



CREST KIDS CAUSE A STIR
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE SEARCH FOR MEANING ISSUE

Lighting a fire under Edison

Left in dark, businesses voice frustrations with blackouts

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN For a resident, a blackout could spell hours of inconvenience, the loss of air conditioning amid the mid-summer sun and fewer entertainment options.

But for businesses, lengthy power outages can really pinch the wallet, especially when they occur with regularity.

Business owners in Downtown Santa Monica say they're irked by the prevalence of power outages over the past two years, claiming each descent into darkness costs them anywhere from hundreds to hundreds of thousands of dollars, depending on the duration.

The costliest outage in recent years occurred last summer, when stores and restaurants were forced to close after an underground explosion took out the power supply in much of Downtown.

The owner of three motels along Ocean Avenue — Pacific Sands Motel, Best Western and Travelodge — Michael Farzam estimates he has lost hundreds of thousands of dollars from both planned and unplanned power outages over the past two years.

During outages, guests are unable to check in because the credit card machine is out of commission. If the outages last more than a few hours, the majority of guests will check out early, Farzam said.

The motel owner estimates approximately 10 unplanned outages — those that were not caused by scheduled maintenance — have occurred in the past two years. Not only are

SEE POWER DOWN PAGE 13



File photo

A DAY IN THE LIFE

VIEW FROM DOWNTOWN

Sometimes its business unusual in the city's economic hub

PHOTO ESSAY PAGE 12

Christine Chang news@smdp.com

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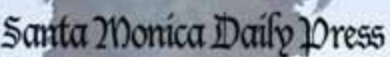
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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Sailaway on a Friday

1026 Wilshire Blvd., 9 p.m.
Sailaway Collective presents Maneja Beto, La Severa Matacera, Very Be Careful with DJ Mark Maxwell at Temple Bar. Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. For more information, visit www.templebarlive.com.

Ferocious Psychedelta Blues

1432 Fourth St., 9:30 p.m.
Harvelle's presents the Imperial Crowns. Cover charge is \$10. For more information, visit www.harvelles.com.

Molly wants to overthrow pop

575 S. Fairfax Ave., Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.
The International Pop Overthrow Festival features The Syrups, Steve Bertrand, The Procession, Carnie Wilson & Rob Bonfiglio and others. Tickets are \$10. For more information, visit www.mollymalonesla.com.

Saturday, July 28, 2007

Fashion Co-Op emerging designer showcase

1855 Main St., 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Browse and purchase the wares of more than 150 up-and-coming global designers. Tickets are \$5 at the door or \$3 with RSVP. For additional information or to RSVP, visit www.fashioncoop.com.

Friends and their special books

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library, a voluntary organization, are holding a book sale of special items in the Main Library bookstore. Sale items include art and photography books, a few first editions and signed editions, rare and old books and more. Proceeds from the sale benefit the Library.

'His Girl Friday' on a Saturday

6000 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood, gates open at 7:30 p.m.
Cinespia presents "His Girl Friday," starring Cary Grant, at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery. \$10 donation tickets available at the gate. For more information, visit www.cemeteryscreenings.com.

Bet Tzedek's 11th Annual Justice Ball

7200 Santa Monica Blvd., W. Hollywood, 8:30 p.m. — 1 a.m.
Alternative-rock band Violent Femmes ("Blister in the Sun" and "Gone Daddy Gone") will headline the Justice Ball, a fundraiser benefiting Bet Tzedek, at The Lot in West Hollywood. Tickets start at \$75. All net proceeds of the event benefit Bet Tzedek, which provides free legal services to low-income, elderly and disabled Angelenos. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the event website at www.thejusticeball.org or call (323) 656-9069.

'Thumbelina'

1900 Pico Blvd., 1 p.m. & 7 p.m.
This whimsical adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson's tale is full of puppet magic and sword fighting adventure. The cast is filled with lively characters that include a forgetful witch, a chorus of cockroaches, and a despicable, penny-pinching mole. Tickets are \$10; \$5 for children (12 and under). Children, 2 and under, are free if seated on parent's lap. For more information, call (310) 434-4393 or visit www.smc.edu/theatre.

Garden Show & Plant Sale

4117 Overland Ave., noon — 4 p.m.
The Culver City Garden Club will hold its 54th Annual Show & Plant Sale in the Veterans Memorial Auditorium. There will be a professionally-judged exhibition of homegrown plants and flowers; a Club Plant Sale booth; raffles of merchandise and gift certificates donated by area merchants; and vendors with garden-related items. Admission is free.

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.



CORRECTION:
The article "Authority on all things L.A." (July 26) should have stated that the KCRW radio program "Which Way, L.A." airs Monday through Thursday, and averages about 55,000 listeners per week. "To the Point" is heard by close to 500,000 listeners per week.

CLARIFICATION:
The article also should have stated that while Frances Anderton began work at the station as a volunteer 10 years ago, she is now a producer and on-air host with KCRW.



Reagan Wheeler news@smdp.com

IN THE WAKE: Surfboards line the sand Thursday morning, a common sight in Santa Monica during the summer, when surf camps fill the beaches.

Storming the beach

Surf's up, but not everybody's down with crowded coast

BY REAGAN WHEELER
Special to the Daily Press

SM BEACH Since being reassigned this summer to tower 26, just south of the Santa Monica Pier, lifeguard Matt Rhodes has had plenty to watch.

"It's a commercialization of the beach," Rhodes said, alluding to more than six surf camps that were lined up along the sand on Thursday. "(Many instructors are) using the state-owned beach for personal gain."

Echoing the sentiments of many season-

al sunsoakers, Rhodes, an LA County lifeguard for the past two years, charges that the beach is becoming overcrowded by the proliferation of unregulated surf schools.

Youngsters ranging in age from 5 to 17 rush in and out of the water each day, surfboards in tow, being taught how to ride the waves by local instructors who may or may not hold city sanctioned permits.

The city's grip on the nationally renowned surfline may be slipping away due to this ever-increasing number of surf camps.

In June of 2004, the Santa Monica City Council amended an existing city ordinance that required any group — whether a church or school — with more than 20 people under the age of 18 to obtain a permit through the Community and Cultural Services Department (CCSD).

Since, there have been ongoing prob-

lems with the criteria set by the ordinance, according to Barbara Stinchfield, spokesperson for the CCSD. Groups with less than 20 students or more than 20 adult students (18 and over) can operate on the beach without a permit or insurance, resulting in a perceived excessive number of surf camps on the beach.

As a result, the city seemingly has little control over the camps' safety measures, and for groups without City of Santa Monica business licenses, their business practices go largely undocumented, including what the owners pay their instructors or charge the students. Other groups that obtain a permit from the Open Space Management have a maximum capacity of 30 people and do not have to pay the city any portion of the revenue, nor do unpermitted groups have no obligation to pay

SEE SURF CAMP PAGE 14

Great barrier grief

Permanent hedge law growing on Council

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A permanent law regulating the controversial towering hedges of Santa Monica could soon be on the books.

City planners will draft a new ordinance governing hedge height and maintenance more than three years after City Hall was bombarded with complaints from residents who were cited for violating an ancient law that limited the shrubbery longitudinally to 42 inches.

In 2004, residents received a notice to clip their hedges or face a stiff fine, sparking the so-called "hedge war." The issue has since pitted neighbor versus neighbor — some arguing that hedges provide privacy, while others contend the living dividers create an uninviting environment for pedestrians.

Hedges have been regulated under an interim ordinance since 2005, which caps front yard hedges at 42 inches in height and side and rear yard hedges at 12 feet, but allowing for long-existing hedges that exceed those limits to be "grandfathered in."

The decision to move forward with a permanent law came Tuesday after City Council discussed prolonging the interim ordinance to January 2010, with a few amendments. The item was a "first reading" — when an item is open for public discussion. It would then be eligible for a "second reading" adoption, which is closed for public discussion.

