



FAVRE DEMANDS RELEASE
SEE PAGE 10

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE UNDER THE MATTRESS ISSUE



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

NOT SATISFIED: Upset customers of IndyMac Bank line up in front of the Santa Monica branch on Wilshire Boulevard on Monday to withdraw their money after the bank's collapse last Friday.

Run on bank following collapse

BY ALEXANDRA BISSENETTE

Special to the Daily Press

WILSHIRE BOULEVARD The IndyMac Bank slogan, "Raise your expectations," seemed like a cruel joke on Monday as hoards of frustrated customers stood in line in outside the Santa Monica branch for over 7 hours waiting to withdraw their

cash.

The failed bank, now under federal control, was closed on Friday, July 11, by the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) was named the conservator. Regulators are calling the collapse the second-largest bank failure in U.S. history.

"Everyone assumes it will never happen to them," said a woman outside the bank

who declined to give her full name, only identifying herself as J.L. She accompanied her mother to withdraw funds. J.L. and her mother were waiting in the line since 7 a.m. and by 1 p.m. they had yet to receive any answers or be seen by a claims agent.

The fact that principle and interest on insured accounts would be fully reimbursed — up to \$100,000 — by the FDIC did not make anyone feel less nervous

about their money.

"If you have less than \$100,000 you will be insured, no questions," an FDIC employee told the anxious crowd surrounding him.

FDIC spokesman David Barr said it could take several years before the agency fully addresses customer claims.

SEE BANK PAGE 9

City Hall shifts away from restaurant proposal

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

CIVIC CENTER City officials are giving up on their search for a sit-down fine-dining experience in the neighborhood's newest parking garage, abandoning plans to land a restaurant after a more than year-long search.

The 3,500 square-foot indoor and outdoor space once marketed for a restaurant in the Civic Center Garage will instead be sliced into

two, one portion to be occupied by a small lunch-time cafe, the remainder by City Hall departments.

The shift toward a smaller-scale eatery came after numerous restaurateurs reportedly interested in the location informed City Hall they felt the space was too big and would require too many dollars to retrofit into a desirable culinary spot.

The City Manager's Office last week instead presented an option to the City Council that would alleviate the space crunch in City Hall

and satisfy the lunch-time need of area employees at the same time, proposing to move various departments into the vacant ground-floor office and retail spots in the parking garage while leaving some room for a cafe.

While the council endorsed the idea, Mayor Pro Tem Richard Bloom asked city staff to be mindful that the Fourth Street frontage of the garage, which is where the offices are located, should be lively, generating activity instead of repelling it.

"I was simply asking that the city try to

focus on moving people over there for uses that would generate activity on that street," Bloom said.

He recalled the impact of when a city department took over a ground floor space in another Downtown Santa Monica garage, one that was previously leased by Santa Monica College. The space went from being visible, its activities interacting with the street, to a dead space with its blinds drawn, Bloom said.

SEE STRUCTURE PAGE 8

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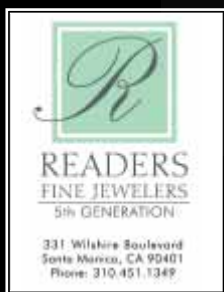
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Panelists:

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P. Lamont Ewell, City Manager of Santa Monica

Tom Larmore, Past Chairman, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce

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Misti Kerns, President/CEO, Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau

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Calendar

2

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2008

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

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OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



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Inspiration, guidance, direction, and support are offered
for all writers every Tuesday at the Fairview Branch
Library. For more information, call (310) 450-0443.

New Zealand connection

11301 Olympic Blvd., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.

A virtual tour of New Zealand, including its many fly fish-
ing opportunities, will be presented by Zane Mirin. He will
also talk about the island nation's unique and diverse
waters, their fishy inhabitants and the challenges which
lure anglers back year after year. For additional informa-
tion, visit www.wildernessflyfishers.org, or call (310) 280-
3459.

Rent Increase workshop

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.

A free presentation and workshop, based on calculating
and noticing the annual general adjustment rent increase,
is available for owners and managers. Following the
presentation, there will be a clinic with individual assis-
tance for participants. Pre-registration is required. The
event will be held in the Main Library's second floor
multi-purpose room. Contact Norma Diaz at (310) 458-
8751 for more information.

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Kicking it with Kiwanis

1332 Sixth St., 12 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.

The Santa Monica Kiwanis Club is holding its weekly
luncheon at the Santa Monica YMCA. There will be a
guest speaker at the event. For information, call (310)
613-1249.

Children's summer program

1501 California Ave., 8:30 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.

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

Midday labyrinth walks

1008 11th St., Noon — 1 p.m.

Give yourself the gift of some quiet moments in the mid-
dle of the week. Walk and meditate on the new perma-
nent Labyrinth in Simkins Hall. Walks are available every
Wednesday throughout the summer.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.





Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT: Derrick Bailey, a driver for the Big Blue Bus, heads down Broadway on Monday. BBB drivers are expected to receive a roughly 4 percent increase in pay under a new contract before the City Council. Other municipal employees are also expected to get an increase in pay.

Raises in store for city workers

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

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Big Blue Bus drivers will receive a raise for the next three years under a new contract set to be approved by the City Council tonight.

Representing all drivers with the local public transportation agency, the United Transportation Union Local 1785 (UTU) was able to negotiate a three-year contract that will grant a series of salary increases

starting in the current fiscal year in which employees will receive a nearly 4 percent raise. The schedule will continue next year with a 3.56 percent raise and subsequently, a 3.64 percent increase.

The union's current contract expired on June 30.

The UTU is one of two employee associations expected to receive new contracts, both of which are part of a more than \$3 million spending package that could be approved at the council meeting. Both contracts are good through June 2011.

The bus drivers' contract also includes paid long-term disability insurance coverage, a higher vacation accrual rate for employees who have between five and 10 years of service, and a sick leave buy-back program that allows the union members to cash-in on unused sick leave at the end of

the fiscal year. The UTU membership has already ratified the proposal.

The Santa Monica Municipal Employees Association (MEA), one of the largest in City Hall, will also receive a three-year contract that provides a 4 percent cost of living increase for the current fiscal year and future annual adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles, Riverside and Orange County areas.

The contract also gives employees one additional leave day that is non-cashable. The leave day, which is provided in the final year of the contract, must be used or forfeited.

