many in Congress are pushing President Bush to alter course in Iraq by September if not sooner, his new status report on the war strongly implies that the administration believes its military strategy will take many more months to meet its goals.

The report cited no specific timeframe, but its language suggests what some U.S. commanders have hinted at recently: The troop reinforcements that Bush ordered in January may need to remain until spring 2008.

Democrats — the time has long passed for the Iraqis to show that they can parlay U.S.-led military efforts into progress on the political front.

"That government is simply not providing leadership worthy of the considerable sacrifice of our forces, and this has to change immediately," Sen. John Warner, R-Va., said after the White House delivered its war report to Congress on Thursday. Warner was the author of legislation requiring the report.

Hours after the report's release, the House, on a 223-201 vote, approved a Democratic measure requiring U.S. troops

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice advanced that view Friday morning, telling Fox News' "Fox & Friends" that by waiting until September, "we can make a coherent judgment of where we are and we can chart a way forward."

"I understand people's concern. I understand people's impatience," she said, "but I would just hope that we could recognize that our men and women in the field, our ambassadors, our generals out there, our commanding general, are on a course that was laid out by the president in January. We ought to stick to that."

By extending troop deployments in Iraq from 12 months to 15 months, the Army has made it possible for Bush to maintain the troop buildup until about April 2008. But if he wanted to go beyond that it would require some even more painful moves by the Army, at the risk of reaching a breaking point.

Although the war is increasingly unpopular, Bush does have support in some prominent quarters for continuing his current military strategy, not only for the remainder of this year but into 2008. John Keane, a retired four-star Army general, said this week that security progress, though slow, is gaining momentum.

"The thought of pulling out now or in a couple of months makes no sense militarily," Keane said.

Between now and September the battle for Baghdad will intensify, likely costing hundreds of American troops' lives, and the Iraqi government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki will be pressured to do more to weed out sectarian influences in the Iraqi security forces and to pass legislation designed to promote reconciliation.

THAT GOVERNMENT IS SIMPLY NOT PROVIDING LEADERSHIP WORTHY OF THE CONSIDERABLE SACRIFICE OF OUR FORCES, AND THIS HAS TO CHANGE IMMEDIATELY."

Sen. John Warner, R-Va

That's a military calculation at odds with an emerging political consensus in Washington on bringing the troops home soon.

The disconnect between the military and political views on the best way forward is a symptom of four-plus years of setbacks in Iraq — not only missteps by the U.S. government but also by Iraqi political leaders, who have fallen far short of their stated aim of creating a government of national unity.

In the view of some members of Congress — and not just

to be withdrawn from Iraq by spring. House Democrats pursued the vote despite a veto threat from Bush.

The president apparently has made the calculation that he can ward off political pressure to change course before the next required progress report, set for mid-September. That's when Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, plans to lay out his assessment of whether the counterinsurgency strategy he launched in February is working and recommends to Bush whether to stick with it into the coming year.

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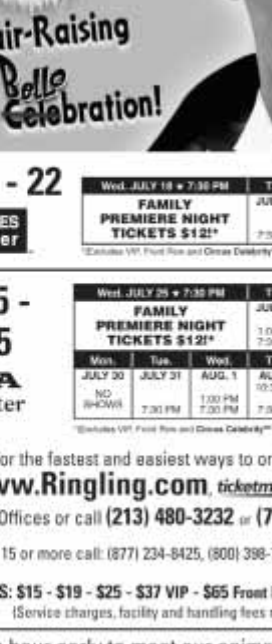
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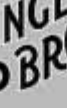


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JULY 30 NO SHOW	JULY 31 7:30 PM	AUG. 1 1:00 PM 7:30 PM	AUG. 2 10:30 AM 7:30 PM	AUG. 3 1:00 PM 7:30 PM	AUG. 4 11:30 AM 3:30 PM 7:30 PM	AUG. 5 1:30 PM 5:30 PM

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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 69°

Swell Forecast (1-2 FT)

Saturday, the wind swell should pick up a bit, but waist high most everywhere seems like a reasonable call as SW energy remains next to nil. Best size will be at west facing breaks where some chest high peaks might be found. Sunday, the wind swell should pick up a bit, more along the lines of waist to chest at west facing breaks. This isn't looking pretty though with only 6- 9-second periods.

