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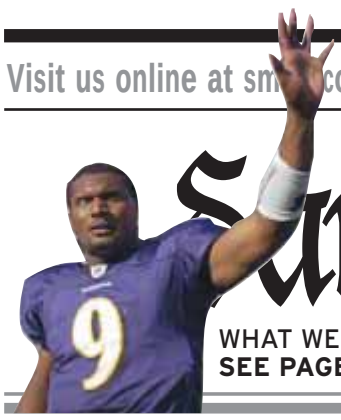


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THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 223



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

WHAT WENT WRONG?
SEE PAGE 4

THE MAD DECENT ISSUE



AWESOME VIEW

Brandon Wise *news@smdp.com*

Steve Hazarabedian and his fiancee Sharyl Dean enjoy a ride on Pacific Park's Ferris wheel at the Santa Monica Pier Wednesday.

Marijuana discovered in SM Mountains

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SM MOUNTAINS More than 3,000 marijuana plants in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area were destroyed this week after authorities raided three pot plantations.

Rangers from the National Park Service were joined Tuesday by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, California State Park Police, CAMP (Campaign Against Marijuana Planting) and the Mountains Conservation Authority as they entered the plantations, two of which were located in Malibu Creek State Park, while the other was found in the Zuma-Trancas Canyon area.

In all, 3,509 plants were destroyed, including 1,421 plants at Zuma Canyon, authorities said. Garbage, PVC piping, camping equipment, fertilizer and chemicals were also removed.

"This was an extremely successful collaborative effort," said Chief Park Ranger Evan Jones. "Not only were we able to pool our resources to eradicate the marijuana plants, but we were also able to take initial steps toward site clean-up and natural resource restoration."

Collaboration between the many local,

SEE MARIJUANA PAGE 10

Carpet cleaner pleads guilty to defrauding clients

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE The owner of a Woodland Hills-based carpet cleaning company pleaded guilty on Tuesday to 10 criminal counts of defrauding nearly five dozen clients across Southern California — including one in Santa Monica — through bait-and-switch tactics.

The owner of a business formerly known as Clean Dry USA, Sharon "Sean" Gilboa was accused of falsely advertising a deal in various circulars to clean three carpeted rooms for $49.95 using special technology. Clients who responded to the ad, which appeared in Clipper Magazine and Money Mailer, claimed they instead were met with bullying and intimidation by operatives sent by the company who forced customers into paying more than the advertised price and leaving after performing substandard work. In many cases, the carpet cleaning work commenced before the client agreed to a price, the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office, which prosecuted the case on behalf of the Los Angeles City Attorney, said.

"What's really important here is that consumers everywhere have to be very careful when responding to an ad that looks too good to be true because if it looks too good to be true, it invariably is," Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky said.

Gilboa was sentenced to three years probation on terms that he perform 360 hours of hard labor community service, be barred from any cleaning business in California, discontinue all telephone numbers and advertisements associated with the company, and provide a full refund to approximately 60 clients, totaling more than $20,000.

Hard labor community service could involve picking up trash and removing graffiti, Radinsky said.

Mark Werksman, the attorney who represented Gilboa, said the plea agreement was a fair and appropriate way to resolve the case.

SEE PLEA PAGE 10

SPORTS ROUNDUP

ATP's Querrey has home-court edge

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

WESTWOOD When Sam Querrey takes the court at UCLA during the L.A. Tennis Open next week he'll certainly have a home-court advantage.

The Santa Monica resident, who happens to be the 37th ranked player in the ATP rankings, practices at UCLA nearly every day he's in town giving him what he hopes will be an edge.

SEE ROUNDUP PAGE 11



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wizards rock
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 p.m.
Celebrate the release of the sixth "Harry Potter" movie with a rock concert featuring wizard rock specialists The Remus Lupins and The Whomping Willows. Call (310) 458-8600 for more information.

Swing lessons
Santa Monica Pier
200 Santa Monica Pier, 6 p.m. — 7 p.m.
"Dance Doctor" John Cassese will provide free swing lessons in honor of La Monica Ballroom's 85th anniversary.

Dance the night away
Santa Monica Pier
200 Santa Monica Pier, 7:00 p.m. — 10 p.m.
La Monica Ballroom Redux with the Squirrel Nut Zippers and Johnny Vana & The Big Band Alumni. Participate in the fourth installment of this weekly summer music series.

Job search bootcamp
Daisy Swan & Associates Office
2901 Ocean Park Blvd., 10 a.m. — 11:15 a.m.
Designed for recent graduates, this career coaching series targets those with zero to seven years of work experience. Find clarity on where to go with your academic degrees and get help beginning your job search. For more information, visit www.daisyswan.com.

Friday, July 24, 2009

Birth of the cool
Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave., 11 a.m. — 6 p.m.
Barkley L. Hendricks' first retrospective features an exhibition of paintings from 1964 to 2007. Hendricks is best known for his life-sized portraits of everyday African Americans from cities in the Northeast. For more information, visit www.smmoa.org/index.php/exhibitions/details/215.

Indie concert
McCabe's Guitar Shop
3101 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.
Van Dykes Park and Inara George will perform modern torch songs from their new album, "An Invitation." Admission is $22.50. For more information, visit store.mccabes.com/product.php?productid=16466&cat=249&page=1.

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





Photo courtesy Fuzjko Hemming

BIG TALENT: **Fuzjko Hemming will play the Broad Stage on Friday and Sunday before moving on to the Lincoln Center in New York City.**

Pianist defies long odds

Partially-deaf classical musician to perform at The Broad Stage

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

BROAD STAGE There was plenty of optimistic predictions and critical acclaim for Fuzjko Hemming in her early years as a concert pianist, even after losing hearing in her right ear from an inflammation at the age of 16.

Despite fighting all odds after tragedy once again struck a few years later, this time in her left ear, leaving the musician deaf until the age of 21 when she regained 40 percent of her hearing, those lofty expectations for the once hailed child prodigy would come true.

The world renowned pianist, whose first album, "La Campanella," sold over two million copies, will perform at The Broad Stage on Friday and Sunday, playing her favorite pieces by Franz Liszt, Frédéric Chopin, Ludwig van Beeethoven, Claude Debussy and J.S. Bach.

"I always perform for the audience's enjoyment," Hemming said. "Nothing more."

The internationally famous pianist choosing to perform at The Broad Stage demonstrates that the less than year old facility is considered world class, Linda Sullivan, the director of facilities programming for Santa Monica College, said, noting that Lincoln Center in New York City is Hemming's next stop.

"We're playing with the big boys," Sullivan said.

Craig Melone, a publicist who works with Los Angeles-based Domo Music Group, which recently signed Hemming, said the label's president, Eiichi Naito, was impressed with The Broad Stage after another of his artists performed at the venue several weeks ago.

"The acoustics were perfect," Melone said. "They liked the location and they liked that it was on the Westside."

The concert will be the first in Santa Monica for Hemming, who said that she is unfamiliar with the city but remembers hearing about it as a young child in Vienna from Stanford University students.

"I am hoping that the audience will enjoy my performance as much as they did the last times that I was in the U.S. a couple of years ago," she said.

Born in Berlin, Hemming moved to Tokyo with her family as a young child, learning to play the piano on a broken instrument and taking lessons from a Russian-born German pianist who was a family friend. She was told by her instructor that she would one day be an international success.

She made her concert debut at the age

SEE **BROAD** PAGE 13

La Monica Ballroom returns for one night

BY NATALIE JARVEY
Special to the Daily Press

SM PIER Shoes tap on the floor and the swish of skirts can be heard below the long arc of a trumpet and the quick beat of a drum. Young couples move gracefully along the hardwood floor, silhouetted by twinkling white lights overhead.

These are the images evoked when the historic La Monica Ballroom is described, but now they are merely memories.

The Santa Monica Pier is bringing back the spirit of La Monica today during the fourth week of the 25th Annual Twilight Dance Series, which will feature the La Monica Ballroom Redux to celebrate the 85th anniversary of what was once the pier's landmark structure.

To recreate the atmosphere of La Monica at its height, the pier will be decorated with minarets and lights, all surrounding a dance floor in front of the stage, where two big band style music groups will perform. Swing dance lessons will be held an hour before the concert begins.

The pier has also invited members of the community who once danced at La Monica to kick off the night with the first dance of the evening.

"It's one of the storied structures of the pier. Fewer and fewer people are around to remember the old thing," said Jim Harris, pier historian.

"The image of a structure that size floating over the ocean is quite magnificent, and the stories that it holds within it are certainly interesting and unique."

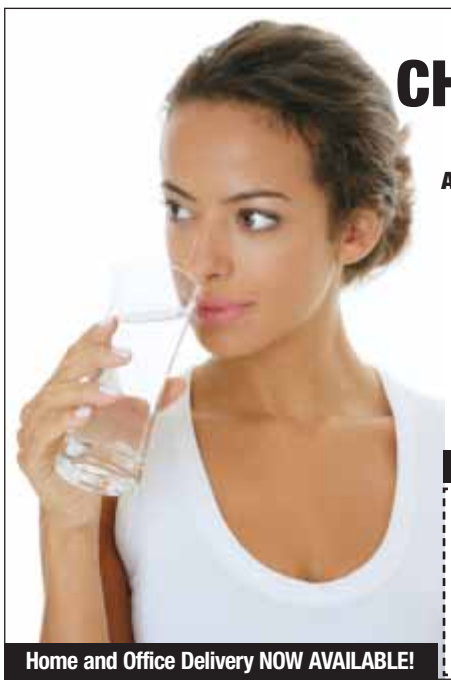
Often described as a palace floating above the sea, La Monica was built in 1924. The largest ballroom on the West Coast, it had a 15,000-square-foot dance floor and held 5,000 people.