The MEA contract is estimated to cost City Hall \$2.6 million in the current fiscal year.

melodyh@smdp.com

Santa Monica-UCLA hospital workers walk the picket lines

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY Months of contentious negotiations over wage increases and improved health care for the 8,500 service workers with the University of California boiled over into a strike on Monday with hundreds of employees walking out on their jobs at the 10 campuses and medical centers statewide, including in Santa Monica.

Approximately 20 service and patient care technical employees based out of the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital went on strike, joining the hundreds of workers protesting what they call "poverty wages" offered by the UC, picketing outside of the various university centers, including in Westwood and Irvine.

The strike was called despite a court-issued restraining order last week, prohibiting a walk-out, something that university officials have pointed out in their criticism of the strike.

"We're disappointed that the union has chosen to ignore the court order and we continue to get the word out to our employees that the strike is illegal and that we hope and expect them to report to work as scheduled," Nicole Savickas, the spokeswoman with the UC Office of the President, said.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), which represents the service and patient care technical workers (PST) employed by the UC, has been fighting for a new contract that would include a \$15 minimum wage, up from the current floor of roughly \$10 an hour. The university is bargaining with the PST and service workers separately.

Union leaders point out that approximately 96 percent of service workers are eligible for at least one of a handful of federally-assisted programs, including WIC, public housing and food stamps. They add that while a \$15 minimum wage will not pull many of the employees out of poverty, it will go a long way toward providing an enhanced quality of life.

"We're asking for people to be able to live and come out of poverty," Lakesha Harrison, the union president, said.

The latest proposal offered by the university includes a minimum wage increase from \$10.28 an hour to \$11.50 or \$12, depending on the center. Service workers at the Santa Monica medical center would receive \$11.50 an hour, Savickas said.

SEE STRIKE PAGE 8

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SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Teachers, take note

Editor:

So what, I wonder, is a rubber “ducky” doing on your masthead? Is this a special edition for kindergartners? But then I plumb the depths of the paper and find “Meet the Quackers,” by Phyllis Chavez. Sweet, imaginative, good messages. Teachers, take note, this is good read-aloud material.

Chas Bogle

Los Angeles

Worried about the future

Editor:

“War does not of choice destroy bad men, but good ever” – Sophocles

Bush and the Republicans are putting a lot of good men in harm’s way.

“Men and nations can only be reformed in their youth; they become incorrigible as they grow old” – Rousseau.

Four more years of conservatives, McCain and anti-tax Republicans and the U.S. government and economy could well bottom-up and self-destruct. Did anyone or any agency ever fix the flawed and unsecured and unverifiable electronic voting machine system?

Ron Lowe

Santa Monica

Criticizing rent control

Editor:

Rereading Rent [Control] Board member [Jeffrey] Sklar’s letter provides no end of amusement. His screed against the corporations and trust-fund babies owning Santa Monica property is particularly risible.

Doesn’t he realize “mom-and-pop” landlords were forced out of business by his repressive policies and his deciding how little money they should make?

Sklar brags about long-time neighbors knowing each other’s name, but what of the tenants who were friendly with and had relationships with the people who owned their buildings? Because of Sklar, we now have faceless and soulless corporations to deal with.

Since he has taken the opportunity to vent against landlords as he is being termed out, we are only left to wonder how fairly and justly he performed his duties as a public servant, sworn to represent everyone. He only reinforces the landlord’s claims of the Rent Board having an agenda and the stereotype of Santa Monica as The People’s Republic.

Kevin Skoglund

Santa Monica

Clearing things up

Editor:

Having read carefully Dr. Marciano’s reflective article on Barack Obama’s move to the center of the political spectrum, I was astonished by Mr. Ratner’s diatribe attacking positions on Israel that Dr. Marciano had not even mentioned.

According to Ratner one would think the entire article dealt with Israeli policy toward the Palestinians – rather than just a few lines (quite accurate in my thinking) in a long column, most of which pertains to Iraq.

The main thrust of the Marciano column, it seems to me, is that Obama is compromising or unclear about crucial issues as he moves ever rightward to win the November election.

Where is the change we can truly believe in?

Bernard Landis, Ph.D.

Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.



What’s the Point?

David Pizarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Condos don’t create great neighborhoods

SANTA MONICA IS A HOTBED OF ACTIVISTS.

People here like to rant and rave about nuclear weapons, the homeless, President Bush and anything having to do with the City Council. One of the things that people do not realize about being a Councilmember is that they are the most important player in the real estate game.

Ask any developer who their greatest competition is, and they are likely to respond it is the City Council, for they hold the keys to the kingdom of development.

Projects can be delayed in this city to the point where they are not financially viable, so the land goes unused.

Some projects get delayed for years. I know the council will say it was the Architectural Review Boards fault, and the ARB will blame Planning, and Planning will blame Building and Safety, and they will all say they take orders from the council.

We need an Architectural Review Board (ARB) that is thinking of ways to accomplish the twin goals of allowing development and maintaining the character of the city.

Planning should be considering how to best accommodate the increase in population. The City Council should be facing the reality that Santa Monica, like all other beach communities, is going to be developed. One look up and down the coast at any large city, and anyone can see that the way of the future is bigger and denser.

It is nothing but the history of mankind and development. Any “Old World” city holds a picture of the future of Santa Monica. Just look at London, Rome, Cannes and you can see that we are going to be like Redondo, Manhattan, and Hermosa beaches. These are all gorgeous beach communities that have grown up. Yes they are crowded, yes they are stupidly expensive, but the reality is, if someone is willing to pay for it, it is not overpriced.

The city on the one hand wants to limit development to maintain the unique character of Santa Monica neighborhoods, and on the other it wants to allow as much development as possible so that the local economy continues to grow, and the population increases.

As a homeowner in a rapidly developing neighborhood, it would be my wish that there would be single family homes, and fewer condominiums. Right around the corner from me is a major condo development. The people who will be moving into these 2,000 square foot condos will be upper middle class. It’s the only way they could afford to buy what will in all likelihood be million

dollar condos. That’s good news for me as a property owner in terms of my land value. It’s not so good news in terms of a homeowner who lives in the neighborhood and walks his dog and greets his neighbors.

Condominiums do not create a sense of

ASK ANY DEVELOPER WHO THEIR GREATEST COMPETITION IS, AND THEY ARE LIKELY TO RESPOND, ‘IT IS THE CITY COUNCIL ...’

community. They create land value, and traffic. They are big developments that people live in behind their gates and access codes. They are warehouses for people. I realize that they are necessary as we increase our population. As we have more and more people here, we need to have them living in appropriate conditions.