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TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

July 10, 2007

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 2

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

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / ns

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 3 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	ns
Puercio State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puercio Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	B	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	B	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A	ns

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken



Heal the Bay

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

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

MLS

Everybody's got an opinion on Beckham

BY BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Galaxy's Web site has been counting down the days, hours, minutes and seconds until superstar David Beckham joins the Major League Soccer team.

But does anyone besides hard-core soccer fans, admirers of the dashing and fashionable Englishman or paparazzi care in a country where interest in the sport known overseas as football has never registered more than a blip?

"I'm not quite sure why, but Americans think soccer's boring," said Doug Wood, a 25-year-old stock broker from Los Angeles.

Converting hearts and minds about a sport called "The Beautiful Game" will likely be Beckham's No. 1 challenge.

"He knows soccer isn't huge in America yet and he's hoping to change that," his wife Victoria said. "He's so passionate about what he does and he's excited to get there and do what he can."

Six months of waiting ends Friday with Beckham's introduction at the Galaxy's stadium in Carson, Calif.

He's set to play his first game July 21, an exhibition against Chelsea of the English Premier League. Beckham signed a five-year contract in January worth \$32.5 million.

The early buzz on the guy famous for his bending free kicks, ever-changing hair and clothing styles and stick-thin pop singer wife is mixed.

People seem to fall into three groups — those who don't know about soccer and wouldn't attend games if the tickets were free; those intrigued by Beckham's celebrity aura, especially women; and true soccer fans who wonder if the 32-year-old midfielder can elevate MLS to the same level as Europe's more respected leagues.

"If he can do some stuff like Ronaldinho, then I'll definitely be watching every game," said Greg Oden, the No. 1 pick in the recent NBA draft who is a fan of the Brazilian soccer star.

Beckham joins an A-list of Hollywood transplants that includes Wayne Gretzky, Shaquille O'Neal and the Dodgers — all of which made an indelible mark on the city's sports landscape.

"He's ahead of the game than when I first came to L.A. because he's so world-renowned," said Gretzky, who arrived from Canada in 1988 and helped popularize hockey in warm-weather cities.

"The one thing I learned was that one person can't make or break it. The Galaxy organization, the ownership, everyone has to rally around."

Count Alexandra Gillardo among women interested simply because of Beckham's blond looks and engaging smile.

Apparently Gretzky's wife agrees.

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Dueling suits

Judge freezes cash sought by Larry Birkhead in dispute

A judge froze a half-million-dollar account Thursday until it's decided whether the money belongs to **LARRY BIRKHEAD** or his ex-lawyer in the **ANNA NICOLE SMITH** paternity case.

Superior Court Judge Charles C. Lee said he will decide by Tuesday whether to order arbitration to set-

LOWE PROMOTES TAX BREAKS

ACTOR ROB LOWE, who portrays a member of Congress on television, appeared before lawmakers Thursday and promoted tax credits for people who add a plug-in feature to hybrid cars and trucks.

Lowe plays a junior senator from California on ABC's "Brothers & Sisters."

He testified before a special House panel looking at energy and global warming issues. Later, he appeared at a demonstration about three blocks from the Capitol featuring a Toyota Prius that had been converted to a plug-in hybrid.

AP

tle the dueling lawsuits by Birkhead and attorney Debra A. Opri.

Opri contends that Birkhead owes her more than \$600,000 for her legal work on his request for DNA testing of Smith's baby daughter – testing that in April showed he was the father.

Opri withdrew from the case in March and sued him two months later, seeking binding arbitration over the legal bills.

Birkhead countersued days later, contending that Opri owes him \$505,250 held in a client trust account. He claims the money – along with

\$200,000 that Opri already returned – came from a deal he had with the Bravo cable network to talk about the paternity case.

Opri placed the money in the account against Birkhead's wishes and after Birkhead fired her when she refused to turn over the money, the lawsuit contended.