Following a lengthy debate, Council moved to extend the interim ordinance, giving city planners time to write a perma-

SEE HEDGES PAGE 16



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drunk celebs are still drunks

Editor:
Alert the media: Another celebrity driving drunk on our streets (“Freaky Tuesday,” July 25).
While I feel sorry that a talented young woman (Lindsay Lohan) is determined to drink and drug herself to death, I do feel that she can afford a driver to cart her around while she does it. She has the right to kill herself, but she, or any other drunk driver, does not have the right to drive on our streets and put individuals and their children at risk.
Of course, asking someone whose brain is soaked with alcohol and drugs to see reality or make sane decisions is a joke.
Do we have to see the headline: “Lindsay Lohan kills family of five in drunk-driving rampage,” or Paris Hilton or Joe Blow? Let’s not be permissive with people who are potential killers on our streets.
I feel people who have lost loved ones to drunks behind the wheel should be the judges at their trials and their star status won’t mean a thing.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Council needs to make a move

Editor:
(Editor’s note: The following is an open letter to the Santa Monica City Council.)
Many Santa Monicans would like to see our City Council join the 80 cities around the country who have passed resolutions to impeach President Bush and Vice President Cheney.
We need to let it be known that the wonderful little city of Santa Monica believes in our Constitution, believes in upholding our system of checks and balances, believes in stopping future presidents from committing crimes and letting them go by unchallenged.
Do you, in any manner, doubt that most Santa Monicans support an impeachment resolution, support making a statement to the world that we, here in Santa Monica, value our Constitution?
Now is the time for you to stand up and censure Bush and Cheney. We need to remain proud of Santa Monica.

Marilyn Goodman
Santa Monica

A long walk on a worrisome pier

Editor:
I think it is a dirty shame that the city does not have a smooth path for people in wheelchairs, girls in high heels and baby buggies on the (Santa Monica) Pier.

Charles Grubbs
Santa Monica

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The Rand Stand

Alex Epstein

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Embrace country’s income inequality

DEMOCRAT AND REPUBLICAN
candidates for president are debating one another on nearly every issue — but nearly all are united on one thing: America faces a crisis of “income inequality.” The rich are getting richer, the refrain goes, while the poor and middle class are held back by stagnating wages, lousy schools and growing health care costs. The solution, we are told, is more government intervention: Spend more on education, provide “universal health care,” and force employers to raise wages through minimum-wage increases and union protection legislation.
But all of this outcry is based on a false premise — that income inequality is bad. While some of the problems critics point to are legitimate concerns, income inequality is not. Income inequality is a natural and desirable part of a free, prosperous society.
Criticisms of income inequality are always couched in a certain type of language. For example, it is claimed that wealthier Americans “command” an “unfair share” of our “national wealth.” Such language implies that American wealth is a communal pie that belongs equally to all of us.
But it is no such thing.
The vast wealth that exists in America has been created — through the productive activities and voluntary arrangements of individuals. And individuals do not necessarily create the same amount of wealth. Compare the value brought into existence by the entrepreneur whose productivity software is eagerly bought by millions — and the checkout clerk at a store that sells it. Such vast differences in productivity — which can be caused by vast differences in ability, work ethic, interests, skills and choices — are the root of vast differences in income.
Because all wealth is created, it rightly belongs to those who earn it (or their chosen beneficiaries) — and no one can rightly claim to deserve wealth earned by others. If someone wants to make more money, he is free to enter a new field, gain new knowledge, start a business, or do anything else to enable himself to create more value.
It is often implied that the rich get richer at the expense of everyone else — that if some get big slices of pie, the rest get only crumbs. But the exact opposite is true. Since wealth (including pie) is created, there is no limit to how much can exist — and the wealth of others cannot inhibit us from creating and enjoying our own. Further, the wealth creation of the richest Americans makes us far more productive and well-off.
Consider how the wealthiest individuals in any free economy, businessmen, make their money. The job of a businessman is to orchestrate productive enterprises that efficiently coordinate people, resources, and tools to create valuable products. Businessmen profit when they bring out valuable products at desirable prices; thus, they are continually making more, better, and cheaper products for everyone to purchase. Businessmen profit when they make others more productive;

thus, they are continually seeking to create new jobs that can add to their bottom line, and providing their workers with as many productivity-enhancing tools and technologies as they can. Businessmen’s pursuit of profit has been the driving force behind the incalculable increase in our standard of living over the last 150 years — and economic history shows that the freer they are left to make money, the greater the increase in productivity and wages at all levels.
What then explains the poor educational opportunities, growing health care costs, and stagnating wages that are real problems for many Americans?

IF SOMEONE WANTS TO MAKE MORE MONEY, HE IS FREE TO ENTER A NEW FIELD, GAIN NEW KNOWLEDGE, START A BUSINESS, OR DO ANYTHING ELSE TO ENABLE HIMSELF TO CREATE MORE VALUE.

Government policies based on the same egalitarian mentality that denounces “income inequality.” In the name of giving citizens “equal access” to education and medicine, the government has virtually taken over these fields, placing crippling controls on both producers and consumers. In the name of equalizing income, it enforces minimum-wage and anti-firing laws that make it difficult for eager newcomers to enter the job market. In the name of saving us from the alleged evils of rich, Big Business, it enforces endless regulations that apply to every business, decreasing the productivity of all and making it hard for new business ventures to succeed.
In America, equality should mean only one thing: Freedom for all. If business and wages were deregulated, we would see a dramatic rise in economic opportunity. If education and medicine were left free, with America’s businessmen, doctors, and educators liberated to offer education and medicine at all different price points, we would see quality and price improvements like those for computers or flat-panel television sets. But these benefits of freedom require that we recognize the moral right of each individual to enjoy whatever he produces — and recognize that none of us has a right to something for nothing.

ALEX EPSTEIN is a junior fellow at the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine. Contact the writer at media@aynrand.org.

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Bohemians bust humps to stay in Santa Monica

WHEN I MOVED TO OCEAN PARK IN 1976

one-bedroom apartments at the Santa Monica Shores were \$245 a month. (Today they're \$2,245!) The neighborhood was called "Dogtown," and not because people loved pooches. Consequently, the Shores always had plenty of vacancies. To attract new renters, management even staged roasted-pig luaus at the pool and encouraged residents to invite friends. (Who, clearly, couldn't be kosher.)

Ocean Park was working-class, but there were many artists and hippies. It was similar to Venice, only not so stoned. I affectionately called it "Bohemian." In 19th Century France, however, the word negatively described artists and writers who lounged in cafes and coffeehouses. I wonder what the French would have thought about all the Starbucks on Main Street?

Around 1980, property values skyrocketed and rents followed. "Dogtown" was becoming uptown. With beach cottages being replaced by condos, for landlords and contractors, it was boom town. For artists, the boom was being lowered. When Perry's Pizza became Perry's Café (complete with accent grave over the "e"), it was one more sign yuppies were replacing hippies.

With economic pressures closing in, the Bohemian class has had to be more creative. Take Danno, who earns his living in five different ways. Actually, Danno is a nickname for Dan. The only other Danno I recall was from TV's "Hawaii Five-0." Jack Lord was Det. Steve McGarrett and James MacArthur was Det. Danny Williams, aka "Danno." At the end of every episode, McGarrett would bark, "Book 'em, Danno."

I met Danno because of a column I was writing. Somewhere between the first and second draft, perhaps in the middle of the night, the computer Gods turned on me. All I know is in the morning, my computer was totally frozen. Re-booting, unplugging, and jumping up and down and pulling my hair out, didn't seem to work. (Frankly, I can't afford any more hair loss.) My files lost forever! I got on my hands and knees and prayed to a higher power, Dell.