On opening night, July 23, 1924, more than 50,000 people drove to Santa Monica to view the new structure — only 30,000 were actually allowed inside. The event was so popular that it created the first traffic jam in Santa Monica history, Harris said.

But La Monica didn't survive as a ballroom for long.

"When it was built in 1924, that was really the heyday of the great amusement piers that used

SEE **CONCERT** PAGE 12


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Taking the fun out of it

Editor:

Now that City Hall has draped that very big banner (is it a bed sheet?) off the south side of the Santa Monica Pier that reads, "NO ALCOHOL, NO SMOKING, NO OPEN FIRES, NO DOGS," etc., does this portend the end of the Thursday dance series beach scene phenomena of fun? No more wine with our music? No more of the glow of candles-in-brown bags, toddlers playing with pets, "sweet kisses and the sun going down?" (Joni Mitchell, "Lesson in Survival.")

The people on all those blankets with all that food still seem to enjoy themselves. The SMPD, on horses and ATVs riding like "The Rat Patrol" across the sand, is being congenial.

One more thing. After the concert, all the beach bathrooms are closed. Should we pass the hat to pay for an hour of overtime for workers or will City Hall provide that service as well?

Henry Rosenfeld
Santa Monica

Experiences on the street

Editor:

I've been homeless here in Santa Monica for about two years now and the fact is Santa Monica could do more for the homeless. OPCC and its affiliates do great work for the homeless in providing showers, food and other social services. However, the Samoshel is extremely limited to a small portion of the homeless and the waiting list is extremely long. I all but gave up on trying to get in there. The only other shelters out here are in the notoriously dangerous parts of skid row in downtown L.A. Personally, I feel safer out here on the streets in Santa Monica. The only other shelters in Santa Monica are the emergency shelters the National Guard armory provides in December and January. The assistance in providing bus tickets is also great, however, some of us don't have much family left who would help or some of us are alienated from our families for differing reasons.

The SMPD is another issue entirely. I praise the efforts of the few officers who've treated me with dignity and respect and who have advised me of my rights as well as the rights of property owners. It is not illegal, despite what people think, to sleep on the sidewalk so long as I'm not obstructing traffic since it is city property. So any officer who does write such a ticket is in fact violating the law. Some officers creatively interpret the law as they see fit. All that aside, there are officers who intimidate, humiliate and demean homeless people who are unfortunate enough to get the cops called on them. We are treated like ex-felons, criminals, and are taunted because we are not always aesthetic to the general public. Police must be educated, especially in a city that has such a problem with homelessness. Intimidation tactics are not the answer.

It is not illegal to be homeless, however, Santa Monica has passed certain laws to deter homeless people from residing here, such as making it illegal to recycle/dumpster dive. I praise the ACLU for considering the rights of all Santa Monica citizens, not just the ones in the upper tax brackets.

Roger Swanson
Santa Monica

Not the way to go

Editor:

Gov. Schwarzenegger and top lawmakers seemed to have approved a budget deal that will allow drilling in state waters, the first time in 40 years. Drilling is dirty and dangerous and will not solve our over-dependence on fossil fuels. Our coast is our economy and our economy is our coast. The governor has made the oil companies happy and now we face the threat of a major oil spill off our coast.

The governor could have gone into the environmental hall of fame, but opening the coast to drilling is like finding out your star player is using steroids.

Dan Jacobson
Legislative Director
Environment California



Life Matters

JoAnne Barge & Katrina Davy Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What went wrong with ill-fated quarterback?

"MARRIED AND WORRIED" WROTE, "I have a question about a matter that my married friends and I have been talking about ever since it happened. Steve McNair. How can a 'nice guy' like this have ever ended up in this position? It doesn't make sense. It is scary to us. Can you shed some light?"

Because I do not know this man personally or know anyone who does, I cannot answer this question with any degree of certainty. However, I think I might be able to "shed some light."

Steve McNair was a legend. He was a star. By all accounts he was raised to be and was an honest, loyal, fair and very nice man. He was raised by a single mother and his older brother, who took on a paternal role when his father left, supported only by the mother's income as a local factory worker. Money was scarce and one has to wonder how much attention she could have given five sons, while working full time. She must have been tired, but as difficult as this would be, it seems that she gave her sons a lot of love and support and instilled great values.

Beyond family, McNair was a poor black kid from Mississippi who perhaps felt he was no one until he got his first taste of fame and fortune through his football career. No one has a bad thing to say about him; everyone seems to have thought that McNair was a nice guy and I think he probably was.

But let's look at his history and celebrity status. He was incredibly talented and early on got a lot of attention for his unusual athletic ability. By high school, he had the choice to play baseball, basketball or football. He held out for football and became the highest drafted black quarterback ever and was making millions of dollars by the time he was 22. Throughout his career in football, he was always a star.

He retired in 2008 and many think that his body just gave out, at least for playing football the way that he had played it.

What happens when you go from an entire stadium of applause on a regular basis to regular everyday life in two small towns in the south? He was dividing his time between two cities and he and his wife were raising two young sons, one about to be 11 and the other just 5. Was he getting the attention he needed or by now craved? Why was he pushing himself with such severe pain; what was he trying to prove and for whom?

Severe pain from a ruptured disk, and surgery and other injuries as well, he was pushing himself beyond belief. A few questions come to mind: did he even know who he was or his value as a human being outside of the stadium and stardom? Did physical and emotional pain lead to drinking? There are definitely some red flags that he may have become a drinker. He was first arrested for DUI in 2003 and then again with his brother in-law in 2007. I have no idea why but he missed week two, part of week three and nine more games in that (2007) season; one has to wonder. His third DUI involvement was with a 20-year-old girlfriend, days before he died. She was driving but I have to ask would a big guy like this let an intoxicated woman drive after already having two prior DUI arrests if he hadn't been drinking himself?

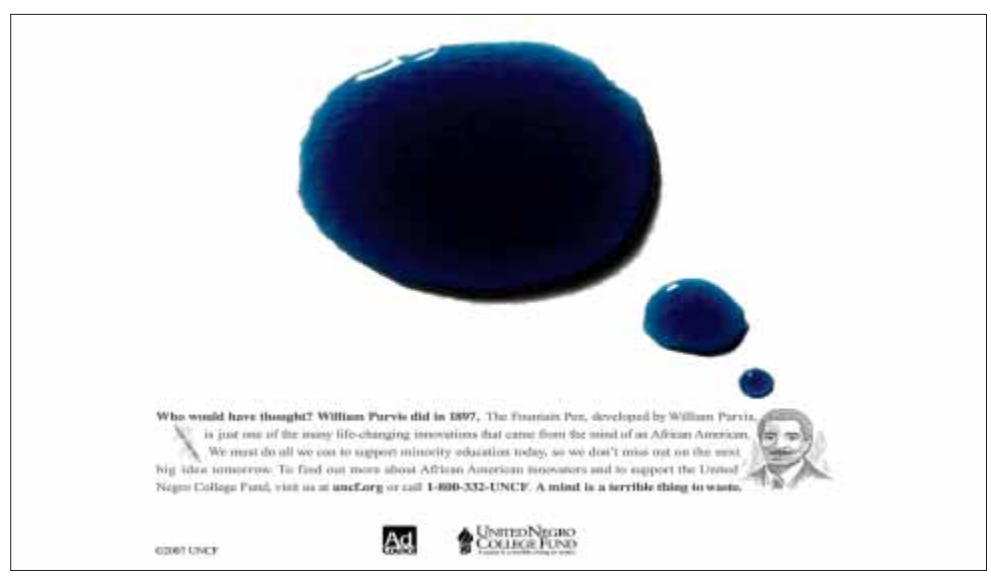
He retired in April 2008 and by the end of that year had fallen into some type of an affair with the woman who would kill him seven months later. Did all these factors put together make him vulnerable to this? It certainly looks as if it did.

The woman he was involved with was 20 (he was 36) and had lost both parents in Iran. She probably idolized and adored him. He had lost the applause, was now living in two cities, his wife was busy raising his two young sons, and they were living separately half of the time. If you add alcohol, this combination would make anyone, any nice guy or woman, very vulnerable. Alcohol numbs pain but it also can lead to very poor judgment. It may come out that he had multiple affairs; after all, women throw themselves at these guys. But at this time, in my research so far, there is no indication of marital problems, or cheating if you will, before he retired from being the legend that he was.

I don't think you need to worry unless you have one or more of these factors going on in your marriage. The bottom line is that we all can be vulnerable and that does not make for a bad guy.

Thank you for your question.

Dr. JoAnne Barge is a licensed psychologist and marriage and family therapist in Brentwood. Please write your questions or reactions to newshrink@gmail.com or visit www.newshrink.com.



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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Cooking for a picky eater is child's play

WITH THE "SEX AND THE CITY" MOVIE sequel scheduled for a May 2010 release and the third installment in the Bridget Jones saga not even in production yet, the most eagerly anticipated chick flick du jour is next month's "Julie and Julia."

The film is based on a book by a woman who made all 524 recipes in Julia Child's "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" in 365 days.

A year ago at this time a similar prospect might have sounded overwhelming yet exciting to me. Not anymore. I'm fairly certain that between 4:45 p.m. and 6:10 p.m. last Friday alone I created at least 524 separate dishes with the hope that just one would appeal to my daughter for dinner. Labor of love took on a whole new meaning when, despite my best efforts, the winning meal was blueberries and a graham cracker.

To be sure, I used to really enjoy cooking. I adore my kitchen and, as an added bonus, it's stocked with Williams-Sonoma's greatest hits (courtesy of my bridal shower of yore), all of which makes cooking a pleasure. Before giving birth last August I relished preparing involved meals for my husband and me several nights a week. It was satisfying in a June Cleaver kind of way.