The judge took under submission a request by Birkhead to temporarily block Opri from spending money in the account.

Birkhead sued Smith last October seeking a paternity test of her daughter to determine who was the baby's father.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beckhams ready to invade Hollywood

Soccer great **DAVID BECKHAM AND HIS WIFE, "POSH SPICE" VICTORIA**, arrived with their three children to begin their new life in Los Angeles, greeted by the familiar sight of reporters and photographers.

Authorities set up barricades at Los Angeles International Airport as if the arrival of the soccer star and the Spice Girl was a red carpet premiere. The British power couple held hands as they walked out of a terminal shortly before 8:20 p.m. after arriving aboard a British Airways flight from London.

Their three children accompanied them on the

flight, but did not exit the terminal with them. Victoria Beckham wore a sleeveless black dress and sunglasses and gave a quick wave to the paparazzi. He was dressed in a black jacket and jeans.

Several people at the airport to pick up passengers became paparazzi themselves, snapping images with their cell phones.

"It was so awesome, he looks better in person than in the magazines," said devoted Beckham fan Priscilla Flores, 15. "I'm really excited to see him play his first game here. He'll make soccer more popular here."

The media swarm also attracted curious onlookers, though not everyone knew what the big deal was.

"Who's David Beckham?" asked Austin Baker, an 11-year-old waiting for a flight.

The English midfielder, who helped Real Madrid win the Spanish title last month, will play for the Los Angeles Galaxy of Major League Soccer. He's set to be introduced by the Galaxy on Friday, and to make his playing debut in an exhibition match against Chelsea on July 21 in Carson, Calif.

Beckham is scheduled to make around \$32.5 million over five years with

the Galaxy and millions more in endorsement deals.

Despite playing thousands of miles away, Beckham hopes to stay in the England lineup and help the team qualify for next year's European Championship. He was dropped following the 2006 World Cup, but has returned to the team.

The Beckhams will make their new home in a reported \$22 million, 13,000-square foot villa in Beverly Hills, where neighbors include their friends Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes.

They will also appear in a one-hour NBC special.

AP

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

Happy Birthday!

This year you are empowered and extremely creative. You will be difficult to stop, as you are a force unto yourself. Often, because of the energy and focus you expend, you will not be able to see the other side of a problem or story. Guard against being too one-sided. You need to be open to different points of view and welcome differences of opinion. If you are single, you have way too much charisma to stay that way, unless you want to, and even then it could be hard.



Born Today

Actress Polly Bergen (1930)

Singer Woody Guthrie (1912)

Football player Roosevelt Grier (1932)

- ARIES (March 21-April 19)**
★★★★ Focus on your domestic life and family. You might not always achieve the expected results. The unexpected has appeal, as you discover. A resolution or goal revolving around your home or family can happen. Tonight: Nap and then decide.
- TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**
★★★★★ Your strong personality triggers many different reactions. On the other hand, you too discover an odd event or surprising happening. Hang in there. Tonight: Out with friends and/or a loved one.
- GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**
★★★ You might not want to go out. If you need to play the recluse, make that OK. Answers might not come easily, but suddenly. A change in your community or professional image becomes likely. Tonight: The later it gets, the better it is.
- CANCER (June 21-July 22)**
★★★★ Your ability to see unusual facets of a situation draws many people to you. If you are having a problem clearing out a project, ask for help. Once you decide to do something, it is as good as done. Tonight: You follow the path to overindulgence.
- LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**
★★★ Take your time with different errands and scheduling a conversation or get-together. Someone in your immediate environment could easily surprise you. A conversation certainly proves to be enlightening! Tonight: You get happier and happier.
- VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**
★★★★★ Use the early part of the day for any matter that you deem important. Understand that others don't have to agree with you. The unexpected involving a partner or friend can be upsetting or, if you choose, interesting. Tonight: Early to bed.