I don't understand computers, and yet, I'm totally dependent. Between my car or my computer breaking down, I'd choose the car every time. I can always take the bus. Just as I was starting to panic, my friend, Russ, (a handyman on weekdays, cashier at the Ocean View tennis courts on weekends) gave me

Danno's business card, "The Cyberguru," computer repair. I hurriedly dialed Danno, but computer diagnosis over the phone isn't easy. I felt like I was lost and trying to get directions in a foreign language. Danno, who's anti-noise and air pollution, big oil and SUVs, is thankfully, pro "green." Thankful because he said he'd bike right over.

Sure enough, within 15 minutes, Danno arrived. I paced as doctor Danno labored over the comatose patient. (The computer, not me.) Finally, he politely asked if I'd leave the room. The truth is I was even making myself nervous. An hour later, he came out of the room and reported the patient had ... made a full recovery! Praise Dell! Praise Danno!

Not only does Danno fix computers, he's also an independent mortgage consultant, freelance loan processor, part-time casino dealer (craps, blackjack and poker) notary public, and a surf reporter. "The loan business is slow this year," Danno says, "So I work harder on my other income streams, which also gives me more time for tennis. Only in Santa Monica can you be a 'tennis bum' and still scratch out a living." Spoken like a true Bohemian.

A perfectionist, Danno is anything but lazy. A semi-typical day: up at 5:45 a.m. to take photos of the surf. Back to the apartment to upload the pics and write an accompanying description of wave conditions for a surfing Web site. Then, two hours of tennis with Suzanna, a former bodybuilder now a personal trainer. (She uses a very unusual, two-handled racket, invented by my mad-scientist friend, Lionel, another Bohemian.)

After tennis, Danno raced home for a shower and a bite to eat and then over to a client who needed documents notarized immediately. Then a frantic call from a real estate agent needing the status of a loan Danno had originated. Finally, another client whose computer wouldn't even boot up so Danno took it back to the lab, aka, his apartment.

A few hours later, voila, the computer was fixed. (Another satisfied customer can stop pulling their hair out.) Danno had just enough time for a quick catnap. But thirty minutes later, up and at em for a casino gig (black tie private party) where he dealt craps for four hours. Finally, at 2 a.m., Danno dragged himself home. The Jack of all trades, master of a bunch, was entitled to some well-earned sleep.

JACK NEWORTH can be reached at Jackneworth2003@aol.com. Danno can be reached at cyberguru@adelphia.net.



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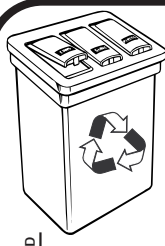
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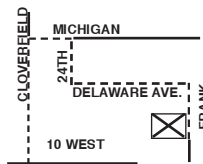
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The Q-Line

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Showtime in Santa Monica!

With so many films shot in and around our city by the sea – like the upcoming Lindsay Lohan-Shirley MacLaine vehicle 'Poor Things,' based on Santa Monica landlord-turned murder suspect Helen Golay – it's high time some movies be made based on our humble hamlet's city government.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

If you could make a film that focused on any issue related to Santa Monica, what would it be and who would you cast in the starring roles?

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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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: A Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on the following:

The Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to discuss general policy matters and issues pertaining to the City's ongoing effort to prepare new Land Use and Circulation Elements of the City's General Plan. Regular policy discussion meetings are scheduled on the first Wednesday of each month. Discussion topics are set in advance of the meeting are available at City Hall and online at www.santa-monica.org.

WHEN: Wednesday, August 1, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

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



HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

MORE INFORMATION

If you want additional information about this project or wish to review the project, please contact Jonathan Lait, AICP, Principal Planner (310) 458-8341. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours or available on the City's web site at www.santa-monica.org. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation request, please contact (310) 458-8341, or TTY Number: (310) 458-8696 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, and #8 serve City Hall. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.



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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Suspect arrested for rape on beach

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, AT 4:20 A.M.

Santa Monica Police officers responded to 1700 block of Ocean Avenue after receiving a report about a rape that had just occurred. When officers arrived, they made contact with the victim who said she was walking along the bike path from Venice when she was approached by a man. The two began talking and walked together for several minutes before the man allegedly struck the woman several times in the face, dragged her onto the beach and then raped her. The victim said the suspect then took her wallet and other belongings and ran off. She gave chase, but the suspect got away. Witnesses heard the victim screaming that she had been raped and saw the suspect. They gave a description to officers, who quickly located the suspect at the corner of Third Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. The suspect was arrested for robbery, rape and kidnapping. He was identified as Christophore Michael Ruffin, 19, a transient. His bail was set at \$100,000.

SATURDAY, JULY 21, AT 4:20 A.M.

Officers responded to the 1500 block of 26th Street regarding a burglary investigation. When officers arrived, they spoke with an employee of a local business who said they heard what sounded like someone on the roof trying to break in. Officers searched the area and found a suspect hiding on the roof. Near the suspect was 110 feet of copper piping that had been removed from an air conditioning unit. The suspect, who police believe broke into another building to gain access to the roof, was arrested and booked for burglary. He was identified as Robert Steven Sanders, 27, of Venice. His bail was set at \$20,000.

THURSDAY, JULY 19, AT 8:40 A.M.

Officers on routine patrol in the 1700 block of Pearl Street noticed a vehicle that failed to stop at an intersection. Officers conducted a traffic stop and interviewed the driver, who was driving on a suspended license. Officers towed the vehicle and, during an inventory search, discovered a gym bag containing more than 55 grams of marijuana. The suspect was arrested for driving on a suspended license and for possession of a narcotic with the intent to distribute. The suspect was identified as Karlo Joel Bantan, 21, of Long Beach. His bail was set at \$20,000.

TUESDAY, JULY 17, AT 6:20 P.M.

Officers responded to the 1300 block of Third Street – Gap – regarding two shoplifting suspects in custody. When officers arrived, they spoke with store employees who said two men walked into the Gap with a bag from Banana Republic and began browsing. Employees said the two men placed several items in the bag before walking out of the store, failing to pay for any of the items. Once outside the store, the two men were detained by store security and held until police arrived. They were booked for burglary. They were identified as Christopher Major-Middleton, 25, from Philadelphia, and Michael Louis Minter, 32. Bail was set at \$20,000 each.

SUNDAY, JULY 22, AT 11 A.M.

Officers responded to the 300 block of Colorado Avenue – Macys – regarding two shoplifting suspects in custody. When officers arrived, they spoke with store security who said two suspects walked into the department store and began browsing the aisles. One suspect went into a fitting room with several items while the other slipped an empty shopping bag under the door. Store security said the suspect in the fitting room placed clothing in the empty bag and then the two walked out of the store, failing to pay for the items. Security gave chase and the suspects were found hiding in between two cars parked in a nearby structure. The two were booked for burglary. One of the suspects was a 14-year-old juvenile. The other suspect was identified as Juan Alatorre, 18, from Los Angeles. His bail was set at \$20,000. Roughly \$300 worth of merchandise was recovered.

Staff Writer KEVIN HERRERA compiled these reports.

IF MONEY'S
BURNING A HOLE
IN YOUR POCKET,
IT'S NOT A NEW
PAIR OF PANTS
YOU NEED.



Drivers taking to open road

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

RIALTO The last stretch of brand-new freeway California is likely to see for many years opened Tuesday with motorists vying for position and the inevitable traffic jam.

Commuters clogged onramps to be among the first to burn rubber on State Route 210, a 7 1/4-mile ribbon completing a freeway that over decades pushed 80 miles east from Los Angeles through foothill towns along the San Gabriel Mountains. It now ties into cities and interstates in the growing region known as the Inland Empire.

As opening time approached, Jim Gray eased his aqua green 1997 Mustang into position while reporters swarmed and news helicopters thrummed overhead. He jockeyed for position with two women in a gray SUV who weren't shy about honking _ and wound up second in line.

Suddenly, the cones were gone and Gray floored it. Music blaring, top down, he gunned past the SUV _ which had stopped for a photo opportunity _ and sped onto the freeway at 70 mph.

As his car glided under the first overpass, Gray honked the horn, gave a passenger a high-five and promptly started calling friends and relatives on his cell phone.