However, I hate the fact that of the five families that live in the condo complex on my block the only person I know who lives there is the developer. The reason I know him is because he is always walking down the street to his next big development. I have never met any of the other residents. Frankly, I don’t expect I ever will. They speed down my street, park in their underground parking and go up their stairs or elevator and don’t partake of the neighborhood.

That’s the social cost of condominiums. Just another reason I don’t like them. It’s one more aspect that the city government, all departments, should take a look at when considering what they are going to allow in a given neighborhood.

I say this knowing that my property will one day be a condominium complex. Whether I develop it, or the next guy, it’s just destiny. Our little neighborhood in this city by the bay is destined to nothing but a rabbit warren of people warehouses. The ambiance of my street will one day give way to row upon row of boxes for people.

It is sad, but it is the future.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father’s rights and men’s Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pizarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpizarra@pizarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

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A newspaper with issues

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The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West L.A. Members of CNPA, AFPP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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The Rand Stand

Elan Journo

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With or without nukes, Iran is a mortal threat

IMAGINE THAT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS overrun by a gang. These brutes are wielding crowbars, knives, and pistols in a frenzied spree of home break-ins and mugging and murder. Now suppose the police reveal that their grand strategy for dealing with this gang is to block them from getting submachine guns — as if without such weapons, the gang would no longer bother people.

Would you sleep soundly at night?

Or would you be outraged? Of course you would, because this gang — even without more powerful weapons — is already a serious menace that must be stopped.

Now, what would you say if this ridiculous what-if scenario resembled our actual response to the very real threat from Iran?

Ever since taking U.S. embassy staff hostage in 1979, the Islamist regime in Teheran has led an international spree of bombings, hijackings, and other terrorist attacks on Americans and Westerners. Now politicians and diplomats, who put up with Iranian aggression for years, are loudly promising to block Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons.

On the campaign trail, for instance, the candidates debate how (i.e., with or without preconditions) they'd negotiate to dissuade Iran from pursuing a nuke — on the idea that without such a weapon in Iranian hands, everything will be hunky-dory.

But the uncomfortable truth is that if the mullahs got a nuke, Iran would not suddenly undergo a Jekyll-and-Hyde transformation from a friendly neighbor into a rabid enemy. Iran long ago proved itself a threat that must be stopped; a nuclear arsenal would only make it a far worse threat.

For three decades the ayatollahs of Iran have been using proxies — such as Hezbollah — to carry out murderous attacks. Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps helped create and train Hezbollah, which hijacked a TWA airliner and which kidnapped and tortured to death American citizens. Iran pulled the strings behind the 1983 bomb attacks on the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon and later the barracks of U.S. Marines, killing 241 Americans. Iran also orchestrated the 1996 car bombing of Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, where 19 U.S. servicemen died.

There's more: The 9/11 Commission found that "senior al Qaeda operatives and trainers traveled to Iran to receive training in explosives," and that "8 to 10 of the 14 Saudi 'muscle'

operatives traveled into or out of Iran between October 2000 and February 2001." During the Afghanistan war, Iran welcomed fleeing al Qaeda and Taliban fighters. Today, according to the U.S. military, Iran is running training camps near Teheran for Iraqi insurgents, who return to Iraq to practice and train others in their bomb-making skills. There's also growing evidence that Iraqi insurgents get bomb technology from Iran.

What's going on here?

A rational assessment of Iran would have to recognize that the mullahs in Teheran have been conducting a proxy war against America. The inspiration for this war is Iran's jihadist goal of imposing Islamic totalitarianism globally. Iran is a leading sponsor of jihadists and the self-identified role model for exporting its Islamic revolution to other countries. It is the sworn enemy of the West. We should take seriously its call to bring "Death to America!" — because it has already done so.

But too many American diplomats and commentators refuse to judge Iran. Instead, they regard its past hostility as a string of disconnected crises, unrelated to Iran's ideological agenda. They avoid naming the nature of the regime and behave as if its acquisition of a nuclear weapon would be the decisive event. But that particular weapon — despite its power — cannot be the whole story, since we don't worry about other countries, such as France and Britain, having nukes. The rarely admitted difference is that the regime in Iran would eagerly press the launch button.

This fear-the-weapon-not-the-killer mentality refuses to understand the threat posed by Iran right now. This view holds that only the concrete facts about Iran's arsenal have any practical significance, while its abstract, ideological goals and character can be disregarded with impunity. But whether Iran uses one nuke, or attacks with more conventional weapons, its victims are still dead.

Our leaders' narrow concern with Iran's nuclear capability cannot make the regime's longstanding hostility to America go away. Americans should face the real character and conduct of the Iranian regime, before it is too late.

Elan Journo is a resident fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute, focusing on foreign policy. The Institute promotes Objectivism, the philosophy of Ayn Rand — author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead."

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The Q-Line

Tattoo you

A long-standing ordinance does not allow tattoo parlors to operate in Santa Monica.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think the city should allow tattoo artists to open up shop in this city by the sea?

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



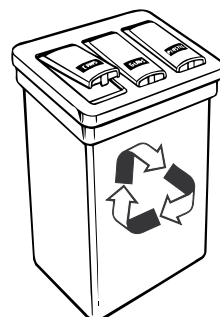
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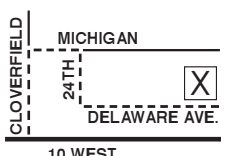
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And you don't have to call some 800 number for "magic pills" or order a "secret report the government doesn't want you to see" about a 100-mile per gallon carburetor; this "trick" is free.

Unfortunately, diesel fuel buyers can't benefit from this ploy, which is — simply "pass" on high-test gasoline and stick with the lowest grade of gas your car or truck can guzzle without getting ill.

The truth is that very few unmodified cars will run best only on high octane. Most every car and truck sold in the US will run just fine on "regular," usually 87 octane, and mid-grade gasoline, usually 89 octane. The highest grade gas sold in California is 91 octane.

John Dinkel, author of the "Road & Track Illustrated Automotive Dictionary," offers an authoritative word on the subject: "If a carmaker recommends gasoline with a minimum RON (a method of measuring a fuel's anti-knock abilities) of 91, fuel from a pump with a rating of 87 or higher can be used."