Live it up, Libra

- LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**
★★★★ Others gravitate to you for solutions and answers. Still, someone you care about deeply could be creating uproar of some nature. Focus your energy on areas where you can make a difference. Tonight: Live it up!
- SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**
★★★★★ The excitement of a child or new friend infuses into your life. Rather than judge, follow your sixth sense. Your intuition is right-on. Look at what is changing and flow with rather than fight the trend. Tonight: Talk "trip." Talk "vacation."
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**
★★★ A swing of sentiment or a different approach might cause you to rethink your plans. You might not always agree with a family member. Stay centered, especially in the face of someone's defiance. Tonight: Try a new type of cuisine or happening.
- CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**
★★★★★ You might want to deal with a situation differently. The unexpected forces you to adapt and eye the big picture. Don't back off from the obvious. A new beginning becomes possible emotionally. Tonight: Out and about, but save some time for a special person.
- AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**
★★★★★ You might want to understand what someone is doing. Your nerves might be more fried than you realize. If you find yourself spending a lot of money, look within. Shopping could become like a drug. Tonight: Relax at home. The tempo could quicken.
- PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**
★★★★★ Dig into your imagination, and not only you, but also others will have a grand old time. Your playfulness allows many to relax. A resolution you make about a child or loved one actually could go more easily than you think. Tonight: Fun and games.

MOVIEGUIDE

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Check theatre for showtimes

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
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(310) 458-1506

Captivity (R)
10:30am, 12:50, 3:15, 5:25, 7:40, 9:50
Live Free or Die Hard (PG-13)
10:25am, 1:20, 4:20, 7:25, 10:20
A Mighty Heart (PG-13)
2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:35
Sicko (PG-13)
10:15am, 1:00, 4:05, 7:00, 10:05
Surf's Up (PG)
10:35am, 12:35

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

Evan Almighty (PG)
11:30am, 2:05, 4:40, 7:10, 9:30
Knocked Up (R)
11:20am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:45
Ocean's Thirteen (PG-13)
11:10am, 1:55, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40
Ratatouille (G)
DLP-Digital Projection
11:00am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10
Ratatouille (G)
12:25, 3:15, 6:15, 9:15
Transformers (PG-13)
11:15am, 12:15, 2:30, 3:35, 6:00, 7:00, 9:20, 10:20

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Evening (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45
Joshua (R)
1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

LAEMMLE'S MONICA
FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
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Once (R)
12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
Rescue Dawn (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55
You Kill Me (R)
12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00

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

1408 (PG-13)
11:40am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG-13)
11:50am, 12:50, 3:10, 3:40, 4:10, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 9:50, 10:20, 10:50
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG-13)
DLP-Digital Projection
10:40am, 1:50, 5:10, 8:30, 11:50
License to Wed (PG)
11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:30
Nancy Drew (PG)
10:50am, 1:10

More information email news@smdp.com

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
GOLD

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

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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

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

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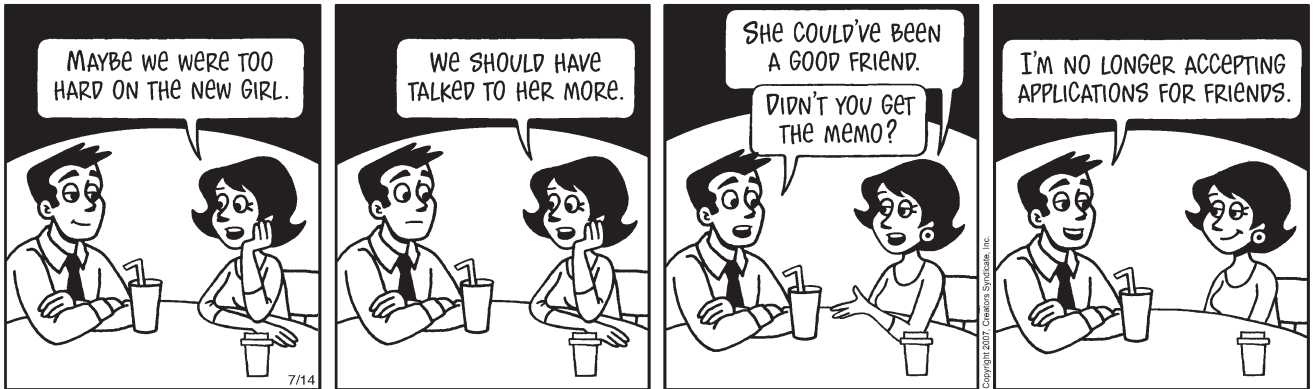
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