I remember sitting in the hospital with my sister shortly after she gave birth to my nephew nine-and-a-half years ago. I looked at her with tears in my eyes and said, "You're someone's mother!"

She had tears in her eyes, too. "Yes, I'm a mom. Now I have to cook three times a day for the next 18 years."

Ever since my daughter graduated from baby food to the real stuff, I've been experiencing the same kind of dread. More daunting than raising a happy, well-adjusted, non-serial killer child is the 19,710 meals I'm required to feed her before she can be shipped off to college. More, if you count snacks.

Watching the Food Network is no source of comfort. The Barefoot Contessa, Giada De Laurentiis, the Iron Chefs all make it look annoyingly easy. With their neat little bowls filled with ingredients perfectly pre-diced and sliced off-camera in advance by unseen producers or Keebler Elves. When the hosts do the chopping themselves on camera, I'm never fooled into thinking I'll be able to do it as well as them and at the speed in which they do it. Even if I had a production assistant sharpening my knives after every meal, I'm sure the only difference when I minced garlic would be that my hands would look like the stump at the end of "The Giving Tree." Thinking of what to make the baby that she'll actually eat and then preparing it is time-consuming and not in any kind of fun way when the possibility of multiple rejections is high.

Then there's the added pressure of trying to keep it organic. I look at my daughter like she's a blank slate I have a responsibility to keep chemicals and processed food out of for as long as possible. But when I gave her organic spaghetti-o's with soy meatballs she looked at me with horror like I was force-feeding her Drano. She has started removing the organic macaroni and cheese from her mouth and decisively dumping it on the floor. I swear she was laughing at me when I gave her a slice of gluten-free whole-grain bread with milled flax seed. There's no doubt "Wonder Bread, please" will be her first request when she starts talking.

I no longer feel like June Cleaver but fear instead that my daughter might take a swipe at me with a cleaver if I don't serve her something she actually wants to eat on the first try at her next meal.

At the same time I don't want to deprive her of anything so that she overdoses on Cheetos the first chance she gets. Plus, I get so much pleasure from watching her experience new tastes. Like apple pie ice cream or a piece of pizza (from Costco, no less. Surprisingly delicious, by the way). Fortunately she loves fruit and vegetables, so that's always a back-up plan when all other foods fail. I just know that while she hasn't been able to confirm its existence yet, she's dreaming of neon orange Kraft Macaroni & Cheese. And even though poor Julia Child would probably roll over in her grave at the thought, how much harm can one little Twinkie really do?

Regardless, I'll definitely be among the throngs of women who see "Julie and Julia" when it opens Aug. 7. Voluntarily cooking 524 meals over the course of just one year? Child's play.

Bon Appetit.

E-mail questions or comments to meredithccarroll@hotmail.com.

The Q Line

Home for the homeless?

The ACLU filed a suit last week claiming City Hall violated constitutional rights by arresting a group of six plaintiffs for breaking a local law against camping when there is a lack of sufficient shelter beds to accommodate the homeless.

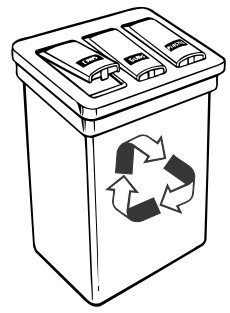
So this week's Q-Line question asks:

What do you think of the ACLU's lawsuit?

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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Santa Monica Housing Authority

City of Santa Monica

The Santa Monica Housing Authority (SMHA) invites multi-family rental property owners and developers to submit written proposals requesting Section 8 Project-Based Vouchers (PBVs), a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rental subsidy program that attaches rental assistance to specific properties serving low-income households.

A total of up to 200 PBVs, depending on availability, may be awarded via this Request for Proposals (RFP). Applications for this RFP must:

- Be located in the City of Santa Monica;
- Request a minimum of five (5) Project-Based Vouchers; and
- Propose to serve households who qualify as: Homeless, Senior or Disabled.

Eligibility, application and participation requirements are described in the RFP. The RFP and Application Form can be obtained at the following website: http://www01.smgov.net/housing/news-notices.htm

The RFP and application are also available at the SMHA offices, 1901 Main Street, First Floor, Santa Monica, CA 90405. If you have any questions, please call SMHA at 310-458-8702.

All proposals MUST be received no later than 5:00 P.M. on Thursday, August 13, 2009.



The Re-View

Merv Hecht
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No more Polish jokes, just enjoy the meal

WHEN MY KIDS FOUND OUT MY grandmother was Polish they stopped telling Polish jokes. And my dad loved Polish food. So it was with some nostalgia that I went to the Warszawa restaurant the other day, for the first time in about 25 years. Yes, it's been there that long, so that says something for it.

We were greeted by a lovely young woman from Warsaw, who seated us in one of the several small rooms. The restaurant seems to be in an old house, and each of the four or five rooms seats only a few tables, so it's always quiet. In fact, the Wednesday evening that we were there only one table in each of the three rooms I saw was occupied.

I went with a specific menu in mind. I wanted to taste the mushroom pierogi, a typical Polish dish. It's something like a large ravioli, but a bit more chewy. As expected, it was delicious, and the plate of pierogi for $15 was probably enough for dinner. Fortunately my friends Alain and Thierry shared the plate with me.

I took a spoonful of Alain's cold beet borscht, and found it much like a beet gazpacho, and quite nice. Thierry had a Warszawa salad, which was a mix of carrots, apples, onion and sauerkraut. He liked it but it's not to my taste.

And so my duck arrived, and my friends each had the pork schnitzel. When you live in Los Angeles, all pork schnitzel has to be compared to that of Wolfgang Puck's at Spago. As expected, this one was smaller in size (that's good) but not as delicious. Still, it was quite good, a good "B" said Alain, and at $18 worth ordering when you are in that mood.

But my duck was a bit of a disappointment. It looked good, and the roasted apples and other fruits on the side were quite delicious, but the duck itself had not been cooked at a low enough heat for a long enough time. And it was over-salted.

Well-cooked duck has to be cooked at a low temperature until the leg can be pulled off the body easily, and the duck fat still makes the flesh glow. This leg totally resisted efforts to detach it short of surgery, and the meat was a bit dry from cooking at too high a temperature.

Perhaps because it wasn't very busy, the service was extraordinary, and very friendly. After dinner, and before dessert, we were served a complimentary sliovitch, a Polish eau-de-vie that was always in our home when I was growing up. This was, perhaps, one of the most delicious parts of the meal.

We shared a few desserts, which were perfectly adequate, and the total bill of around $50 per person, plus the cost of a bottle of 2004 Chateauneuf du Pape and a domestic Cabernet, both reasonably priced, seemed fair. All in all we had a pleasant dinner. The surroundings are delightful — nothing like the loud, gaudy restaurants now in vogue. If you stick to the Polish specialties the food is good, and it's a nice break to eat a different ethnic food sometimes that's not Asian and not Italian.

Not that Italian food can be considered ethic now: hamburgers and fried chicken used to be the most purchased foods in the United States. Now it's pizza. What a great melting pot we live in!

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MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com

Cookbook for exotic dabbling

MICHELE KAYAL
For The Associated Press

Michal Haines' "The Spice Kitchen" aims to make a spatula traveler out of any cook willing to dabble in the exotic.

Drawing inspiration from Asia, the Middle East, India, North Africa and anywhere else that spices are used with vigor, the book presents unique yet authentic recipes designed to awaken the palate.

Scrolling script and patterned page backgrounds evoke Marco Polo and the Silk Road. And the vivid recipes not only conjure the lands that inspired them, but make the familiar intriguing again.

Haines' Mid-week Falafel is rolled in sesame seeds, baked not fried, and served with a date and lemon chutney instead of the usual tahini dressing. Chicken Livers with Szechwan Peppercorns and Pears points to richness, heat and sweetness all at once. And the book's many Spanish recipes (think Seville Duck with Oranges and Olives) suggest fishermen and tumbling bougainvillea.

The book is arranged into categories that reflect mood, eating style or time commitment, such as "Mid-week Speed" and "Luxury Sundays," and offers to sate the experienced cook's hunger for something extraordinary any day of the week, for any occasion. But the key word is "experienced."

This is not a book for beginners and even old hands must be ready to commit. The budget busting list of spices that Haines calls "essential" include amchur, allspice berries, cassia bark, cardamom (which comes in green and brown), kokum, juniper berries and four different types of peppercorns and paprika. The book's comprehensive glossary describes each spice, how to choose it, use it and store it, but not where to find it.

Haines also assumes a great deal of culinary knowledge. Istanbul Street Mussels requires soaking currants and grinding fennel seeds but skips directions on removing the mussels' tough beards. She asks cooks to toast and crush "two blades of mace," to cook chicken livers "to your liking," and encourages them to create personal spice blends by thinking "about the flavor combinations and how they might work with the other ingredients you have in mind."

All very sophisticated stuff.

That said, this marvelous book offers a user-friendly education on spices that will not only improve your culinary game show prospects but promises some very fine eating in the meantime.

Midwestern wines go big

MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

NAPA Quick, what's America's biggest wine region? If you answered California's Napa Valley, you're way, way off thanks to a federal ruling that creates a new one starting Wednesday.

It's the Upper Mississippi River Valley, covering a whopping 29,914 square miles and encompassing portions of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa. That's 39 times the Napa Valley's puny 759 or so square miles.

The new region is huge news for midwestern vintners.

"I'm really excited about it," says Paul Tabor, of Tabor Home Vineyards Winery about 40 miles south of Dubuque. "Wine enthusiasts really do look at the labels for an appellation and now we can use that as part of our marketing story."