My point exactly. Dinkel may tell the world's worst puns, but knows his stuff when it comes to automotive issues.

Pontiac's all-new 2008 G8 sedan, made

in Australia by GM's Holden division (and called Commodore down in Oz), is available in the U.S. with either a V6 or V8 engine.

Pontiac recommends "regular unleaded" for use in both engines, but also says that "premium (octane gas) maximizes performance".

Is it worth paying between an extra 25 cents and a dollar-per-gallon in order to access, say, those last 20-or-so horsepower? That's up to the car's owner.

Here's how to determine which grade of gas your car or truck needs: Experiment, just like we all did in junior high science lab, but without trying to blow something up.

If your owner's manual says use high-octane, and you've been filling-up with the premium stuff, simply stop — and try a tankful of the mid-grade. Or even the lowest-octane available.

Here's the important part: If during or after running a tankful of the low-grade, unlabeled, Ripple-version of gasoline your car or truck starts exhibiting some nasty tendencies which it didn't on the high-grade, including engine knocking, pinging or even "dieseling" (turning off the ignition doesn't stop the engine from running for a few seconds) and/or a noticeable drop in acceleration ("bogging down" when you try to pass on the 10 Freeway) or there's a drop

in mileage, using a tankful of high-grade the next time you fill-up will usually cure every one of those problems exhibited on the cheap swill.

There's nothing wrong, and money to be saved swapping between the high, mid and low grades every tankful.

With the price of gasoline (and diesel, heating oil, jet fuel and anything else made from plastic or other petro-related products) only going up, with perhaps just an occasional and temporary dip, the trick of swapping gas grades might be completely new for you or something you've been doing for years.

Our nation's fearless leader's only suggestion to lower gas prices has been to recommend rescinding rules which prevented offshore drilling, and to blame the high prices on Democrats.

So, never has the grade of the gas Americans use in their cars and trucks been so important. Not to your car or truck, but to your wallet.

STEVE PARKER created the position of "automotive reporter" and spent a decade on KTLA/TV5 and KCBS/TV2, was awarded two Emmys, and produces and hosts "Car Nut TV" for Time Warner systems in the Coachella Valley and San Diego County. He is a consultant to the NBC automotive show, Whipnotic. Visit and e-mail him at www.SteveParker.com.

Study: As gas prices go up, auto deaths drop

BY JOAN LOWY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON High gas prices could turn out to be a lifesaver for some drivers. The authors of a new study say gas prices are causing driving declines that could result in a third fewer auto deaths annually, with the most dramatic drop likely to be among teen drivers.

Professors Michael Morrissey of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and David Grabowski of Harvard Medical School said they found that for every 10 percent increase in gas prices there was a 2.3 percent decline in auto deaths. For drivers ages 15 to 17, the decline was 6 percent, and for ages 18 to 21, it was 3.2 percent.

Their study looked at fatalities from 1985 to 2006, when gas prices reached about \$2.50 a gallon. With gas now averaging more than \$4 a gallon, Morrissey said he expects to see much greater drop — about 1,000 deaths a month.

With annual auto deaths typically ranging from about 38,000 to 40,000 a year, a drop of 12,000 deaths would cut the total by nearly a third, Morrissey said.

"I think there is some silver lining here in higher gas prices in that we will see a public health gain," Grabowski said. But he cautioned that their estimate of a decline of 1,000 deaths a month could be offset somewhat by the shift under way to smaller, lighter, more fuel-efficient cars and the increase in motorcycle and scooter driving.



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Heavy rains complicate Calif. firefighting efforts

BY SCOTT LINDLAW
Associated Press Writers

SAN FRANCISCO Violent thunderstorms brought rain bursts that modestly helped firefighting efforts Sunday, but the downpours also triggered mudslides that complicated California's unfolding wildfire disaster.

"If it isn't fire, it's flood. If it isn't fire or flood, it's the mud," said Christina Lilienthal, an interagency fire spokeswoman. A "horrendous" amount of precipitation in the Sequoia National Forest dampened the ground, but also caused a creek to flood, cutting off a firefighting crew's escape route when a road washed out, she said.

The firefighters didn't need the escape route, because fires burning nearby did not threaten them. They moved to higher ground as a precaution against the rising waters, Lilienthal said.

But the 59 firefighters could not reach their camp Saturday evening, stranding them in the field overnight, Lilienthal said. They reopened the road Sunday afternoon, amid new threats of erratic winds and falling trees weakened by the soft ground.

A huge mudslide in an area that was devastated by wildfires last year damaged about 50 homes and caused the temporary closure of a main road in the California town of Independence on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada. Severe thunderstorms Saturday set off the mudslide 300 yards wide and up to three feet deep, said Carma Roper, spokeswoman for the Inyo County Sheriff's Department.

The mud oozed across California Highway 395, prompting a detour, and some mud came within a half mile of the Los Angeles Aqueduct, which supplies much of Los Angeles' water.

Residents of more than 50 homes were evacuated and could not return to their properties, she said. Officials were using a nearby school as a shelter. The rain did nothing to help fires, which were not burning in that easternmost corner of California.

And no rain fell on most of the other California fires. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said 288 blazes were still burning around the state, most of them in the mountains ringing the northern edge of the Central Valley.

There was no precipitation in Butte County, north of Sacramento, where thousands of homes were threatened as recently as Friday. But firefighters and homeowners got some relief Sunday morning as moist air and calmer winds helped progress in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Thousands of people evacuated from their homes twice during the last month began returning to Paradise for the first time since Tuesday.

About 300 homes remained threatened in and around the town, down from 3,800 homes on Friday, and officials said the fire was 55 percent contained.

An evacuation order was lifted on Sunday for the nearby town of Concow, one ridge away from Paradise and prone to strong winds, Butte County and fire officials said.

Fifty homes were destroyed and one person was apparently killed in the area

last week when wind-propelled flames jumped a containment line. The person's charred remains were found Friday in a burned-out home; the cause of death hadn't been determined.

The Butte County blazes were among hundreds of wildfires to blacken nearly 1,300 square miles and destroy about 100 homes across California since an enormous lightning storm ignited most of them three weeks ago.

Just to the south, a pair of blazes burning in the foothills west of Lake Tahoe were sending plumes of smoke toward the alpine resort area. The soot was sporadic, but air quality was so bad it prompted the cancellation of the annual Donner Lake Triathlon.