"Dude, watch the news tonight! Turn on the TV now! I'm the first on the free-

way," he shouted, as a huge motorcycle passed him on the left.

Gray, a truck driver for a freight company, said he arrived at the ramp early and waited an hour to get in line.

"It paid off," he said, as he relived his moment of motoring glory. "It was a battle to see who was first. She was aggressive, but as soon as I saw the opening, I said, 'You go ahead and wave at the cameras. I'm going around you!'"

His back seat passenger, 20-year-old Tiana Colbert, shared his excitement.

"It was worth waking up for. Usually, I don't wake up for much," she said.

Officials say the freeway, first conceived in 1948, will likely be one of the last brand-new freeways to open for decades in California because of funding shortfalls and a lack of places to lay new pavement.

"We can go onto freeways and we can widen and modify and add lanes, but those freeways already exist," said Shelli Lombardo, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Transportation. "This is a brand-new freeway and you're not going to see another one of those for a substantial number of years in California."

Some people showed up two hours ahead of the opening to check out the virgin pavement.

A radio station played a skit featuring a grumpy and jealous Interstate 10, which is expected to lose some traffic to the new route.

Sen. Boxer grills EPA head over California emissions

BY ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The head of the Environmental Protection Agency refused to say Thursday whether he'd been informed of a Transportation Department lobbying campaign against a California global warming law.

"I defer to the Transportation Department," EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson repeated three times in a row as Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., peppered him with heated questions on the issue.

"I say that you are with that statement neglecting your responsibility to protect the health and welfare of the people," Boxer retorted. "I find it absolutely stunning."

Documents released last month show that as the EPA was deliberating whether to grant California a federal waiver needed to implement state regulations on tailpipe emissions, Transportation Department officials were contacting House members, senators and governors suggesting they weigh in against the waiver request.

The intervention by one federal agency with another has been condemned by Democrats as inappropriate and possibly illegal, but the Transportation Department says it was simply disseminating information.

Boxer contended Thursday that the Transportation Department's actions proved that the Bush administration has no intention of granting California's waiver request, which has been pending since December 2005. EPA has declined to say how it will

rule, and Johnson reiterated Thursday that his agency was carefully studying the issue and would decide by the end of the year.

Boxer called that "foot-dragging"; Johnson insisted it wasn't.

Under the Clean Air Act, California has special permission to implement its own pollution regulations if it gets a federal waiver. Other states can then adopt California's standards or stick with the federal rules.

In this case, California wants permission to put in place a landmark law to cut greenhouse gas emissions, mostly carbon dioxide, by an estimated 25 percent from cars and 18 percent from sport utility vehicles beginning in 2009. If California gets its wavier, a dozen other states are prepared to follow in its footsteps.

The auto industry is opposed to giving California a waiver, saying there should be one federal standard for tailpipe emissions instead of a patchwork of regulations. That's the same argument DOT officials advanced in contacting lawmakers' offices in early June, according to department documents released last month to Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., chairman of the House oversight committee.

The documents included an early June e-mail distributed to Transportation Department aides about a planned telephone conversation between Johnson and Transportation Secretary Mary E. Peters.

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Study: Obesity is contagious

BY ALICIA CHANG | AP Science Writer

If your friends and family get fat, chances are you will too, researchers report in a startling new study that suggests obesity is “socially contagious” and can spread easily from person to person.

The large, federally funded study found that to be true even if your loved ones lived far away. Social ties seemed to play a surprisingly strong role, even more than genes are known to do.

“We were stunned to find that friends who are hundreds of miles away have just as much impact on a person’s weight status as friends who are right next door,” said co-author James Fowler of the University of California, San Diego.

The study found a person’s chances of becoming obese went up 57 percent if a friend did, 40 percent if a sibling did and 37 percent if a spouse did. In the closest friendships, the risk almost tripled.

Researchers think it’s more than just people with similar eating and exercise habits hanging out together. Instead, it may be that having relatives and friends who become obese changes one’s idea of what is an acceptable weight.

Despite their findings, the researchers said people should not sever their relationships.

“There is a ton of research that suggest that having more

friends makes you healthier,” Fowler said. “So the last thing that you want to do is get rid of any of your friends.”

The study was published in Thursday’s New England Journal of Medicine and funded by the National Institute on Aging.

Researchers analyzed medical records of people in the Framingham Heart Study, which has been following the health of residents of that Boston suburb for more than a half century. They tracked records for relatives and friends using contact information that participants provided each time they were examined over a 32-year period.

In all, 12,067 people _ all Framingham participants _ were involved in the study.

After taking into account natural weight gain and other factors, researchers found the greatest influence occurred among friends and not in people sharing the same genes or living in the same household. Geography and smoking cessation had no effect on obesity risk.

On average, the researchers calculated, when an obese person gained 17 pounds, the corresponding friend put on an extra 5 pounds.

Gender also had a strong influence. In same-sex friendships, a person’s obesity risk increased by 71 percent if a friend gained weight. Between brothers, the risk was up by 44 percent and 67 percent between sisters.

Indiana University statistician Stan Wasserman said while the study was clever, it had its limitations because it excluded relationships outside of the Framingham group.

Obesity is a global public health problem. About 1.5 billion adults worldwide are overweight, including more than 400 million who are obese. Two-thirds of Americans are either overweight or obese.

Much of the recent research focus has been on the intense hunt for obesity genes involved in appetite or calorie burning. Treatment has been mainly centered on helping individuals curb their weight through better diet and fitness.

The findings could open a new avenue for treating this worldwide epidemic. The researchers said it might be helpful to treat obese people in groups instead of just the individual.

“Because people are interconnected, their health is interconnected,” said lead author Dr. Nicholas Christakis, a Harvard sociologist.

Obesity experts not involved in the research said the results back up what they have suspected all along _ that people look toward one another for what is an acceptable weight.

“If you’re just a little bit heavy and everyone around you is quite heavier, you will feel good when you look in a mirror,” said Dr. David Katz, director of Yale University’s Prevention Research Center.

Hospital worker gets 45 years for molestation

BY ALLISON HOFFMAN
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO A former hospital respiratory therapist was sentenced Wednesday to 45 years and eight months in prison for molesting five brain-damaged, comatose or otherwise non-communicative child patients and photographing others in pornographic poses.

Wayne Albert Bleyle didn’t turn to look as a succession of parents and family members spoke from the public gallery behind him during the sentencing hearing. Some wept; others shook with anger.

“I just want you to know it doesn’t matter what you say or how many years you spend

in jail it’s not going to be enough,” said Lillian Godfrey, whose daughter is now dead. “I don’t think you have a soul. You’re just an empty human shell.”

“THE ACTS MR. BLEYLE INFLICTED ... ARE A PARENT’S WORST NIGHTMARE.”

Janice Frost, mother of victim

Bleyle, who told investigators he molested as many as half the children he treated in his 10 years working in the convalescent ward at Rady Children’s Hospital, stared straight

ahead or cast his eyes down at the table in front of him.

“The acts Mr. Bleyle inflicted on my daughter ... disabled, mentally fragile, are a

photos on Bleyle’s home computer. “I was unable to protect her as a mother from a man like you.”

Frost said her daughter was under Bleyle’s care from the time she entered the long-term facility as a 10-day-old newborn suffering a brain condition.

“During her dying moments, I told her I would see this through,” Frost said outside the courtroom, as she clutched one of her three older daughters.

Frost was among four family members who spoke on behalf of children who were identified as victims in court documents. Four other parents who believe their children may have also been molested also spoke.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Global warming debate heats up

BY SAMANTHA YOUNG
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Not a single Republican voted for California's landmark global warming law when the state Senate passed it last year.

Today, the minority party is taking advantage of the law by using it as leverage during negotiations on the overdue state budget.