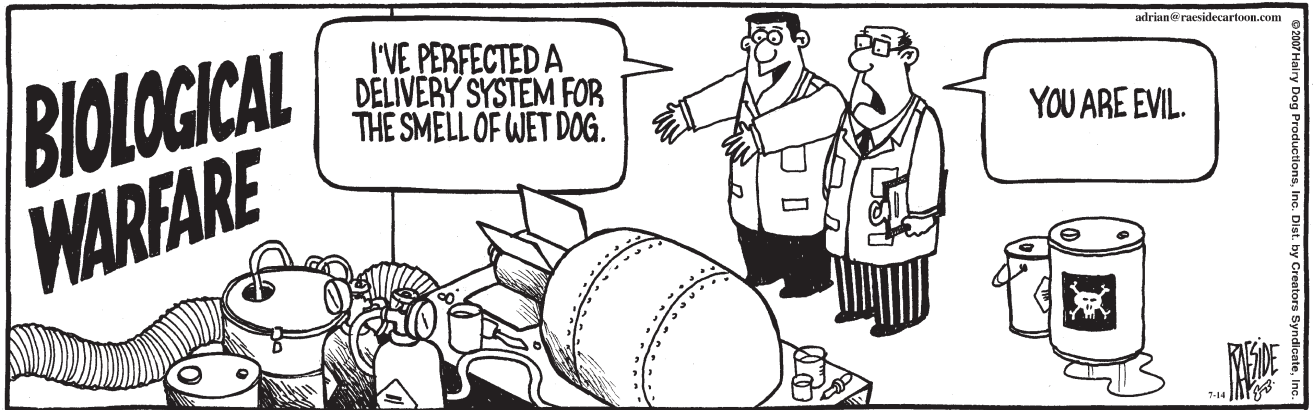
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