Residents in the tourist town of Big Sur, driven away by flames just days ago, were returning to their homes, said Paul Van Gerwen, a CalFire battalion chief stationed in the area.

"They're in a cleanup period," Van Gerwen said. "Many businesses and homeowners are getting the (fire-retardant) gels off their structures, cleaning up roadways, driveways, the debris that falls from trees. They're trying to get over the emotional state of the evacuation."

On Sunday morning, state authorities reopened the last piece of scenic Highway 1 near Big Sur that had been closed because of the fires, he said.

The fire was 61 percent contained after destroying 26 homes, and all evacuations near the town of Big Sur were lifted, he said.

At the so-called Gap fire in Los Padres National Forest in Santa Barbara County, firefighters continued to make headway against a blaze that has raged through the Santa Ynez Mountains.

As of Sunday morning, fire crews had contained 85 percent of the fire and expect to complete the containment lines on Wednesday, U.S. Forest Service spokesman David Daniels said. Fifty-five homes remained under evacuation warning. "We're starting to get close," he said.

In far Northern California, the Trinity County Sheriff's Department ordered evacuations in sparsely populated communities in the mountains west of Redding.

Isolated thunderstorms were expected across parts of Southern California and flash flood watches were in effect Sunday for the Antelope Valley and the mountains of Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties, said Steven Van Horn, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service in Oxnard.

The moisture from the south was starting to move up the state and isolated storms were expected over the mountains farther to the north.

But Jason Kirchner, a spokesman for the U.S. Forest Service, said more than patchy rain was needed to douse California's unprecedented early fire season, especially in the north.

"Rain might slow it for an hour," Kirchner said. "But really, the most helpful thing is high humidity — that's what slows fires' spread, makes the fire more approachable."

Yet the forecasts in the central and northern parts of the state called only for hot and dry conditions, he said.

"The weather just isn't giving us a break," Kirchner said.



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City departments look to move into Civic Center garage

FROM STRUCTURE PAGE 1

The move into the Civic Center garage is expected to make things roomier in City Hall, as well as saving taxpayers quite a sum of money.

City Hall currently leases more than 51,000 square feet of office space throughout Santa Monica at an annual cost of approximately \$2.2 million, the annexes including a complex at 525 Broadway which houses CityTV and code compliance. Among the City Hall functions that will move to the Civic Center garage will be code compliance and the parking permit arm of Planning and Community Development.

The move is expected to save taxpayers several thousand dollars over the long term from the loss of the leases. That doesn't include the cost savings from improved efficiencies in City Hall.

"This brings all of Planning and Community Development into a more defined area," Don Patterson, an assistant to the City Manager, said. "This will help the department have more interaction and better customer service."

"We don't need to send people from City Hall to Santa Monica Boulevard or Broadway to complete services," he added.

DITCHING DREAMS OF A RESTAURANT

When the Civic Center garage opened in spring of 2007, the indoor and outdoor dining space along Olympic Drive was originally marketed as a prime spot for a restaurant.

About four restaurant owners took a tour of the space, some concluding that it was much too big, others feeling it would require a larger investment than they were willing to make.

"With the revised plan, some of the tenant improvements will be taken care of by the city since they will share the restroom and the space will be smaller," Miriam Mack, the economic development manager, said. "Restaurants operate on a thin margin and it's easier to go to a space that was previously a restaurant ... and there's more capital investment to go into a brand new space that has not been tended."

City Hall has had an equally difficult time marketing the retail spots along Fourth Street, which has remained vacant since the garage's opening.

"The space is challenging because they have low ceilings and slightly sloped floor," Patterson said. "It's going to be challenging to work with low ceilings and a lot of retail prefer higher ceilings."

The council in the next few weeks could be asked to grant a roughly \$270,000 contract to TLD Construction to perform tenant improvement at the parking structure.

Staff is currently in negotiations with several restaurant owners to operate a smaller 750 square foot cafe, still meeting the needs of the daytime population at the Santa Monica Courthouse and City Hall.

The rent is up for negotiations, but a previous market appraisal indicated the space could command approximately \$3 a square foot.

"It's probably primarily going to be a sandwich-salad lunch place," Patterson said. "The type of restaurants we're talking will specialize in the [office population]."

melodyh@smdp.com

Officials say strike will cause no disruption at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center

FROM STRIKE PAGE 3

University officials are also proposing a step-based salary structure, a component requested by the union. The walk-out seemed to have little disruption in Santa Monica where the vacated slots were filled by replacement staff, according to hospital spokesman Ted Braun.

"We have not had to cancel any surgeries or procedures and our emergency room is open and available as needed to serve the community," Braun said. "It was a very small percentage of the total number of union members that actually participated."

The hospital employs more than 1,600 employees, only 736 of which are represented by AFSCME. The total participation equaled about 2.7 percent of the union members at the medical center, Braun said.

"We anticipate business as usual throughout this week and value the contribution of our staff members who make it to the hospital," he said. "We encourage the AFSCME members to come back to work and go back to the bargaining table to work on negotiating a new contract."

Employees who walked out spoke of financial challenges in light of rising gas and food prices, some saying they are struggling to support their families.

Ever Mazariegos has worked in Santa Monica as a patient care worker for the past 10 years, honoring the picket line even though his bargaining unit has not called a strike.

"We're tired of it," Mazariegos said as he stood next to a pile of picket signs outside of the medical center. "They are playing games with us, saying they've made a good offer, but it's nothing."

It's a sentiment expressed by many AFSCME members, including Willie Lusung, a service employee who has worked in housekeeping in Santa Monica for nearly eight years.

The father of three children makes roughly \$11 an hour.

"We're underpaid by this hospital," Lusung said. "The gas prices and rent are too high, but the salary is the same."

Union leaders argue that their requests can be met, pointing out the six-figure salaries afforded to university executives, including new president Mark Yudof, and the estimated \$9 million needed to repair Kensington Mansion, the home of the UC presidents.

"That \$9 million alone could've gotten workers the \$15 an hour minimum wage," Harrison said. "We see stuff like that and it's really hard."

melodyh@smdp.com

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Local IndyMac customers looking for answers, cash

FROM BANK PAGE 1

"We have to completely unwind the affairs" of the bank, Barr said. "We may sell a portion to another bank, sell real estate. There may be lawsuits. There are a lot of different aspects to this."

IndyMac is the largest regulated thrift to fail and the second-largest financial institution to close in U.S. history.