Republicans are upset that Attorney General Jerry Brown, a Democrat, has told at least a dozen cities and counties that they must offset the increased greenhouse gas emissions that will be a byproduct of future growth. Republicans say that will hurt cities' and counties' transportation and housing plans, and want language in the state budget to protect local governments from what they see as Brown's overly aggressive tactics.

The attorney general already has sued one Southern California county over the matter.

"The hurdle that's being put forward by the attorney general's lawsuits, we think, is something that needs to be addressed," said Sen. George Runner, R-Lancaster.

The land-use spat has emerged as one of the most unexpected and divisive points stalling passage of California's \$145 billion spending plan, which lawmakers were supposed to approve in mid-June. Democrats and environmentalists fear that what Republicans really want to achieve through the budget process is a way to weaken long-standing environmental checks on local development.

In April, Brown sued San Bernardino County — geographically the nation's largest county — for adopting a 25-year land-use plan that he said failed to address climate change and air pollution.

He has argued the same point in letters challenging housing developments in San Jose and in Yuba County, as well as regional transportation plans in Fresno, Sacramento, San Diego and Kern counties.

Brown warned the city of Richmond and Contra Costa County, both in the San Francisco Bay area, that planned refinery expansions by Chevron Corp. and Conoco Phillips would emit greenhouse gases blamed for global warming.

The dispute that surfaced last week when budget negotiations broke down is centered on a 1970 state environmental statute. Republicans question whether Brown can use the California Environmental Quality Act to demand that local governments offset greenhouse gas emissions related to future growth at the same time state regulators work to implement California's 2006 global warming law.

That law, AB32, seeks to roll back greenhouse gas emissions about 20 percent by 2025.

Republicans have argued that cities and counties are being asked to make land-use decisions years before the California Air Resources Board writes the regulations to implement the global warming law.

Democrats and environmental groups describe what Republicans want as much broader. They view the Republican proposal as an attempt to exempt developers and oil companies from offsetting their potential carbon emissions.

"What this is about is a blatant attempt to blackmail the Legislature into accepting a

wish list from the development and oil-and-gas industry," said Kassie Siegel, director of climate programs at the Phoenix, Ariz.,-based Center for Biological Diversity.

If enacted, the Republicans' proposal would stop any ongoing review of greenhouse gas emissions under the California Environmental Quality Act until Jan. 1, 2012, said Siegel, of Joshua Tree.

California's business community for years has sought relief from the state's environmental rules. It now seeks to suspend the latest trend — begun as early as 2001 but elevated by the attorney general's actions — of examining greenhouse gases as a condition of development.

In a June 21 letter to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a coalition of businesses representing the building, manufacturing and oil industries asked for "urgent legislative action" to counter what it described as "premature and unwarranted" environmental lawsuits. It further said the legal action was delaying new housing construction, transportation and oil-refining projects.

"Lead agencies under CEQA have been given no such authority, nor do they have the expertise to manage the complexity of the issue," the letter stated.

State guidelines that accompany the California Environmental Quality Act also do not reference climate change among the environmental impacts that should be analyzed under the law, said DeAnn Baker, a legislative representative for the California State Association of Counties.

"It's a matter of the cart before the horse," Baker said. "Until we have specific greenhouse gas targets and methods, it's difficult to envision how to address it."

Brown, the former governor, is following his predecessor's action on the issue.

He said local governments do not need to wait for rules under California's new global warming law. Rather, they can take steps now to lessen the effects that future developments and construction might have on global climate change, he said.

Marin and Orange counties, for example, did so before the state global warming law was enacted, Brown said. In addition, Democrats included a provision in the global warming law explicitly stating that it must not interfere with other state efforts to adopt and implement greenhouse gas emission-reduction measures.

"There's no incompatibility here," Brown said. "It's very difficult to reduce greenhouse gases, and we have to start now."

State Sen. Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, said there might be room to compromise.

Democrats have offered to support a moratorium on any lawsuits related to last year's global warming law. It would not apply to Brown's lawsuit against San Bernardino County or his written requests to other local governments.

But Steinberg said Democrats refuse to tinker with other environmental laws, including the 36-year-old environmental quality act.

"It's one thing to say, 'Let's wait for AB32.' It's another to say, 'Let's weaken the fundamental CEQA law,'" Steinberg said. "Democrats believe that CEQA and its relationship to climate change is essential."

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

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- A pre-bid job walk/conference is scheduled for August 14, 2007, at 10:00 AM in the Information Systems Department office at City Hall.

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Senator to give back land

BY RACHEL D'ORO | Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski said Thursday she and her husband will sell Alaska land back to its owner, a day after a complaint to the Senate ethics committee about the purchase of the riverfront property.

"While Verne and I intended to make this our family home and we paid a fair price for this land, no property is worth compromising the trust of the Alaskan people," Murkowski, R-Alaska, said in a prepared statement. "I cannot allow this to become a distraction from the major challenges I face in representing Alaska so we have decided to sell this property back to Bob Penney at the same price for which it was purchased."

Murkowski, who did not immediately return calls Thursday seeking further comment, has drawn widespread criticism over her purchase of land late last year along the scenic Kenai River southwest of Anchorage on the Kenai Peninsula.

Murkowski and her husband, Verne Martell, paid \$179,400 to a friend and real estate developer, Bob Penney,

for the undeveloped lot local real estate agents said could have fetched as much as \$350,000. Penney, who lives two lots from the tract he sold Murkowski and owns the land in between, has said he considered the price paid a fair deal because it was the assessed value at the time.

The National Legal and Policy Center, based in the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., filed a 25-page complaint Wednesday with the ethics Committee requesting an investigation.

"Under the circumstances, it's a very good thing to do," Ken Boehm, the watchdog group's chairman, said about Murkowski's decision to sell the property back to Penney. "The fundamental question was why was she able to get such a discount price on such a valuable property."

Boehm said he will not withdraw his group's complaint with the senate committee. He said other issues remain.

Murkowski failed to properly note the purchase in her financial disclosure report for 2006. Boehm said Murkowski also said in the same report that she had a 15-year mortgage when financing records indicate a 39-year loan with First Bank, which offers a seven-year maturity

date for loans on undeveloped land.

"There are still things that need to be looked into," he said.

Murkowski was appointed in 2002 and elected to a full term in 2004.

Separately, another Alaska Republican in Congress, Rep. Don Young, is under criminal investigation, a federal law enforcement official said Wednesday.

Part of the probe involves Young's campaign finance practices, an element that would be investigated in Washington, D.C., the official said. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

The third member of Alaska's congressional delegation, Republican Sen. Ted Stevens, has acknowledged he has been told by authorities to preserve records of a house remodeling project involving an Anchorage-based oil field service company, VECO Corp.

Young, 74 and Alaska's sole representative in the House, was first elected in 1973. Stevens, 83, has been in office since 1968. Both are running for re-election in 2008.

Southwest wants to entice more family flyers

BY BETH J. HARPAZ

AP Travel Editor

NEW YORK Can airlines do a better job of accommodating families?

That's the question Southwest Airlines is asking by experimenting with various ways to board and seat traveling families.

"We began testing about two weeks ago on all flights departing from San Antonio,"

Linda Rutherford, the airline's vice president of public relations, said Thursday. "We are testing several different ways to conduct family boarding."

Options being considered include "having designated rows for family seating; having them board with no onboard designated area, and pre-boarding them as we would normally," Rutherford said. She said the experiments would continue for a few weeks,

and that it was too early to draw conclusions.

Alison Duquette, spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration, said an airline that wanted to seat families in a separate area would not need FAA approval. "It is not a safety issue so the FAA would have nothing to do with it," she said.

David Castelveter, spokesman for the Air Transport Association, the trade organization for U.S. airlines, said the

ATA had no position on it.

A recent online Maritz survey found 73 percent of respondents said they would like to see family sections on airplanes.

The Southwest experiment follows several high-profile incidents involving passengers with children, including Kate Penland, who said she was forced to disembark because her toddler was saying "Bye-bye plane!"