American Viticulture Areas, or AVAs, recognize a unique grape-growing region that may be historically known and that contains specific geological features. The new region was created after area wine and agriculture officials petitioned the Alcohol Tobacco and Tax and Trade Bureau, which controls the designations.

Use of an AVA isn't a stamp of approval, but many consumers like the idea of buying wine from a specific area, following the French concept of "terroir" — that wine should reflect the character of the land it came from.

Though the image of the Midwest might be wide, flat plains, the new AVA falls in an area that was largely skipped by Ice Age glaciers, so instead of being flat it has the steep slopes and well-drained soil required to grow premium grapes.

But there's no getting away from those really cold winters, meaning the familiar grapes of Europe — chardonnay, cabernet sauvignon — can't survive here. Wineries must either import juice or grow winter hardy grapes, many of them hybrids developed in France.

Ninety years ago, Iowa was sixth in grape production in the U.S., but that was with the Concord grape, associated with sweeter wines, not today's drier, more food-friendly wines.

The wine industry re-emerged in the last decade, surprising some with medals in national competitions, Tabor says.

"Six or seven years ago I got phone calls and e-mails from California wineries — 'What are these wines of yours winning competitions? We didn't know you could grow grapes in Iowa.'"

Though the region is big, the wine industry there is small and growing. Tabor estimates there are about 50 wineries and maybe just 400 acres of vineyards. The Napa Valley's way ahead there. Though only about 9 percent of the area is planted in vines, that still amounts to 45,000 acres.

The new AVA knocks off former No. 1, the 26,000-square-mile Ohio River Valley AVA.

Tabor and others say they had no intention of trying to be the biggest; that was just the region's natural contours.

Once the industry matures, they would like to see the same kind of thing that has happened in California.

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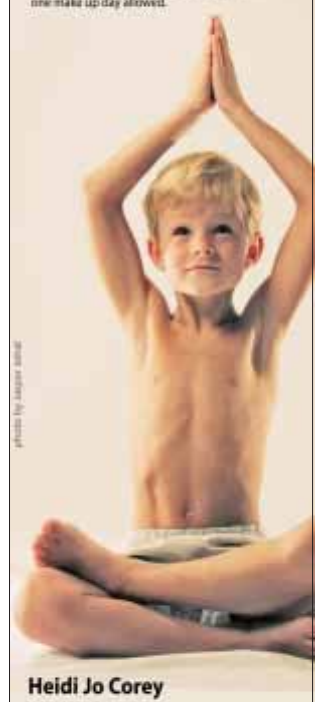
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256 Santa Monica Pier (310)393-PIERS

Scarboni 312 Wilshire Bl	(310) 704-8079
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Buddha Boba 1701 Pico Bl	(626) 674-8882
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Cafe Bolivar 1741 Ocean Park Blvd.	(310) 581-2344
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The Slice 1622 Ocean Park	(310) 453-2367
Spitfire Grill 3300 Airport Ave.	(310) 397-3455
Star Of Siam 3133 Lincoln Blvd	(310) 396-9511
Subway 2901 Ocean Park Blvd	(310) 396-3004
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Yose Restaurant 2435 Main St.	(310) 255-0680

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26 Beach Restaurant 3100 Washington Blvd.	(310) 823-7526
Abbot's Habit 1401 Abbot Kinney Blvd	(310) 399-1171
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Baby Blues BBQ 444 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 396-7675
Beechwood 822 W. Washington Blvd.	(310) 448-8884
Benice 1715 Pacific Ave.	(310) 396-9938
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Cafe 50's 838 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 399-1955
Casablanca Restaurant 220 Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 392-5751
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Uncle Darrow's 2560 S Lincoln Blvd.	(310) 306-4862
Wabi-Sabi 1635 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 314-2229
Wacky Wok 2805 Abbot Kinney Blvd.	(310) 822-7373

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C & O Cucina 3016 Washington Blvd.	(310) 301-7278
Cafe Del Rey 4451 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-6395
California Pizza Kitchen 3345 Fiji Way	(310) 301-1563
Casa Escobar 14160 Palawan Way	(310) 822-2199
Chart House 13950 Panay Way	(310) 822-4144
The Cheesecake Factor 4142 Via Marina	(310) 306-3344
Chin Chin 13455 Maxella Ave Ste 266	(310) 823-9999
Chipotle Mexican Grill 4718 Admiralty Way	(310) 821-0059
Harbor House Restaurant 4211 Admiralty Way	(310) 577-4555
Islands 404 Washington Blvd	(310) 822-3939
Jer-ne at The Ritz-Carlton 4375 Admiralty Way	(310) 823-1700
Kaya Sushi 13400 Washington Blvd.	(310) 577-1143
Kifune Restaurant 405 Washington Blvd	(310) 822-1595
Le Marmiton 4724 Admiralty Way	(310) 773-3560
Mercedes Grille 14 Washington Blvd	(310) 827-6209
Mermaids-Juice Java & More 14045 Panay Way	(310) 306-3883
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Sapori Ristorante 13723 Fiji Way	(310) 821-1740
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Santa Monica resident scammed by company

FROM **PLEA** PAGE 1

"Mr. Gilboa never meant to harm anybody or to deprive anybody of the value of the services that he provided," Werksman said.

The Consumer Protection Unit with the City Attorney's Office began investigating the company after it received a complaint from a Santa Monica resident in late 2008. The 85-year-old resident said that a representative sent from the company demanded that she pay $2,000 to clean the carpet in her 570-square-foot apartment, ultimately lowering the price to $795 after she initially refused. The woman ended up paying $560 even though the advertisement listed a quote of $49.95.

The carpet remained wet for three days and when the woman called to complain, the company did not return her calls, the City Attorney's Office said.

Another woman from Los Angeles was coerced into paying $1,600 after responding to the same advertisement.

While the company is located in Woodland Hills, which would fall under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles City Attorney, all prosecution duties were handed off to the Santa Monica City Attorney because authorities had already began the investigation.

The company has changed names over time, going from Clean Dry USA to Target Carpet Care to Clean N'Dry Carpet, and most recently, SoCal Dry-Tech, Radinsky said.

He added that there is currently an advertisement by SoCal Dry-Tech running in the June/July issue of Clipper Magazine, promoting an identical deal with the same photographs, layout, text and copy, using the phone number (866) 552-5236. Radinsky said he has not received any complaints specific to SoCal Dry-Tech and has heard that the company is under new ownership.

Radinsky said that there has been an increase in carpet cleaning businesses engaging in similar business practices, noting that a colleague recently received an automated call offering a deal to clean carpets at $15 a room.

"Often times these companies are crooked and it's very important that people check out who they're doing business with because so-called free estimates can often result in an uncomfortable situation, the situation of guys running the machine before there's a conversation about estimates," he said. "In these recessionary times, there are a lot of people desperate to make a buck by ripping someone off."

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beach=culture SCHEDULE

tuesdays at the Annenberg Community Beach House
AT SANTA MONICA STATE BEACH

Take your pick of **free** concerts, lectures, and readings every Tuesday through September



August 4, 6:30 PM:
Surfing & Improvisation
Violinist/surfer Gilles Apap will draw parallels between riding the waves, of water and sound. Note: Seating is extremely limited.



August 11, 11 AM:
Dreamers in Dream City
L.A. native Harry Brant Chandler will read from his book of insights on some of the most colorful dreamers that the City of Angeles has produced.



August 18, 6:30 PM:
Red Hen Poetry Series
Poets Jenny Factor and David St. John will read from their work in this exploration of current poetry. Co-sponsored by the American Composers Forum LA.



August 25, 6:30 PM:
To Be Sung Upon the Water
Lively musical trio Ensemble La Mer will perform work by Argento, Debussy, Dvorak and Schubert. With soprano Elissa Johnston, clarinetist Stuart Clark and pianist Victoria Kirsch.

Stop by early for an entertaining Beach House tour from Santa Monica Conservancy docents before every event. Most events begin at 6:30 pm.

Tickets: Reservations are required. Events are free but seating is limited. Please visit www.eventbrite.com/org/199463539 or call 310-458-2257 to save your spot.

Parking and driving directions: Located at 415 Pacific Coast Highway just north of the California Incline. Turn at the Beach House Way traffic light for parking ($4/hr, $8/day, disabled placards and senior beach parking passes accepted).

Information: For general information about the Beach House, visit http://www.annenbergbeachhouse.com, email beachhouse@smgov.net or call 310-458-4904.

The Annenberg Community Beach House at Santa Monica State Beach is made possible by a generous gift from the Annenberg Foundation, at the recommendation of Wallis Annenberg, and in partnership with the City of Santa Monica and California State Parks. Additional funding was provided by the US Department of Housing & Urban Development and the federal Preserve America program.

City of Santa Monica

Cleanup could cost plenty

FROM **MARIJUANA** PAGE 1

state, and federal law enforcement and land management agencies represents a significant achievement in addressing illegal marijuana cultivation activity on public lands that poses a potential threat to visitor safety and natural resources, authorities said.

One of the sites at Zuma Canyon is located in a wildlife corridor, inhabited by a number of animals, including bobcats and mountain lions. In addition to wildlife disturbance and displacement, marijuana plantations are often sites of soil disturbance, PVC irrigation pipe installations, natural vegetation removal, large amounts of pesticides and insecticides, fertilizers and trash and septic pits.

These sites, authorities said, often have make-shift illegal campfires that pose a special risk in the greater Santa Monica Mountains area for widespread fire.

The estimated cost to clean up on cultivated acre is between $10,000 to $120,000, according to the National Park Service.

In 2007, approximately 3,900 marijuana plants were found on National Park Service land within the Santa Monica Mountains at Trancas Canyon, with an estimated street value of $10 million and covering 1.5 acres.