IndyMac Bancorp Inc., the holding company for IndyMac Bank, had been struggling to raise capital and manage losses from bad mortgage loans.

The banking regulator transferred control of IndyMac to the FDIC because it did not think the lender could meet its depositors' demands amid a run on bank deposits by customers in recent weeks.

The FDIC insures bank deposits of up to \$100,000 per depositor and up to \$250,000 for funds in retirement accounts such as an IRA.

As of March 31, IndyMac had total deposits of \$19.06 billion from some 275,000 deposit accounts. Of those, some 10,000 depositors had funds in excess of the insured limit, for a total of \$1 billion in potentially uninsured funds, the FDIC has said.

The FDIC was telling customers with unsecured deposits that they would receive an advance dividend equal to half of the uninsured amount.

The agency plans to cover all insured deposits and then sell IndyMac assets. Customers with deposits that aren't fully insured were told to file a claim with the FDIC so they can try to recover a share of any funds left over from the sale of those assets.

Some customers might also be eligible to recoup dollar-for-dollar beyond the 100,000 limit depending on how their accounts are structured, Barr said.

The biggest problem that seemed to face the Santa Monica bank on Monday was a lack of crowd control. The hundreds of customers who gathered outside the door were being let into the bank one at a time, and those who remained outside had to fend for themselves.

"This is such chaos," said Kay, a Santa Monica resident who had been waiting in line since 8 a.m. Like others in line, Kay refused to give her full name.

"People are cutting in line, the bank is not providing any order," she said.

Dotty Scalfon, an elderly woman who had been waiting nearly four hours agreed.

"There has been no supervision, no one regulating, no one coming to give us advice," Scalfon said. "We don't even know if we will be seen today. They [IndyMac] anticipated this and made absolutely no provisions to make this easier. They should have taken more responsibility."

One man tried to get Scalfon a seat inside to wait, as standing was difficult for her in her walker, but he was told that she would have to wait outside.

Some elderly people fared better, making their way to the front of the line and getting let into the bank ahead of others. When word of this spread, cries of "I'm old!" echoed from all directions.

At a few points throughout the day, officers arrived to monitor the situation, but they did little to control the line of ever angrier customers.

"It's not against the law to crowd," said Officer Milosevich of the Santa Monica

Police Department. "I can't arrest people for crowding."

IndyMac Federal Bank, which is what it is now called following the federal bailout, seemed remarkably low staffed.

There was one representative at the door who handled the slow trickle of people being let into the bank, and two FDIC representatives who would answer only very general questions.

"I am not supposed to make individual recommendations," one FDIC representative told the group that had gathered around him.

Aside from that, customers were given almost no information other than the fact that the bank would be closing at 5 p.m. and would be open for business again on Tuesday.

Lidya Smith — who had been waiting for five hours — was not nervous about her money, but was frustrated with IndyMac's poor customer service.

"Five hours and we have been given no water, not even a cookie," she said. "But, we're here now, so why come back to the lines tomorrow?"

While the atmosphere outside was chaotic and anxious, the very slow but steady drip of people leaving the bank seemed to give people some hope.

"Finally," one man exclaimed as he fought through the crowds and made his way away from the bank with his money.

"They are being very cooperative," said Elaine Levin, who managed to get all of her money back. "If the account is done properly, you can even get over \$100,000," she told the crowd that inevitably swarmed every individual who stepped out of the bank.

One man was particularly nervous about the state of his money, but not just with respect to the IndyMac collapse.

"The feds bailed out IndyMac, but who will bail out the feds," he asked.

The line, which seemed to be at a complete stand-still, went around the corner of the bank. Even those at the end of the line had been waiting several hours.

"I made a foolish mistake and didn't check the paper a few weeks ago," said Robert Trimas from the back of the line. He wished he had foreseen the collapse of IndyMac which had been rumored in recent weeks.

Many people had removed their money from IndyMac earlier this month following comments made by U.S. Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.), chairman of the Joint Economic Committee, who wrote several regulatory agencies urging that they take steps to prevent IndyMac's collapse.

A preliminary analysis by the FDIC estimates that the cost of resolving the collapse will be between \$4 billion and \$8 billion. This is particularly daunting considering IndyMac is the fifth FDIC-insured failure so far this year.

In an unstable economy, with a falling dollar and foreclosures on the rise, it is easy to understand why people are concerned about their money, but the situation in Santa Monica was amplified by the customer's lack of information.

When asked why they were standing in line, one man made clear the reason for the crowd: "We just want our questions answered."

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MOVIE TIMES

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Call theater for information.	Get Smart (PG-13) 1 hr 50 min 1:20, 4:10, 6:50, 9:50	You Don't Mess With The Zohan (PG-13) 1hr 53min 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:40, 10:30
AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4 1441 Third Street Promenade	Journey to the Center of the Earth - 3-D (PG) 1hr 32min 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20	Iron Man (PG-13) 2 hrs 6 min 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 10:10
Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (PG-13) 2hrs 00min 10:00	Wanted (R) 1hr 48min 1:30, 4:00, 5:35, 7:10, 9:40, 10:30	Kit Kittredge: An American Girl (G) 1 hr 31 min 12:20, 2:40, 5:00
Hancock (PG-13) 1hr 32min 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 8:00, 10:15	Hancock (PG-13) 1hr 32min 12:30, 2:10, 3:00, 4:30, 7:00, 7:45, 9:30, 10:10	The Love Guru (PG-13) 1hr 28 min 7:30, 9:50
Hellboy II: The Golden Army (PG-13) 1hr 50min 12:45, 1:50, 3:45, 4:40, 6:45, 7:40, 9:45, 10:30	LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741	Sex and the City (R) 2hrs 15min 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00
Kung Fu Panda (PG) 1hr 31min 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20	Harold (PG-13) 1hr 34min 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40	The Incredible Hulk (PG-13) 1hr 54min 11:10am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:20
AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262	The Wackness (R) 1hr 35min 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45	Meet Dave (PG) 1hr 30min 12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40
WALL-E (G) 1hr 37min 12:45, 2:00, 3:10, 4:30, 5:20,	David & Fatima (NR) 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50	
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For more information, e-mail news@smdp.com