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Liver, let die: Hospital pays

Over 30 patients died while waiting for new livers at Irvine facility

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

IRVINE, Calif. An attorney for liver transplant patients announced a \$7.5 million settlement of 35 cases against UCI Medical Center on Wednesday, less than two years after a federal report found that more than 30 people died over a two-year period while awaiting transplants at the hospital.

The scandal, first made public in late 2005, led to resignations among top officials at the University of California, Irvine, hospital, as well as a federal criminal investigation and calls for a state inquiry.

Plaintiffs' attorney Larry Eisenberg said a notice of settlement was submitted Wednesday in Orange County Superior Court. He said individual payouts range from \$50,000 to more than \$1 million.

The university issued a statement saying it made a commitment to resolve the transplant litigation "in a reasonable and responsible manner" through mediation. It

did not discuss the announced settlement.

"There is still ongoing mediation, a process which in and of itself is confidential," it said. "Until all claims have been evaluated through this process and mediation is complete, we are not in a position to make any further comment."

The school's liver transplant program first came under scrutiny by health care regulators in 2003 because the number of transplants was below minimum levels and patients were dying at higher than expected rates.

and June 2004 far below the federal requirement of 77 percent.

In 2004, university officials met with regulators from the United Network for Organ Sharing. The officials told the network they had hired a new transplant surgeon and persuaded the network to allow UCI's program to continue.

Between 2004 and 2005, however, 33 more patients died while waiting for livers, even as the hospital turned down organs that might have saved some of them. UCI received 122 liver offers between August

blamed high turnover among medical staff, lack of interest and oversight by campus leaders and the fact that the two transplant surgeons lived in San Diego, some 90 miles away, for the failures. The program also failed to effectively recruit new surgeons, the panel found.

Eisenberg said about 15 cases remain to be settled. He said of the 35 plaintiffs who settled Wednesday, only 10 are still alive. Many died before the federal report was made public, but at least two people died during the litigation, he said.

A review of 50,000 pages of subpoenaed hospital records indicated that in some cases donor organs were available but patients didn't receive them because there was no surgeon available. In other cases, he said, the hospital couldn't perform the surgery and instead listed the patient was too sick for a transplant.

Eisenberg said people who needs transplants often don't ask the right questions of transplant program coordinators because they are so desperate to be put on a waiting list.

"They are so fearful, they just want to get on the list, get in a program," he said. "They don't want to be troublemakers."

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

THEY ARE SO FEARFUL, THEY JUST WANT TO GET ON THE LIST, GET IN A PROGRAM, THEY DON'T WANT TO BE TROUBLEMAKERS."

Larry Eisenberg, Plaintiff's attorney

2004 and July 2005 but transplanted just 12, according to federal records.

Federal officials from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid withdrew certification in November 2005, prompting UCI to shut down its program.

An independent review by a committee appointed by the university's chancellor

The federal scrutiny came, in part, because of a \$50,000 settlement the hospital made with Elodie Irvine, a woman who waited four years for a transplant before going elsewhere.

Investigators found that UCI's program had a one-year survival rate of 68 percent to 70 percent between July 2001



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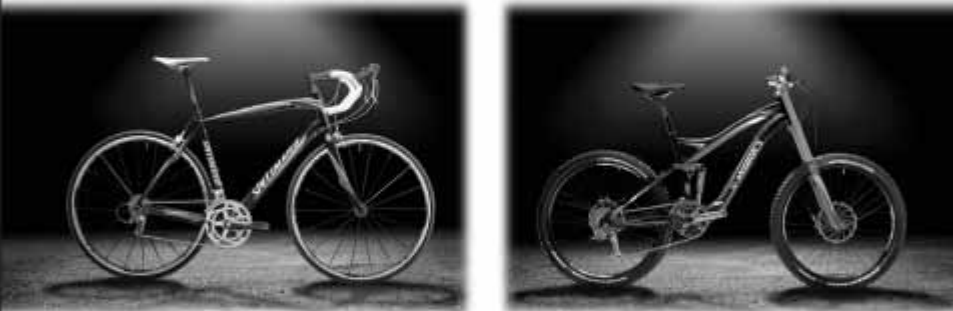
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A DAY IN THE Life

A weekly slice of life culled from one of Santa Monica's seven neighborhoods, "A Day in the Life" turns the focus on the everyday and thrusts the oftentimes overlooked into the spotlight.

D O W N T O W N

W E D N E S D A Y , J U L Y 2 5 , 2 0 0 7



All photos by Christine Chang news@smdp.com

EVERYTHING'S WAITING FOR THEM: (Clockwise from top left) Fresh flowers purchased at the Downtown Farmers' Market rise to greet the summer sun; Brandon Hershfield enjoys his summer camp outing to Pacific Park, opting for air time on The Sea Dragon, a swinging wooden ship that swivels on a 180-degree arc; a wooden fish sculpture outside Hamilton Gallery on Ocean Avenue; Sylvia Zimmerman and Ethen Cline talk it over in Palisades Park. 'When we can we take the bus here from our retirement home, it's lovely,' Zimmerman said; Simon Gaspar prepares to transport loads of strawberries from the Farmers' Market on Arizona Avenue to The Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel, where they will serve as a hotel amenity.



Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II/Daily Press

URBAN OUTSIDERS: An Urban Outfitter employee explains to would-be shoppers that they must stand in line before entering the Third Street store during a power outage last summer.

Business owners say circuits are outdated

FROM POWER DOWN PAGE 1

they costly in terms of lost guests — many of whom won't return — the blackout becomes a liability and safety issue, Farzam added.

"I think it is unacceptable," Farzam said.

A visual effects company for film and television, Lola Visual Effects relocated from Montana Avenue to Second Street more than a year ago. There's been seven to 10 power outages since, according to producer Thomas Nittmann.

The company has since brokered a deal with a generator company to receive a generator within two hours of a blackout. An outage costs the firm at least \$4,000 a day — the costs to rent and fuel the generator.

Still, the biggest cost may be the embarrassment of canceling appointments with clients because of an outage, Nittmann said.

Many business owners pinpoint the problem to the Suntower circuit — one of 13 distribution circuits in Downtown Santa Monica, serving more than 21,000 total customers.

Bola Ayorinde, the district manager for Southern California Edison, said this week that the infrastructure in Downtown Santa Monica is old and many of the circuits are aging. Outages are the result of a number of issues, including third party infractions, weather and age. Some outages occur when a car hits a pole, he added.

One of the largest utility companies in the country, and the only power provider in Santa Monica, Southern California Edison is in the midst of a \$9 billion system-wide infrastructure replacement project, spanning five years, from 2005-10. It includes improvement in Santa Monica.

In Downtown Santa Monica, there was an average of .21 to 1 power outages per customer in 2006, averaging a duration of about 13 to 342 minutes per client, according to statistics compiled by Edison.

But business owners, particularly the unfortunate ones serviced by the infamous Suntower, contend that power outages were much more frequent. Jeff King, the chair of the King Seafood Company, which owns iCugini and Ocean Avenue Seafood restaurants in Santa Monica, estimates an average of four blackouts each year. For the King Seafood Company, that means eight blackouts in Santa Monica — one for each restaurant.

DARK DAYS AHEAD?

Downtown business owners vented their anger to local Edison representatives during a community outreach meeting on Tuesday at

iCugini, the restaurant filled with tension as the agitated owners — some with their arms crossed and brows lowered — demanded answers. The meeting was hosted by the Bayside District Corporation, a private/public management company that oversees Downtown Santa Monica, the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and iCugini.

The business owners in attendance complained of a blackout just two weeks ago.

"My goal in following this meeting is to never have another blackout again," King said.

The blackouts have cost the King Seafood Company about \$80,000 in losses of revenue every year, King said. But the "tip of the iceberg," in King's opinion, is having to explain to a party of 35 customers why it can't be served because there's no electricity.