The largest marijuana cultivation seizure in the greater Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area occurred at Malibu Creek State Park in 2005, led by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and totaled approximately 28,000 plant seizures. Throughout California, 3,641,328 marijuana plants were seized on state and federal public lands in 2008.

news@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Best PR

BIG HITTER: **Sam Querrey is currently ranked 37th in the latest ATP rankings.**

Losman heads to new league

FROM **ROUNDUP** PAGE 1

"It is just kind of convenient," Querrey, 21, said of the proximity. "I'm used to the court there.

"Hopefully I can do well. I'd love to win so close to home"

The rising star is coming off an appearance in the finals of the Campbell's Hall of Fame Tennis Championships in Newport, R.I. earlier this month. He lost to Rajeev Ram, who was ranked 181st at the time.

The trip back to the Westside gives Querrey a pleasant problem. He said that friends and family have already begun bombarding him with ticket requests. Most of his family and friends live in Thousand Oaks, where he grew up.

"It's cool to be close enough to home for family and friends to come see me play," he said.

He's received over 100 requests so far, but he knows there is no way he can accommodate everyone.

"It's tough to get tickets [for this tournament]," he said.

He thinks he can scrape together 30 to 50 tickets, but said that he "feels bad taking free tickets to the tourney."

This will be Querrey's third time taking part in the tournament. He's made it as far as the second round.

"Hopefully I can do a little better this year."

FORMER VENICE QB SIGNS WITH NEW LEAGUE

Former Venice High School quarterback J.P. Losman signed Tuesday with the Las Vegas franchise in the United Football League, which kicks off its first season in October.

Losman, a first-round draft pick in 2004 out of Tulane by the Buffalo Bills, is the most notable player to sign with the fledgling UFL so far.

"The United Football League is providing me with the opportunity to play the sport I love at a high level and for that, I am extremely grateful," said Losman. "I am excited to get back out onto the field and represent Las Vegas during the league's first season."

Losman, who played at nearby Venice High School and later signed with UCLA before moving on to Tulane, spent five seasons with the Bills after being selected 22nd overall in the draft. He played 42 games and passed for 6,211 yards with 33 touchdown passes and 34 interceptions.

In 2007, his 63.43 completion percentage was the fourth-single best in team history.

"I have followed J.P.'s career since his early days with Buffalo where he impressed me with his raw talent, passing accuracy and on-field competitiveness," said Las Vegas coach Jim Fassel, who took the New York Giants to the Super Bowl after the 2000 season. "J.P. has all the attributes of a great professional quarterback and I am truly looking forward to working with him."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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Photo courtesy Joshua Weinfeld

CHILLIN': **The Squirrel Nut Zippers, a North Carolina-based band that combines its Southern roots with blues and jazz in a style that hints at 1930s nostalgia, will play the Twilight Dance Series tonight.**

La Monica Ballroom's 85th celebrated at pier

FROM **CONCERT** PAGE 3

to be here in the bay, but when the stock market crashed and we entered the Great Depression, there wasn't a whole lot to dance about so other uses were explored," Harris said.

Over the years, after City Hall bought the building in 1934, the ballroom took on many varied roles as a roller rink, aquarium, apartments, auto museum, badminton courts and even a temporary city jail. It's remembered today for hosting some of the first dance marathons, which would last for days, and the "Hoffman Hayride," a KTLA show featuring Spade Cooley.

Colleen Creedon, a local activist who once lived in a unit in the Looff Hippodrome above the carousel, recalls driving from her childhood home in Ventura with her father to see Cooley perform.

La Monica's glory days officially ended in 1962 when City Hall condemned and removed the building due to damage from age. Pacific Park now stands where the ballroom once was.

Tonight's concert will attempt to embody the magic and history of La Monica for one final night with headliner Squirrel Nut Zippers, a North Carolina-based band that combines its Southern roots with blues and jazz in a style that hints at 1930s nostalgia.

They have put together a unique set list for the show, drawing from the great American songbook and jazz artists such as Billie Holiday and Duke Ellington to showcase music that would have been popular during La Monica's heyday.

"We're really excited about coming to do this show since it's the anniversary of the pier," said drummer Chris Phillips, one of the original founders of the band. "We wanted to present a setup that would be reflective of those past 100 years of American music."

The band has released eight CDs since 1993 and has a live CD set to hit stores later this summer. They've been on a hiatus since 2002 that Phillips described as being "lost at sea."

To prepare for tonight's show, the band has been rehearsing in Joshua Tree, living in a house with no air conditioning.

"We've been rehearsing in our underwear for three days, collecting scorpions and lizards," Phillips said. "It's really quite something out here. It's just great American music going down and I look outside and all I see are yucca trees and the desert."

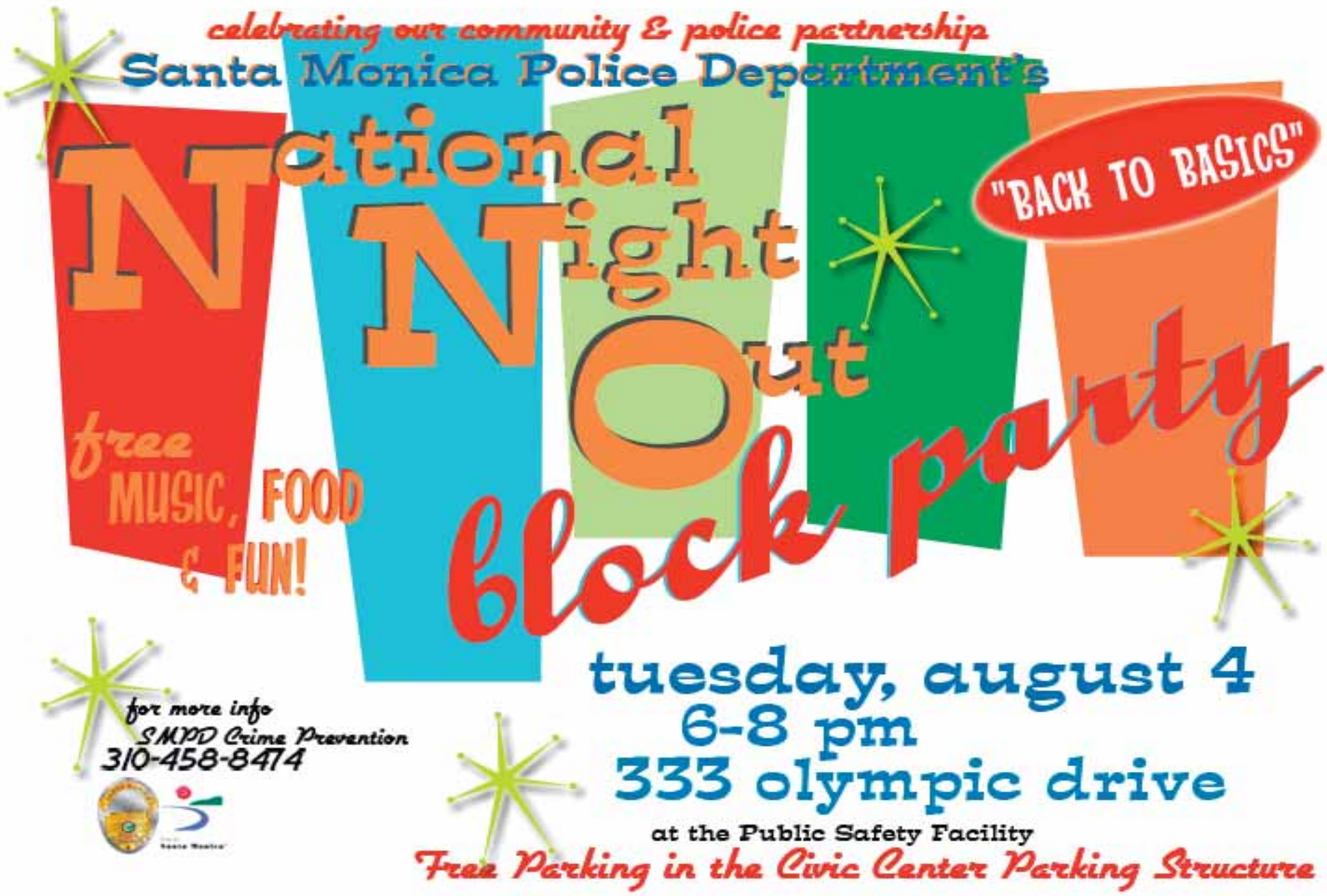
Also performing are Johnny Vana & the Big Band Alumni, musicians who have played with many of the great bands from the swing era, including Harry James, Woody Herman, Tex Beneke, Billy May, Buddy Rich and Spike Jones. Vana, the founder of the band, has been playing drums since he was invited to sit with the Glenn Miller Orchestra at the age of four.

Their swing style evokes the music that drew crowds when La Monica first opened.

For those who remember La Monica and the music that defined its early years as a ballroom, the redux will be a welcomed walk down memory lane.

"Oh gosh, I'll be there. I'm really looking forward to it," Creedon said.

news@smdp.com



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SM BAY

Big surf hits coastline

Surfers should have plenty of opportunities to catch a wave this weekend thanks to a southern ocean storm off New Zealand, which is expected to pump up breakers to about 6 feet at all south-facing beaches, according to the National Weather Service.

The swell is expected to arrive Friday morning, with the largest surf coming this weekend as the world's top surfers compete for awards totaling $100,000, as well as ratings points toward a berth in the 2010 Association of Surfing Professionals World Tour, during the Hurley U.S. Open of Surfing in Huntington Beach.

"Pretty much the whole L.A. coast is exposed, definitely those south-facing beaches," said meteorologist Bill Forwood with the National Weather Service. "The winds from this storm that formed in the South Pacific just east of New Zealand create the swells and direct them right toward us."