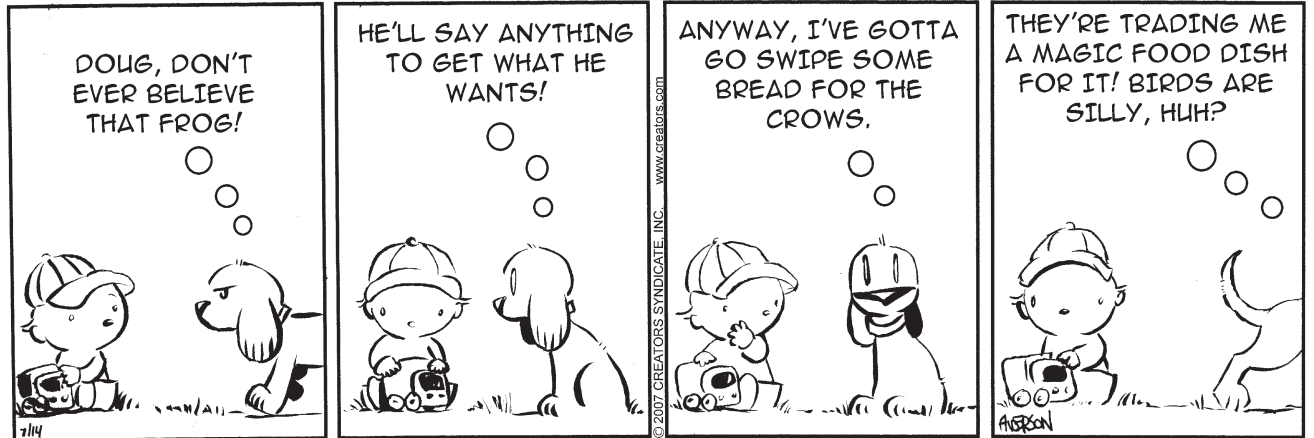
Garfield

By Jim Davis

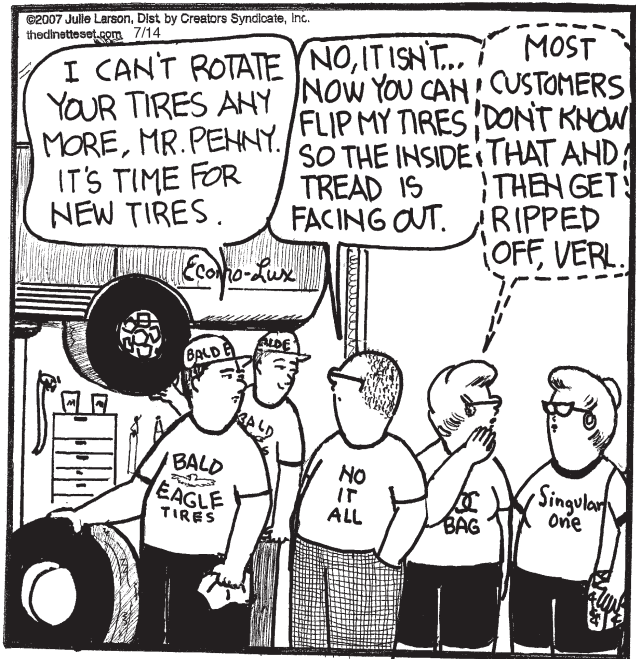


Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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HEADS UP
Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com
Alana Pittman is the winner of the most recent Mystery Photo contest, being the first to identify this shot was captured of the woman's figure statue at Windward Circle in Venice. Pittman has won a prize from the Daily Press. Look for a new Mystery Photo in the weekend edition.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Enola Gay's cargo
 - 6 Grain husks
 - 11 Ping producer
 - 12 Eye part
 - 13 Answer to "grazie"
 - 14 Last letter
 - 15 Bear — (remember)
 - 17 Cocoa holder
 - 18 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
 - 19 Koto's cousins
 - 22 Intermittent stretch
 - 23 Odorless gas
 - 24 Assessed
 - 25 Slow passage
 - 27 Rural mothers
 - 30 Vacation length, often
 - 31 Deed
 - 32 Cacao holder
 - 33 Number puzzle
 - 35 Resort island
 - 38 Godzilla's home
- DOWN**
- 39 Oxford features
 - 40 Tea party guest
 - 41 Time-tables, in slang
 - 42 Flaws in plans
 - 1 Hope
 - 2 Third-largest island
 - 3 Kind of band
 - 4 Star followers
 - 5 It began about 3500 BC
 - 6 USN rank
 - 7 Motor sound
 - 8 Early hominids
 - 9 Calculate
 - 10 U.N. sight
 - 16 Songs
 - 20 Bald cop of TV
 - 21 Suffered from
 - 24 Unrefined
 - 25 Hooded jacket
 - 26 Reason
 - 27 "Tales of the City" writer
 - 28 Antiaircraft fire
 - 29 Gems
 - 30 Milky gems
 - 34 Noted surrealist
 - 36 Nap site
 - 37 Dunder-head

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

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				

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
7 39 41 48 53
Meganumber: 21
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Super LOTTO
22 23 28 32 39
Meganumber: 14
Jackpot: \$32M

Fantasy 5
1 12 25 33 37

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 5 1 6
EVENING: 1 6 9

DAILY DERRY
1st: 09 Winning Spirits
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:40.40

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In early May, "scores" of Taiwan lawmakers brawled on the floor of parliament, wrestling, throwing punches and spraying water at each other over an election reform bill, according to a Reuters dispatch. However, a week later, one legislator, and also a U.S. political scientist who follows the Taiwan legislature, told a Reuters reporter that most of the legendary brawls on the floor are staged in order to impress constituents that their members "fight" for them. One legislator said a leader may call in advance for his allies to wear soft shoes, in anticipation of a shoe-throwing fight, to limit injuries.

■ Undignified Deaths: (1) The most recent instance of someone killed by a flying cow occurred on a road near Carnarvon, Australia, in May, when a 26-year-old man in an SUV accidentally crashed into a cow and knocked it into the air; it landed on the vehicle's roof, collapsing it and crushing the driver. (2) In April, a prominent cat veterinarian (who was director of the Feline Health Center at Cornell University) was killed near Marathon, N.Y., when he swerved, on his motorcycle, attempting to avoid a cat on the road, and was thrown from the bike.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1223 In France, Louis VIII becomes King of France upon the death of his father, Philip II of France.