Ayorinde and Mark Olson, the local representative for Edison, spoke about the different types of outages — such as scheduled maintenance blackouts and circuit breaches — as well as the recent upgrades since July 2006 and future improvements.

"We're here to restore confidence in the system," Olson said.

The company has replaced more than 3,000 feet of underground cable near the Ocean Avenue, Main Street and Santa Monica Pier area, as well as eight underground transformers and 31 underground switches. In store for the future is the replacement of 13 poles and 25,000 feet of cable by 2010.

But that wasn't enough for the business owners who appeared frustrated and claimed that the Edison representatives were skirting questions about whether they've identified the problem and found a solution. That is why the business owners came to the meeting, one person commented.

The Edison representatives were asked to come talk about the power outages in the Bayside District, not just one specific circuit, Olson said, referring to questions about replacing the Suntower circuit.

The problem in Downtown is not just caused by one circuit and focusing efforts on just fixing the Suntower circuit would not be the best response to the problem, Ayorinde said after the meeting. Rather, Edison officials have to focus on Downtown in general, adding that the Suntower is not the worst performing circuit in the city.

If Edison were to work straight through the problem, it could take months, Ayorinde estimated.

"We have to space out the work," he said.

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Happy 5th Birthday Kate Kurdziel



Reagan Wheeler news@smdp.com

BALANCING ACT: A growing number of surf camp students are in the water, raising concerns about safety and oversight.

Surf camp credibility called into question

FROM SURF CAMP PAGE 3

the city. Only city-contracted schools are required to pay the city.

“It’s my understanding from both our staff and the chief life-guard that the problem has intensified,” said Stinchfield. “The number of camps is becoming a serious problem.”

Mary Setterholm, the owner of Surf Academy, which has camps in Santa Monica and Huntington Beach, agrees. Setterholm said the groups digging in near tower 26, and elsewhere on the beach, to teach tikes surfing are ripping off the city.

“I’m happy to pay the city, because I’m doing what’s right,” Setterholm said. “Groups that are publicly traded are not paying the city.”

Publicly shared companies typically pitch their tents near tower 26, just south of the renowned Santa Monica Pier. Since 2002, Setterholm has been setting up shop a mile south of the pier in order to give space to local swimmers and surfers. She feels the public is getting the short end of the stick, besieged by the surf camps.

“I don’t want surf schools in the local spots,” Setterholm said. “If they gave me a spot at 26, I’d refuse it.”

South of the Pier, down to tower 29, crowds of local surfers and tourists come to soak up the sun each day.

On Thursday, most sunbathers seemed unconcerned with the abundance of surf camps doling out lessons. One beach-goer was actually entertained by the surf camp being held at tower 20.

“I think it’s cool,” said Kelli Meziani, of Salt Lake City. “I think it’s entertaining to watch the kids learn to surf.”

The proliferation of surf schools and their prime locations may represent just a part of the problem. Another

aspect that needs to be addressed, according to Stinchfield, is the process in which permits are given to instructors. The County of Los Angeles assigned the City of Santa Monica just three surf sites on the state beach.

The permits are given out on a first-come, first-served basis. No criteria regarding a surf school’s credibility is in place, Stinchfield said.

Setterholm contends someone’s plumber could get a permit if he or she applied first.

Pushing the city to come up with a more “rational and planned” process for permits for several years has been Pat Murphy, owner of Learn to Surf LA. In a letter to the City Council in 2006, Murphy wrote that the current process has created “an environment in which it is very difficult for operators to run a successful and viable surf school.”

“Whether it’s Charles Manson or (surfing champion) Kelly Slater running the camp, the city does not seem to care who’s running it,” Murphy said.

Murphy, who has an Open Space permit, said Thursday that a better measure would look at a school’s track record, adding that he has built up relationships with parents and students over the past six years.

“Breaking and re-establishing relationships each year would be hard,” said Murphy.

Surf school operators don’t know from one year to the next if they will have a permit for the upcoming surf season. Permits for the 2007 season were determined less than three months before the effective permit period. In 2006, the permits were granted only two months in advance. For instructors like Murphy, setting up a business or making

SEE SURF CAMP PAGE 16

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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 70°

SWELL FORECAST (3-4 FT)

Today it looks like the SW swell will fade but there should be enough remnants coming in from other southern hemi activity as well as Tropical Storm Dalila to keep at least waist to—at times—chest high waves around south facing breaks. NW wind swell is expected to drop to knee to waist high.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SWELLS FADE INTO WEEKEND...
SMALL SOUTHERN HEMIS NEXT WEEK...

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, 2007

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QUICK STATS

(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills — 1

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 3

Number of wet days — 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 42 / ns

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

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns	W.H. Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	W.H. Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachua and Los Aliso creeks	A+	ns	W.H. Rogers State Beach at Tennesseal Canyon drain	C	ns
Enclave Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns	W.H. Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chantrelle)	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	B	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wilshire Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	ns
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	A	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A+	ns
Lorigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	ns
Saltonia Canyon at San Diego County Beach	A+	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A	ns
Pierro State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A	ns
Malibu Canyon storm drain at Pierro Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	D	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Sunridge Beach at Malibu Canyon fence	A	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	B	ns
Sunridge Beach (beach location)- daily	A	ns	Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	ns	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	B	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (joint zone)	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 15948 PCN stairs	A+	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pine Creek at Los Tunes County Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D.W. jettty)	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hypanion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns			
W.H. Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCN (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A	ns			

LEGEND

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

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

ns — no sample taken

Heal the Bay 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

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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.

City defending outreach effort

FROM HEDGES PAGE 3

nent law. A draft is expected next winter.

The amendments would streamline the appeals process and require owners of grandfathered hedges, which are legal yet noncompliant, to register their hedges by Nov. 15.

The discussion dragged on for hours due to the considerable number of residents who spoke — 18. Many came with stories of why they favor or oppose tall hedges.

“It really shouldn’t be in the city’s domain to tell us to lower our fence when it’s really not hurting anyone,” said Seaview Terrace resident Suzanne Brogger.

Brogger said she wants to shield her children from the homeless issue in her Ocean Park neighborhood, having already caught a homeless man shaving his chest her front steps recently.

The hedges on the property are not even that tall, standing at 15 inches, Brogger said.

“(Hedges) look quite lovely and it keeps my children safe,” she said.

Sunset Park resident Monika Bialas said she used to have a view of Catalina Island, since replaced with a view of a 40-foot tall ficus tree.

Many speakers complained they didn’t receive enough notice of the discussion item, requesting the council extend the public hearing to a later meeting. Some residents questioned why the item came up in the summer when so many people are out of town.

Planning and Community Development Director Eileen Fogarty said her staff went above and beyond notifying residents, sending out 1,000 mailers and placing two newspaper ads.

The interim ordinance was set to expire on Sept. 30, and if the council waited until after the summer, those who had registered their grandfathered hedges would have lost protection.

The registered grandfathered hedges will carry over into the permanent ordinance, Fogarty said.

“We brought it up to make sure nobody lost grandparenting (status),” Fogarty said.

Santa Monica resident Leah Mendelsohn recalled a previous City Council meeting in which it was suggested that September would be an ideal time to discuss the interim ordinance. Rather than setting the Sept. 30 expiration date back in February, Council should have instead set it for November, Mendelsohn said.

“I am very surprised this meeting happened in July,” Mendelsohn said. “We do not have most people here to address the issue.”

melodyh@smdp.com

‘Pirate’ surf schools pose threat to permitted classes

FROM SURF CAMP PAGE 14

themselves well known in the community has become very difficult.

THE NUMBERS GAME

Lifeguard Rhodes feels “there are just too many” camps on the Santa Monica beach. Rhodes’ tower is a popular spot for “pirate” schools to hold camps.

“I’ve definitely gotten complaints from parents and surfers, mainly about the overcrowding,” Rhodes said.

A father and son out surfing on Thursday, who asked not to be identified, seemed happy to see the kids learning the sport, but expressed that it might be unsafe, especially if the instructors don’t know what they’re doing.