Get detached, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★ Trying to keep the lid on several evolving situations could be difficult, but it is doable. A verbal exchange could deliver much more information than what you think you are hearing. Read between the lines. Tonight: Detach.	LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★ You have a way of stating your case and moving a situation along. You could be a bit taken aback by events and what is going on. You might be holding your anger in, causing yourself a problem. Tonight: Visit over dinner.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★ A partner doesn't waver. A surprise buys you some space. Conversations clear the air and mobilize your associates' or friends' energy. Teamwork succeeds. Don't risk your finances. Tonight: Togetherness needs to be the theme.	SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★ Be careful how much you reveal, especially financially. You could feel slightly out of sync. Deal with someone directly and with care. A friend pushes hard. Could this person be vested in you doing something his or her way? Tonight: Your treat.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★ You might want to rethink a decision. Others want to dominate and will continue to do so no matter what you do or say. Open up to new possibilities through a brainstorming session. You don't need to put someone down. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.	SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ You sparkle and feel up to nearly any challenge. The problem remains that you might not be able to anticipate some of the hassles. Trust that there is something better around the corner. Avoid challenging others. Tonight: Get ready to reverse gears.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★ Focus on your daily life. Let go of what doesn't feel in sync. Once you make a space for it, something better will march in. You might decide to take a yoga class or do something different. Tonight: Easy does it.	CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★ Step back. Trust that someone will step up to the plate. You might not like everything you hear, but this too will pass. Think outside the box. You'll find answers out of the blue if you let go of rigid thinking. Tonight: New vistas.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Your playfulness sometimes is misread. Do be specific and clarify if you get a sense that someone isn't getting it. You know what works. Now go off and do just that. You'll gain, and so will others. Open up talks. Tonight: Kick up your heels.	AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Your friends stand behind you. This type of support can mean much more than you realize. Be open to possibilities. Go for what you really want in your heart. Don't let someone bully you or make you back down. Tonight: Where you want to be.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★ If you can stay close to home and center yourself, you will be a lot happier. Know when to pull back and avoid a problematic situation. Understand what you want, and be willing to ask for it too. Avoid walking into a touchy situation. Tonight: Be a couch potato.	PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★ Step up to the plate. You make a big difference when you assume the role of leader. If someone is very critical, let it be. He or she might be unusually insecure. Go with the flow in different situations. Tonight: Could be late!

Happy birthday

The quality of your daily life is up for grabs. Change your work or daily pattern if you want. This type of attitude could prevent you from feeling bored with your life. Exercise and diet are critical to your well-being. Life produces a lot of stress, and through walking or yoga, you won't feel the strain as much. If you are single, by 2009 you could meet someone in your daily travels. If you are attached, consider taking up a new hobby that would allow the two of you to be together more often. SAGITTARIUS always is willing to pitch in.

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

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NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
MEASURE V – CITIZENS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 30, 2008 at the Office of Sustainability and the Environment.
Applications are invited to fill 5 vacancies on the Measure V Citizens Oversight Committee. All persons who reside in Santa Monica are invited to apply regardless of race, sex, age, disability, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual preference, or ancestry. Appointment will be made at a City Council meeting in September or October, 2008.
The Oversight Committee is being assembled to audit the use of the proceeds of the Clean Beaches and Ocean Parcel Tax (also known as Measure V) adopted by voters in November, 2006.
The State Political Reform Act requires Commission (Committee) members to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action by filing a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office and annually thereafter.
Application forms and information are available on the internet at www.smeprd.org. Applications are also available at the Office of Sustainability and the Environment, 200 Santa Monica Pier, Suite J, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Applications may be received and/or submitted by mail, email or fax. Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request. Contact information: phone: (310) 458-2213; fax (310) 393-1279 or email: environment@smgov.net.

Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

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THE SHORTNESS OF THE FRUIT FLY'S LIFE IS A DIRECT RESULT OF BAD CAREER CHOICES:

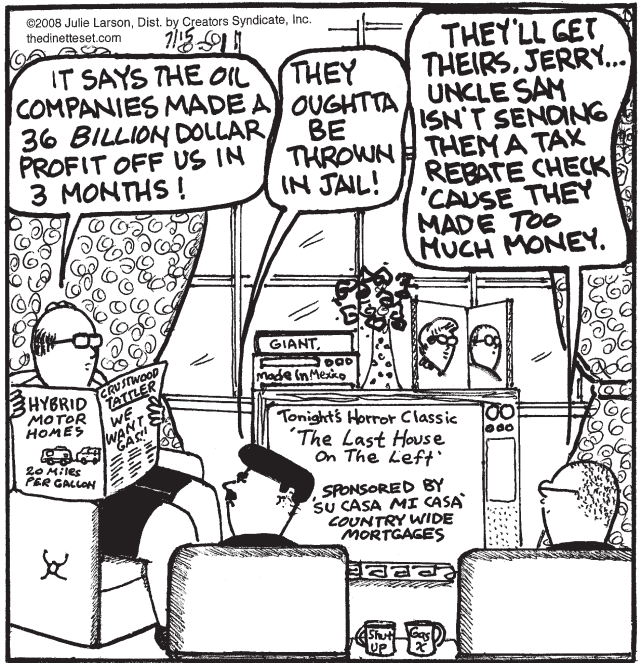
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Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

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

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Violas' cousins

7 Bivouac

11 Large lizard

12 Baby-wipe additive

13 Compound

15 Bud holders

16 Mare's baby

18 Warbled

21 Feeding time needs

22 Warhol field

24 Hacking tool

25 Bigwig, briefly

26 Contend

27 Lone Star capital

29 Fuse together

30 Banana part

31 Secluded spot

32 Saucer flyer

34 Hassle

40 Stead

41 Corrida critter

42 On the peak of

43 Doped up

2 Easter find

3 Tote

4 Caterpillars, e.g.

5 Shaquille of the NBA

6 Droops

7 Burger topper

8 Ring great

9 Cattle call

10 Signing need

14 Fable fellow

16 Repair

17 More than pudgy

19 Belly feature

20 Greasy-spoon fixture

21 Sheep cry

22 Brooch

23 Danson of "Cheers"

25 Home in the country

28 Shred

29 Attended

31 Gave out hands

33 Composer Charles

34 In the style of

35 "Va-moose!"