Lifeguards are warning that only strong swimmers and experienced surfers should brave the big waves. Venturing out of breakwaters can be hazardous because larger-than-normal swells can suddenly flood previously dry areas — especially when the tide is rising.

"Always check with your local lifeguard to find out what are the safest places to swim and surf. That's the most important message I can give," said Capt. Terry Harvey with the Los Angeles County Fire Department — Lifeguard Division. "We only have a couple of south-facing beaches until you get farther north in L.A. County. Nevertheless, we will have personnel on stand-by ready to work so things to get out of control. We are prepared for this high surf."

Harvey urged those thinking of visiting the beach to check out watchthewater.org, a Web site sponsored by the county that features the latest weather and water conditions, as well as Web cams of popular spots to give people a "pre-beach experience," and help them plan their trip.

DAILY PRESS

DOWNTOWN

Jackson Browne defeats John McCain

Singer/songwriter Jackson Browne won a federal copyright lawsuit against Sen. John McCain and the Republican party, receiving an apology and an undisclosed sum for the unauthorized use of one of his songs in a pro-McCain video during the 2008 presidential race, it was announced Tuesday.

Browne sued McCain, the Republican National Committee and the Ohio Republican Party last year over use of his 1977 hit "Running on Empty" in a Web ad mocking then-nominee Barack Obama's proposed energy policy.

The lawsuit had been slated for trial in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles early next year.

Browne, a supporter of liberal causes, "is not a litigious person, but felt he needed to stand up for artists' rights and believed this was an appropriate undertaking," said the singer's Santa Monica-based lawyer, Lawrence Iser.

"This means that just because you're running for office doesn't give you the right to use copyrighted works without permission," Iser said. "The copyright laws apply to everyone, and everyone needs to be reminded that copying is illegal when you don't have license to do it."

McCain, the RNC and ORP settled the complaint jointly and issued a statement apologizing.

"Although Sen. McCain had no knowledge of, or involvement in, the creation or distribution of the Web campaign video, Sen. McCain does not support or condone any actions taken by anyone involved in his 2008 presidential election campaign that were inconsistent with artists' rights or the various legal protections afforded to intellectual property," the statement said.

McCain and the other defendants also promised to get artists' permission before using their work in the future.

Financial details of the settlement were not announced.

The McCain campaign's apparent use of material from other artists also caused sour notes to be heard from the Foo Fighters, Heart and John Mellencamp.

Browne's lawsuit accused McCain and his campaign of engaging "in a consistent pattern of making unauthorized use of copyrighted musical compositions in an effort to boost McCain's image."

DP

Classical pianist lost hearing at young age

FROM **BROAD** PAGE 3

of 17, winning competitions including the NHK Mainichi Music Contest and Bunka Radio Broadcasting Company Music Prize, later working with the Japanese Philharmonic Orchestra and studying music at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts.

Hemming moved to Vienna after completing her studies, working with the likes of Shura Cherkassky, a famous Ukranian pianist, and conductors Bruno Maderna and Leonard Bernstein.

After losing hearing in her left ear, Hemming moved to Sweden where she taught music and worked as a janitor in a psychiatric hospital where she discovered an upright piano, performing impromptu concerts for nurses and patients.

When she regained about 40 percent hearing in her left ear, the pianist resumed where she left off, recording a debut album, which went onto receive numerous awards, and performing in venues all over the world.

Hemming described the fear that kept her from seeking medical attention when she became sick at 16, instead spending the money her mother had given to see a doctor to watch American movies.

But she has found peace in her condition.

"I accept whatever happens to me in life," she said. "I do not like looking back at the past, instead, I think of what positive things lie ahead for me in the future."

melodyh@smdp.com

'Tarzan' actress Brenda Joyce dies at 92 in SM

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA MONICA Brenda Joyce, the only actress to play Jane with two different movie Tarzans, has died. She was 92.

A family friend, David Ragan, says she suffered from dementia for a decade and died July 4 of pneumonia at a nursing home in Santa Monica.

Joyce, whose real name was Betty Leabo, appeared in some two dozen movies but she is best known for succeeding Maureen O'Sullivan as Jane in the "Tarzan" pictures. She appeared in five "Tarzan" movies in the 1940s, opposite Johnny Weissmuller and later Lex Barker.

Joyce made her last movie in 1949. Ragan says she worked for the immigration department for a decade, helping new immigrants find housing and work.

She is survived by a son, two daughters and three grandchildren.

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Feds: Man gave al-Qaida NYC subway information

DEVLIN BARRETT AND TOM HAYS
Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK An American man charged with giving al-Qaida information on the New York transit system and attacking a U.S. military base in Afghanistan has been a secret witness in the fight against terror both here and overseas, authorities revealed Wednesday.

Court papers unsealed in federal court in Brooklyn identified the defendant as Bryant Neal Vinas, nicknamed "Ibrahim" or "Bashir al-Ameriki," who grew up on Long Island.

His identity had been kept secret since his indictment late last year. Court papers show he pleaded guilty in January in a sealed courtroom in Brooklyn and remains in U.S. custody in New York.

Federal prosecutors refused to discuss Vinas' background Wednesday, and no court appearances were scheduled. But a law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss the case, said Vinas provided critical information that led to a security alert about the New York City subway system last year.

Authorities issued an alert around Thanksgiving last year saying the FBI had received a "plausible but unsubstantiated" report that al-Qaida terrorists in late September may have discussed attacking the subway system around the holidays. The origin of that report, the official said, was Vinas.

The official described Vinas as a militant convert who was captured last year in Pakistan.

Prosecutors charged Vinas in a rocket attack on U.S. forces in Afghanistan in September 2008. Court papers allege he also gave "expert advice and assistance ... on the New York transit system and Long Island Railroad."

For five months last year, Vinas received "military-style training" from al-Qaida, according to court papers.

Also, a defense attorney in a terrorism case in Belgium said prosecutors there traveled to New York earlier this year to interview Vinas. The lawyer, Christophe Marchand, said Vinas had provided a statement against the French and Belgium defendants charged with going to Pakistan to volunteer to fight with al-Qaida.

Marchand denied his client was a terrorist or knew Vinas. "He never talked about meeting an American — never," the lawyer said.

Vinas' attorney, Len Kamdang, wouldn't comment, other than requesting "the public withhold judgment in this case until all of the facts become available."

A woman who answered a family phone number found in public records said she was the Vinas' mother and had not seen her son since he moved out 10 years ago at age 18.

"He's a stranger to me," she said before hanging up without giving her name.

There was no answer at the door at a family address, a two-story home with a manicured lawn and landscaping on a cul-de-sac in Patchogue, about 55 miles east of Manhattan.

Vinas' Peruvian-born father, Juan, told Newsday in a recent interview that federal agents had interviewed him. He said he didn't know where his son was.

The president of the Islamic Association of Long Island, a mosque in nearby Selden, said he recalled a "very quiet, polite, smiley" young Hispanic man called Ibrahim, who was a frequent but unassuming presence at the mosque for about a year, starting roughly 2 years ago.

He turned up four to five times a week for services but never participated in any social activities at the mosque, said president Nayyar Imam. He said Ibrahim apparently converted to Islam and changed his name before he began coming to the mosque.

Astronauts cut spacewalk short

MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. Two astronauts cut short their spacewalk and hurried back to the safety of the international space station on Wednesday after a suit problem resulted in rising carbon dioxide levels for one of the men.

Mission Control notified the crew five hours into the spacewalk that the canister for removing carbon dioxide from Christopher Cassidy's suit did not seem to be working properly. Flight controllers wanted him back inside quickly. That meant fellow spacewalker David Wolf had to go back in early, too.

Their battery replacement work outside the space station was left unfinished. Only two of four new batteries ended up being installed.

Cassidy immediately headed for the hatch. He waited there for Wolf, who was farther out on the space station. Their work site was on the far left side of the orbiting complex, along the framework that holds the huge solar wings and more than 150 feet from the hatch.

"I'm just going to sit here and I'm going to wait for Dave and enjoy the view," Cassidy said.

Both men were back inside and the spacewalk was over a half-hour after Mission Control's initial call to cut it short. It ended up lasting six hours, a half-hour shorter than planned.

It was the third spacewalk in five days for shuttle Endeavour's crew. Two more are planned, on Friday and Monday. More battery work had been planned for Friday, with a total of six new station batteries to be installed by mission's end.

Mission Control said the unfinished battery work from Wednesday would be squeezed into one of the next spacewalks.

Neither Cassidy nor Wolf — nor any of the 11 astronauts inside — sounded particularly stressed as they dropped everything and headed back in. Wolf noted that his idea for stringing safety tethers together, with minimal hookups in case of an emergency, "worked like a charm."

"Never thought we'd use it," he said as he made his way toward the hatch, hand over hand.

Until the suit trouble, the spacewalk had been progressing without any major problems, save for some stubborn bolts on the batteries. The astronauts were running behind, though, because of the difficult work. They had removed three of the 9-year-old batteries from the space station and plugged in two new ones, when they got the call to wrap it up.

These large nickel-hydrogen batteries are critical, storing the power collected by the space station's solar wings. The old batteries were launched in 2000. NASA is uncertain how long those original batteries might last and wants new ones installed before the old ones die.

The new batteries cost $3.6 million apiece.

All of the old batteries will be returned to Earth aboard Endeavour. The shuttle, in orbit for a week now, will undock from the space station on Tuesday. Landing is set for July 31.

As for the next shuttle launch, testing shows that the foam insulation on the fuel tank for Discovery looks to be attached properly. An unusual amount of foam came off the central portion of Endeavour's tank during liftoff last week, and NASA has been checking that region of Discovery's tank at Kennedy Space Center. More testing may be ordered up. Liftoff is targeted for no earlier than Aug. 21.