1789 French Revolution: Citizens of Paris storm the Bastille and free seven prisoners.

1798 The Sedition Act becomes United States law making it a federal crime to write, publish, or utter false or malicious statements about the United States government.

1933 Gleichschaltung: In Germany, all political parties are outlawed except the Nazi Party.

1943 In Joplin, Missouri, George Washington Carver National Monument becomes the first United States National Monument in honor of a black American.

1958 Iraqi Revolution: In Iraq the monarchy is overthrown by Arab nationalists and Abdul Karim Kassem becomes the nation's new leader.

2000 George Speight, the principal instigator of the Fiji coup of 2000, was arrested with 369 of his followers and charged with treason.

2002 During Bastille Day celebrations, French President Jacques Chirac escapes an assassination attempt unscathed.

WORD UP!

triskaidekaphobia \tris-ky-dek-uh-FOH-bee-uh\, *noun*: A morbid fear of the number 13 or the date Friday the 13th.

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COOK

OCEAN HOUSE, an elegant senior living residence in Santa Monica, is looking for an ideal candidate for it's line cook position. Duties include participating in the daily menu production, preparing and coordinates daily breakfast, lunch and dinners from standardized recipes. Working line shifts daily to ensure speedy service. Ensuring kitchen equipment is clean, operable, and properly maintained on a daily basis. This is a full time position with benefits after 3 months, medical, dental, vision. 401(k) plan and meal plan as well. If you have a great attitude and enjoy working on a great team, please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave., SM, CA 90405 or fax a resume to (310) 314-7356.

DINING ROOM SERVER

Ocean House, an elegant senior living residence in Santa Monica, is looking for and ideal candidate for it's dining room server position. The job duties include taking food and drink orders from customers, bringing out the orders, resetting the tables, completing cleaning up of the section, and working as a team with the other servers. **Due to the fact that this is a senior residence, there is no tipping allowed by the residents.** Full time benefits after 90 days include health, dental, and life insurance. Meal plan for employees as well. Ideal candidate would enjoy working with seniors and have a great attitude! Please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave., SM, CA 90405 or fax a resume to (310) 314-7356.

Employment

GENERAL OFFICE help for Swartz Glass Co., permanent position, full-time. w/ benefits.
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HIGH END Santa Monica Tire Shop needs full time:

*Experienced Mechanic (alignment a must)
*Tire Technician

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WLA-Full time. Windows 2000 Advanced Server, PC hardware and software, Windows XP, Cisco routers, firewalls, phone system etc. Please call 310-859-2202 for recorded details.

NON-PROFIT PROGRAMS for adults with developmental disabilities in Malibu. Full-time position with excellent benefits: Direct Support professional 3pm-10pm; M-F. Also, part-time; Every other weekend live-in position Friday 9pm - Sunday 9pm. Experience preferred. (310)457-2026.

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PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST GENERAL office 45wpm MS Word, filing, phones in Marina del Rey. 16 hrs. per week, Fax resume with salary history to (310) 306-4498

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SALES of cruises and tours P/T 30 hours. Base + commission. Near LAX Paid training, no cold calling. Some weekends required. Our top sales people make \$40,000. (310) 649-7171

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Retail associates are responsible for providing exceptional service to our customers, ringing up sales and participating in visual merchandising, inventory, and all special store events. Weekend availability is required. Benefits for 30+ hrs/wk.