36 Earth: Pref.

37 Charged particle

38 Mine rock

39 Auction signal

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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

DOWN
1 Snoop group. for short

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
5 14 16 39 51
Meganumber: 34
Jackpot: \$88M

Super LOTTO
19 20 28 32 47
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: \$31M

Fantasy 5
4 15 16 18 29

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 0 6 4
EVENING: 1 2 7

DAILY DERBY
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:43.49

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ When a big storm came through Alma, Ark., on the evening of May 7, residents rushed out to secure themselves inside the brand-new community shelter the town had just built with great fanfare. However, as the winds raged, the 20 people who showed up had to sprawl on the ground because the shelter was locked, and the deputy with the key was busy on a call.

■ In January, Dr. Steve Paulk announced that he would commence offering breast augmentation procedures and would be working out of Moundview Memorial Hospital in Friendship, Wis.

■ China continues to prepare for the Olympics: Officials have issued a standard chanting routine that all Chinese spectators should employ during competitions (translated as "Olympics! Add fuel!" with two claps and then both thumbs up, then "China! Add fuel!" with two more claps and raised fists, according to a June Reuters dispatch). ("Add fuel" is apparently a traditional motivational chant in China.) Also preparing was Dr. Wei Sheng, the Chinese man who holds the Guinness Book record of sticking 1,790 needles in his head at one time. In June he stuck himself with 2,008 pins in the Olympic design and colors.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1606 Dutch painter Rembrandt was born in Leiden, Netherlands.

1870 Georgia became the last Confederate state readmitted to the Union.

1870 Manitoba entered confederation as the 5th Canadian province.

1918 the Second Battle of the Marne, resulting in an Allied victory, began during World War I.

1948 President Truman was nominated for another term of office by the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

1958 President Eisenhower ordered U.S. Marines to Lebanon, at the request of that country's president, Camille Chamoun, in the face of a perceived threat by Muslim rebels.

WORD UP!
cupidity \kyoo-PID-uh-tee\, noun:
Eager or excessive desire, especially for wealth; greed; avarice.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Sr. User Exp/User Interface Designer in Santa Monica: design concepts for mobile phones, develop process & info flow, supervise 2-3 emps. Reqs: BA in Design + 5 yrs exp. Apply to: Iconmobile, 1351 4th St., Ste 301, Santa Monica, Ca 90401

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I HAVE a business. I need someone to handle email. Robert 310-394-1533.

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

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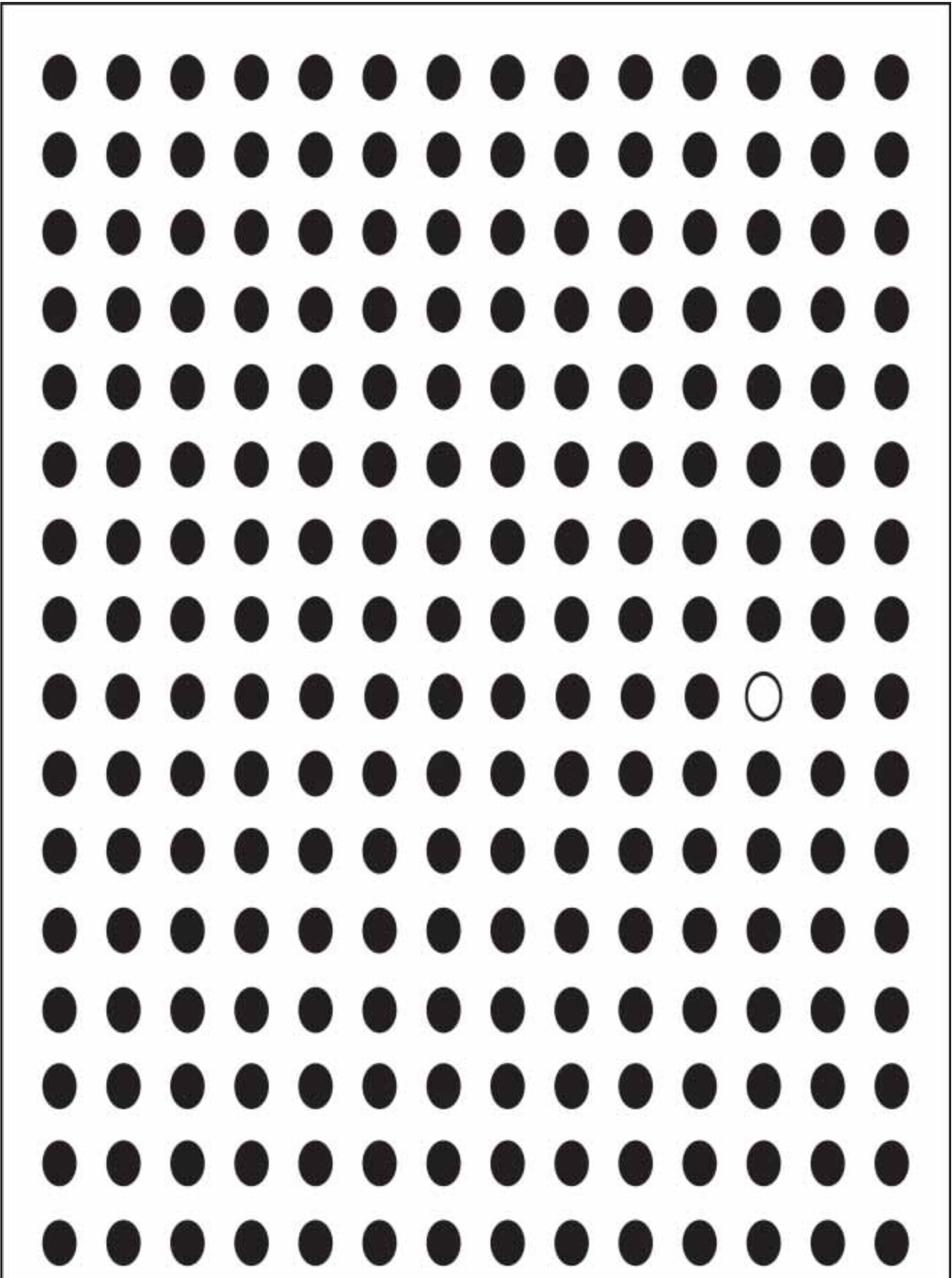
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Average Price of All Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Mid July 2008

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	\$ 2,745,143	\$ 6,695,000
North of Montana	=	\$ 3,978,400	\$ 2,118,900
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 3,268,200	\$ 1,056,422
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 981,106	\$ 709,768
Sunset Park	=	\$ 1,413,554	\$ 798,503
Ocean Park	=	\$ 1,858,071	\$ 1,299,263

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