GOLF

Golf course plays long

DENNIS PASSA
AP Sports Writer

BRISBANE, Australia Hit a few loose shots or three-putt the first green at Nullarbor Links and you'll have plenty of time to think about your errant ways before teeing off at the second.

That's because No. 2 is 42 miles down the highway.

Billed as the world's longest golf course, Nullarbor is set to open next month — an 842-mile trek through the desolate Outback of Australia's Nullarbor Plains, starting at Ceduna in the state of South Australia and finishing at the mining town of Kalgoorlie in Western Australia.

The course is a novelty, for sure, but its organizers reckon the par 71, which includes holes borrowed from existing golf courses and others built from scratch near motels and tourist attractions, is sure to bring out the adventurous player.

"I don't think there is any two ways about it, it will be unique," Alf Caputo, the course's project manager said in a telephone interview from the western city of Perth, where he is organizing the finishing touches on the course for a planned Aug. 15 opening. "The scenery along this stretch of the Eyre Highway is unlike anywhere else in the world."

Ditto the golf course. The seven holes taken from existing golf courses include some with sand greens that are raked, oiled and then rolled to maintain their smoothness.

The first two holes are among them, and they have natural grass fairways, but the 11 holes that are being built for Nullarbor Links will have synthetic tees and synthetic greens — the most workable plan from a maintenance standpoint due to the lack of rainfall in the flat, dry land of south-central Australia.

"In between the tees and green, we'll leave it as natural terrain, although we'll clear the debris," said Caputo, a former local council member. "We'll leave trees and natural hazards there, because we don't want to do anything to affect the beautiful scenery."

The cost of the course came in at a relatively reasonable $640,000, with about a third of the funding coming in a grant from an Australian government department which promotes tourism.

"It sounds like a bit of a pipe dream, but when we checked it all out, it was so basic," Caputo says. "It doesn't involve any million-dollar spending. We had the infrastructure at some of the holes already, and we'll pass along proceeds from the green fees to the roadhouses and motels to ensure that maintenance is kept up."

When the course opens, green fees will be a modest $40. A certificate will be issued from tourism centers at Ceduna in the east and Kalgoorlie in the west to those who have their scorecards stamped for all 18 holes.

Bob Bongiorno, a former roadhouse/motel manager at Balladonia, which will host one of the holes, came up with the idea for the course.

"I first thought about it nine or 10 years ago," Bongiorno told the AP from Kalgoorlie. "I had lived on the Nullarbor for 10 years, and I always felt that people just connected east and west along our highway, and traversed the distance quickly.

"They endured rather than enjoyed the trek. They missed what I called a lot of the 'self-find' stuff along the way. The whole idea was to try to create something to slow people down, and make it part of the holiday."

So far, so good in that department. The golf course's Web site had more than 15,000 hits in the three days after word of it first appeared in local media.

The idea took shape when Caputo and Bongiorno, now good friends, sat in a bar and brainstormed "over a glass or two of red wine," Caputo said. "All good ideas come out of a glass of red, don't they?" Out of that session came the setup of the course and the thought of working with local motels and tourist attractions.

Caputo says the average group of golfers will take about four days to complete the course, which, at its most eastern point at Ceduna is 1,300 miles west of Sydney. More than 250,000 tourists annually make the trip across the hot, arid Nullarbor on the Eyre Highway, and there soon could be more: Caputo says a British travel promoter wants to put together a 10-day package which includes Nullarbor Links and topflight courses in Adelaide and Perth.

Included on the Nullarbor journey is the longest stretch of straight road on any highway in Australia. After golfers leave the par-4, 340-yard hole at the Caiguna roadhouse, they won't have to turn their steering wheels for 90 miles.

When they arrive at the next hole at the Balladonia Motel, they can take a side trip to an area commemorating the July 1979 fall to earth of the NASA research laboratory Skylab, which landed in fiery chunks around Balladonia. U.S. President Jimmy Carter is said by locals to have phoned the motel's manager to apologize, and the area's shire ranger, David Somerville, was photographed giving a NASA official a littering ticket, which the council later waived.

The next hole is a par-3, 155-yarder at the Fraser Range — home of the largest eucalyptus hardwood forest in Australia, some trees more than 100 feet tall. There's also a working sheep station nearby.

Since the holes are designed to be played from either direction, they are not numbered. So the hole at Caiguna near the long stretch of road is called Ninety Mile Straight, followed by Skylab, and then Sheep's Back.

And don't forget Caputo's and Bongiorno's favorite hole — the 19th.

"We've got a great bar at either end in Ceduna or Kalgoorlie, but the beauty of this course is that every hole has a 19th hole," says Caputo, laughing. "Some just steps from the green. How good is that?"

On the Net: http://www.nullarborlinks.com





SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 66°

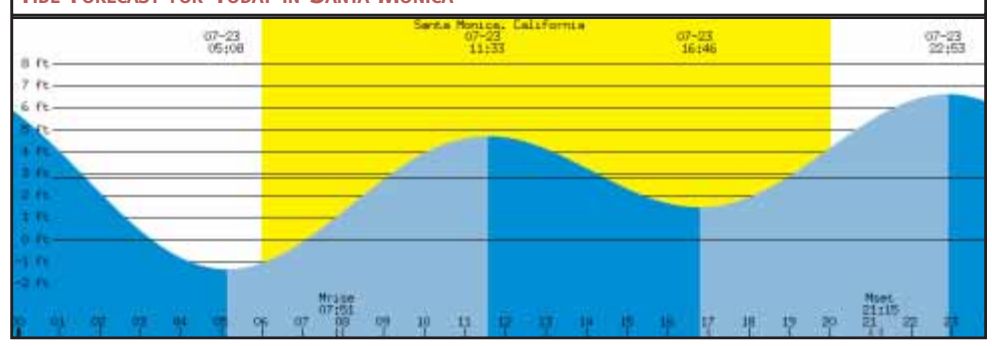
Swell Forecast (not available)

Waist to chest at south facing breaks, waist high around west facing breaks. Note that some forerunners from Friday's swell may come ashore around south facing breaks, which could cause some rogue waves now and again.

Long Range Synopsis

Head high surf is expected around south facing breaks with the better set waves running a foot or so overhead.

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 14, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 44 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / ns

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	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	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	D	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	C	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Atlantic City 1hr 44min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
12:00, 2:30, 5:05, 7:30, 10:00

I Love You, Beth Cooper (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:10 a.m., 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 2hrs 33min
11:15 a.m., 2:45, 6:15, 9:45

Blood: The Last Vampire (R) 1hr 29min
11:40 a.m., 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50

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

The Proposal (PG-13) 1hr 48 min
11:15 a.m., 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:20

Up (Digital 3-D) (PG) 1hr 36min
10:30 a.m., 1:15, 4:05, 7:10, 9:50

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
12:05, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
11:00 a.m., 2:30, 6:20, 9:45

Public Enemies (R) 2hrs 23min
11:30 a.m., 2:45, 6:40, 10:00

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 2hrs 33min
12:00, 12:45, 3:30, 4:15, 7:00, 7:45, 10:30, 11:15

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

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

Moon (R) 1hr 52min
1:50, 4:30, 7:30, 9:55

The Hurt Locker (R) 2hr 26min
1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:15

The Poker House (R) 1hr 48min
1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

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

Bruno (R) 1hr 28min
11:30 a.m., 12:30, 1:40, 2:40, 3:50, 4:50, 6:00, 7:00, 8:15, 9:10, 10:30

Away We Go (R) 1hr 37min
11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

My Sister's Keeper (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:10 a.m., 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs 3D (PG) 1hr 27min
11:20 a.m., 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG) 1hr 27min
12:20, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

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

Could be late, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Direct your high energy. Your good will counts, even if there is a disagreement. Extremes could hit when dealing with a friend. Listen to what this person shares. There might be more validity to his or her ideas than you think. Tonight: Add that dash of fun.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Once you are clear on a personal issue, you can focus on work and get a job done despite different views. Look for a unique perspective. Tonight: Close to home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Keep communication flowing. Surprises surround news. Discover new paths to perhaps the same goal. For some, finding an expert could be instrumental. One rarely hears that one has too many experts. Digest information. Tonight: Hang with a pal.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Indulge others and let them know how much they mean to you or how they facilitate your daily life. A partner could toss a lot on your plate, be it views, suggestions or information. Tonight: Pay bills first.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Your ability to bypass issues emerges once more. Whether you want to do something differently or perhaps approach a problem with new eyes, you have the skills to detach, rethink and process. Your popularity abounds. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Remain behind the scenes in an effort to recharge your view. You could be quite stunned by everything that comes out and its timing. People you associate with on a daily level will have much more information if you listen to their words. Not everything is as you think it is. Tonight: Nap and then decide.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want, and open doors. Your creativity and instincts come into play. The time is here to revise your perspectives. Tonight: Take your time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Your ability to handle a lot of responsibilities is highlighted once more. You have a style and a way that delights many. If you want to try something new, this is the time, though do understand that a last-minute problem could cause plans to change. Evaluate your priorities. Tonight: Could be late.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Detach and seek out more information. What you visualize and what you see could be very different from what you anticipated. You might ask how can you handle all this pressure. Certainly much more is going on than meets the eye. Use your intuition. Tonight: A must show.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Reach out for that partner you trust or the associate you can count on. Though you might be dealing with business matters, it is quite clear they are important to you. Tonight: Relax to a good dinner and music.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Others continue to come to you. Your ideas seem to have an additional swing or angle that normally isn't there. How you visualize a change might not be how another person does. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might be more focused on daily matters than in the past. Your ability to move past what others see as an irresolvable dilemma is easy, but you simply look at these issues as problems. Once more, you demonstrate the power of the mind. Tonight: A late flurry of activity.