Magellan's offers a fun and challenging work environment as well as competitive compensation, medical, dental & vision insurance and a 401K with employer match. Please forward your resume to: Magellan's, 1006 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90401; Fax 805-564-8014; E-mail: HR@magellans.com

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For Rent

501 N Venice unit 26; 1+1, upper, stove fridge, vinyl, carpet, blinds, on-site laundry, utilities included, parking, no pets (310)574-6767 jkwpproperties.com

BACHELOR IN Palms, 3623 Keystone ave. unit 2, \$775/mo lower unit, no kitchen, fridge, microwave, carpets, blinds, laundry, utilities included, no parking or pets. \$200 off move-in (310)578-7512, jkwpproperties.com

BRENTWOOD \$900+
Studio/1Ba, no pets, ref pool, quiet, utilities \$900/MO
1BD/BA Lower, blinds, PKG, balcony, carpets, parking \$1095/MO
1bd/Ba; pool Laundry balcony, ref stove, PKG \$1295/Mo
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www.apartmenthunterz.com

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2 Bdrms, 2 Bath, Twnhse. NO pets, Stove, Refrigerator, Dishwasher, Washer/Dryer, Parking, 12048 Culver Blvd. #203, Open Daily for Viewing 9am-7p. Additional Info in Unit.

MARINA DEL Rey \$1000+
Studio/1Ba, Carpet, Fan, F/P, D/W, Gym Pool, \$1250/Mo
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PALMS 3540 Overland #9 \$750/mo. Upper, no kitchen, fridge, micro, sink, carpet, on-site laundry, street parking, no pets. \$200 off move-in special. (310)578-7512 jkwpproperties.com

SANTA MONICA 5 blocks W of SMC. Secluded tri-plex. 1bd/1ba, large kitchen, hardwood floors, washer/dryer in unit. Private parking. Communal deck/patio. \$1400. (310)452-3673

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: \$5.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 20¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406 or stop in at our office located at 1427 Third Street Promenade, Ste. 202. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Studio 1/Ba; No pet, balcony, carpets, parking \$950/MO
1bd/Ba upper, no pets, ref stove, new paint SMC, PKG \$1100/Mo
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VENICE \$900+
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VENICE 2+2 2308 Pacific unit B upper stove fridge d/w, washer/dryer hookups, microwave, granite counter tops, tile and carpet, and hardwood flooring, 2 car parking. \$2550/mo. \$500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

WEST LOS Angeles \$750+
Bachlr 1/Ba UPPER. REF MICRO VERT WD FLR \$750/Mo
Studio 1/Ba UPPER NEW CARPET TILE Prkg \$850/Mo
1bd/Ba Huge, full kitchen D/W - stove/oven - A/C \$925/Mo
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WESTWOOD \$895+
BCHL/1Ba, Upper Remodel, micro, Ref, Hdwd Tile, Strt Pk \$895/Mo
Studio/ 1BD/BA Carpet, Pool spa, Gated Grt loc \$975/MO
2bd/2Ba Carpet, Fan, F/P, D/W, Gym , Pool, Cat ok \$1650/Mo
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Apartment Wanted

Senior lady seeking downstairs/elevator Santa Monica section 8 apt. with parking. (310)883-1222 ext 110, lwartell@yahoo.com

Houses For Rent

BEL AIR: 11797 Bellagio Rd. 2+2 1/2 \$3600/mo. stove, d/w, fireplace, w/d hookups, drapes, hardwood floors, front and back gardens, garage parking, small dog or cat ok. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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APR 7.74%	
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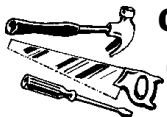


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01 MERCEDES-BENZ ML 430 45K MILES, NAVIGATION, PREM SOUND, EXTRA CLEAN #224385 \$19,991	05 MERCEDES-BENZ C240 AUTOMATIC, PW/L, AIR, ALLOYS, LEATHER, MOONROOF #586908 \$24,991 1 AT THIS PRICE	01 MERCEDES-BENZ ML55 AUTOMATIC, CHROME, NAVIGATION, PW/L, AIR #227339 \$24,991	06 PRE-OWNED MERCEDES-BENZ C230 AUTOMATIC, SPORT PKG, MOONROOF, CD, PW/L #854560 \$25,991 1 AT THIS PRICE	04 MERCEDES-BENZ C320 15K MILES, SATELLITE RADIO, MOONROOF #531291 \$25,991	03 MERCEDES-BENZ CLK320 AUTOMATIC, CHROME ALLOYS, PW/L, AIR #015137 \$29,991
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