Happy birthday

This year, you display enormous receptivity and understanding. You are able to incorporate many different ideas as if there is one voice. Partnerships and relationships are more important now than they have been in a while. You are able to create a better relationship at work, at home or within your bond, if that is your choice. If you are single, someone most interesting certainly could appear. Know how special this opportunity could be. LEO understands you very well.

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

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



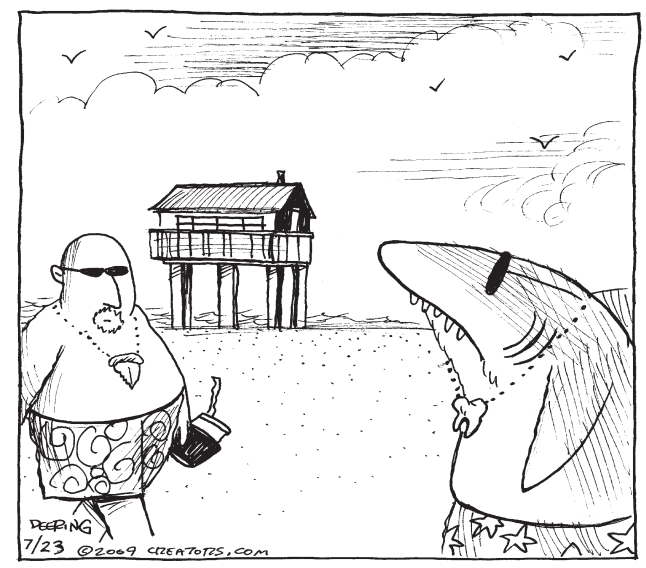
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Your Trusted Source

Adult Day Services

For more brain boosting activities, check out our Adult Day Service Center.

- Free preview day with lunch!
- Memory jogging exercises
- Fun entertainment
- Support resources

WISE & Healthy Aging

(310) 452-7802

1510 Pico Boulevard
Santa Monica, CA

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 ★★★

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Maya Sugarman *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 Mil. sch.
5 Personnel
10 Hamlet extras
12 Wistful one
13 Sheet material
14 Polygon corner
15 Fury
16 Neighbor of Germany
18 Ring competitors
20 Pen filler
21 Tina's TV co-star
23 Guitarist Paul
24 Skin hole
26 Farm crops
28 Big weight
29 Speaker's place
31 Copy
32 Lawyer's summaries
36 Horror movie sort
39 Brewery sight
40 Bring to mind
41 City on the Mohawk River
43 Become prevalent
44 Friend of Wendy
45 Market direction
46 Postmark part

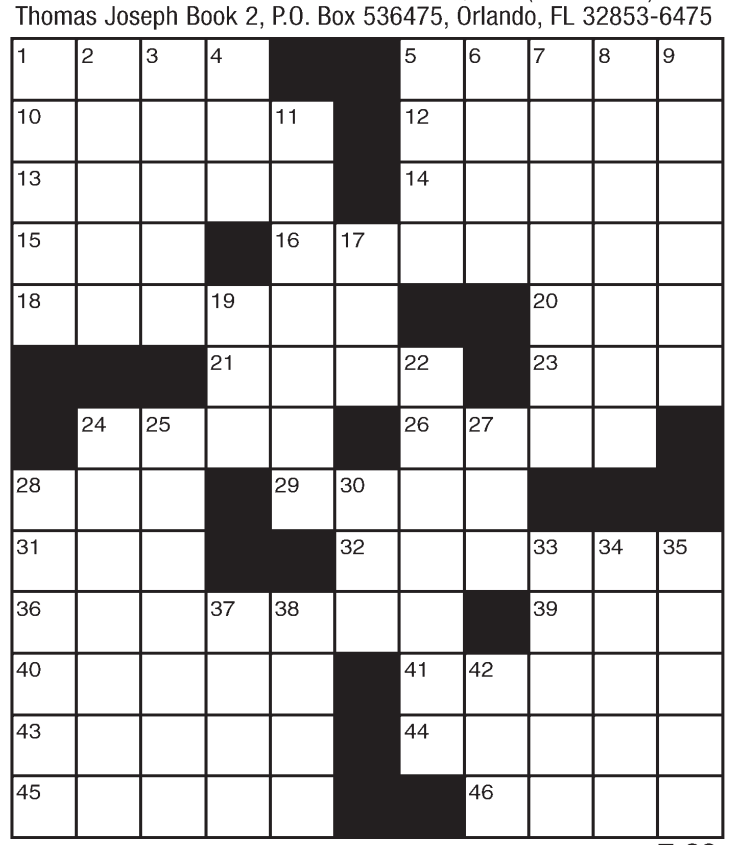
DOWN

1 Wing it
2 Capital on the Nile
3 Building wing
4 Ruby of film
5 Health clubs
6 Coloration
7 With fury
8 Cats
9 Aberrations
11 Tangled
17 Apply
19 Plug's place
22 Twitter
24 Hollow muffin
25 Limited in range
27 "Do — say!"
28 Least wild
30 Jurist Fortas
33 Juan's wife
34 Aspect
35 Fixed look
37 Tattoo site
38 Watch over
42 Slugger Williams

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

Yesterday's answer

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7-23

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 3 8 21 50 52
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: $48M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 26 31 32 43 45
Meganumber: 18
Jackpot: $8M

Fantasy 5: 4 11 13 21 29

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 9 2
EVENING: 7 0 2

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1:44.20

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The normal way that the U.S. Bureau of Prisons transfers "low-risk" inmates between institutions is to buy them bus tickets and release them unescorted with an arrival deadline. In the last three years, reported the Las Vegas Sun in May, 90,000 inmates were transferred this way, and only about 180 absconded. Though supposedly carefully pre-screened for risk, one man still on the loose is Dwayne Fitzen, a gang-member/biker who was halfway through a 24-year sentence for cocaine-dealing. (Since the traveling inmates are never identified as prisoners, Greyhound is especially alarmed at the policy.)

■ The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Prayer order in La Crosse, Wis., is now in its 131st consecutive year of around-the-clock prayer, in shifts, at its Adoration Chapel. The Sisters' ritual is based on an 1865 promise by the order's superior that if God graced their ministries with success, they would build a chapel and pray nonstop.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1885 Ulysses S. Grant, the 18th president of the United States, died in Mount McGregor, N.Y., at age 63.

1892 Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia was born.

1945 French Marshal Henri Petain, who had headed the Vichy government during World War II, went on trial, charged with treason. (He was condemned to death, but the sentence was commuted; Petain died in prison on this date in 1951.)

1952 Egyptian military officers led by Gamal Abdel Nasser launched a successful coup against King Farouk I.

1958 Britain's Queen Elizabeth II named the first of four women to peerage in the House of Lords.

1959 Vice President Richard Nixon arrived in Moscow to attend the opening of the American National Exhibition aimed at promoting U.S. life and culture.

WORD UP!

glabrous
\GLAY-bruhs\ , adjective:
1. Smooth; having a surface without hairs, projections, or any unevenness.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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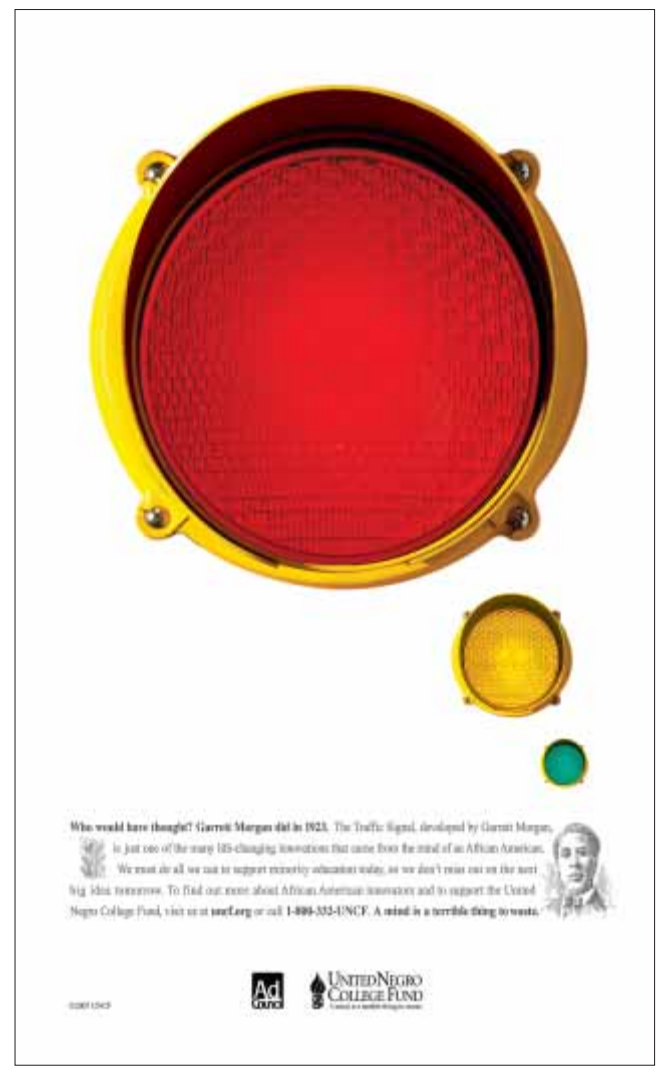
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North of Montana	$3,197,000	$1,049,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,895,000	$989,000
South of Wilshire	$899,000	$575,000
Sunset Park	$1,157,000	$744,250
Ocean Park	$1,650,000	$842,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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