Another local surfer, Gary Robbins, who has been riding the waves in Santa Monica off and on for the last 40 years, didn’t have any complaints about the camps or the large number of kids on the water.

“I think it’s good for the kids and the sport,” Robbins said. “It’s summertime and their entitled to it.”

Aqua Surf School spokesperson Michelle Casillas refused to comment on the status of her school’s permit, stating that only nine kids were out with the school Thursday — legal under the city ordinance.

SAFE SURFING

Safety on the beach and in the water is of major concern for camps like Surf Academy, Islands Surf Camp and Learn to Surf L.A. Representatives with each claimed to have liability insurance and teach their students the etiquette of surfing before actually getting their feet wet.

Das Jesson, owner of Islands, stresses that he only uses top of the line equipment and that his instructors are in the water with students all day, guiding them in from big waves and teaching them how to catch the best waves.

“There is a 3:1 ratio of kids to instructors at my camp,” Jesson said. “My instructors are all experienced surfers, either on their high school or college surf teams.”

Jesson’s camp is “the number-one camp in Santa Monica,” according to Rhodes, adding that Jesson may be experienced and qualified to teach surfing, but not all instructors in Santa Monica have the same level of expertise.

Surf Academy’s Setterholm is not only concerned with the safety measures being taken at the beach on the days of the camps, but also with the lack of the city’s investment as to whether the instructors are qualified. With no actual testing of the instructors surfing capabilities, City Hall’s Open Space Management Division has no idea who can actually surf.

“There’s no certification and there should be,” said Setterholm, a 1972 U.S. Women’s surfing champion. “It’s not about the bucks, it’s about safety and knowing the basics.”

“Get the surf instructors out there in the water and see if they can flipping surf.”

news@smdp.com

Star struck

Oscar-winner Damon earns spot on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

When **MATT DAMON** and pal Ben Affleck were struggling actors, they lived in a modest apartment near Hollywood Boulevard.

Damon said he used to look at the stars on the boulevard sidewalk and dreamed of seeing

ETTA JAMES HOSPITALIZED

ETTA JAMES was in stable condition Thursday after being hospitalized for complications from abdominal surgery she had last month, her manager said.

The singer was being treated at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

"Her condition is stabilized" but she had to cancel upcoming tour dates with B.B. King and Al Green, her manager, Lupe De Leon, said in an e-mail.

De Leon did not indicate when James was admitted but said the hospitalization was caused by "post-op complications" from her mid-June surgery.

AP

his name on one of them someday. So when it came time to receive one Wednesday, Damon reacted with disbelief.

"A few times in my life I've had these experiences that are just kind of too big to process and this looks like it's going

to be one of those times," Damon said during a Hollywood Walk of Fame ceremony attended by his wife, mother and a throng of screaming fans.

The star of upcoming thriller "The Bourne Ultimatum," then gave a

nod to his hometown baseball team.

"I'm thankful the Red Sox are in first place," said Damon, who grew up in the Boston area.

Damon, 36, won a screenwriting Oscar with Affleck in 1998 for "Good Will Hunting." He

has also starred in "The Departed," "The Good Shepherd" and the "Ocean's Eleven" franchise. He stars as the amnesiac assassin Jason Bourne in "The Bourne Identity" and its two sequels.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Country singer has the blues

MINDY MCCREADY was in jail Thursday, accused of violating probation on a 2004 drug charge after a scuffle with her mother and authorities in Florida.

The 31-year-old country singer was taken into custody Wednesday at Nashville International Airport and booked into the Williamson County jail just south of Nashville.

She was arrested last week in Fort Myers, Fla., her hometown, on misdemeanor charges that she scratched her mother on the face during a scuffle and resisted sheriff's deputies.

McCready is not yet scheduled to have a bond hearing, Williamson County Circuit Court clerk officials said Thursday. A hearing on charges of violating her probation is set for Sept. 7.

Deputy District Attorney General Derek Smith said McCready violated probation in three ways: by being charged in a new offense; not reporting those charges immediately to her probation officer; and by the nature of the new assault charges.

She could serve up to three years in prison if convicted of violating probation.

Her previous attorney, Lee Dryer, said he doesn't know if McCready has a new lawyer. He withdrew last month after filing a petition saying the singer had failed to meet "contractual obligations" or effectively communicate with him.

Dryer declined to go into greater detail.

"I wish her well, and I hope she comes out of this OK," he said.

McCready was on probation after receiving a suspended three-year sentence for obtaining the painkiller OxyContin at a pharmacy in 2004 by get-

ting a prescription in another person's name.

Still pending is another probation violation charge against McCready resulting from a drunken driving arrest in May 2005.

McCready had a hit in 1996 with "Guys Do It All the Time," but has struggled in recent years amid personal problems.

She was found not guilty of the DUI charge in July 2006 but guilty of driving on a suspended license. She then pleaded guilty to violating her probation but has petitioned to withdraw that plea.

AP

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

Happy Birthday!

Your year presents interesting challenges, professionally and personally. Someone close to you might start acting quite strange. Ride this transformation out. Use care with buying cars, computers or any machinery involving communication. Be willing to blaze a new trail and make needed changes to your day-to-day life. If you are single, be wary of a relationship that enters your life at this time. This person has some deep-rooted issues. If you are attached, often communication could be difficult. CAPRICORN is an anchor.



Born Today

Professional wrestler Triple H (1969)

Figure skater Peggy Fleming (1948)
TV producer Norman Lear (1922)

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Take a deep breath. What was light and frivolous could suddenly become a responsibility in the next few months. The key is not to make any decisions until fall, especially about partnership matters. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Venus, your planetary ruler, does a backward jig. Understand that in the following weeks and months, you could be out of sorts. The smart Taurus will observe, think and make decisions later. Be smart! Tonight: Take off for a mini retreat.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ You have a way of handling matters that sometimes confounds others. Do try to be clear, especially with children and loved ones. A creative project could take another twist or turn once more. Hang in there. Tonight: Go with another's choice.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Know when to do nothing and head in a new direction. You might be full of energy, but just the same, allow others to have more say. You all will be happier that way. Investigate news with a cynical eye. Tonight: Say "yes."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Listen and absorb the obvious. Sometimes you might not like what occurs within a friendship or interaction. At this moment, focus on clearing out as much as possible so you can enter the weekend happy and carefree. Tonight: Wind down with a friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ A risk might appear like a sure bet, but there is just no such thing. Restrain yourself from going overboard, or you could have a problem at the last minute. Tonight: Trigger fun, and everyone will enjoy themselves.

Listen up, Scorpio

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Questioning your limits might be important, but so is understanding what needs to happen. You could be out of skew for several months, as your ruler does a backward jig. Slow down and curb impulsiveness. Tonight: Be happy to be at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ You mean what you say and say what you mean. The problem lies in that others might misunderstand. Try to walk in their shoes and gain insight. Keep communication flowing; listen and listen some more. Tonight: Hang out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Your ability to see beyond the obvious is a gift. Right now, don't indulge yourself, and live in the present. A little more skepticism will take you far. Tonight: Treat a friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Your smile draws many people. Be sure you want what they are offering, because you will witness the effects of what others offer. If you don't like someone or a situation, back out. You can still do that gracefully. Tonight: As you wish.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ You might be taking a leap of faith and moving a project in a totally new direction. What was impossible now could become probable if you remain open. You see life with renewed interest, though you might choose to keep most of your perceptions to yourself. Tonight: Vanish once more.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Hold back and keep your opinions to yourself, especially if others seem a bit strange or out of sorts. You are entering a very insightful few months where you get to see others under pressure. Tonight: Follow your friends' lead.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Fast Times at Ridgemont High (R)
7:30

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-1506

Live Free or Die Hard (PG-13)
1:30, 4:25, 7:30, 10:25

Sicko (PG-13)
1:25, 4:15, 7:15, 10:05

The Simpsons Movie (PG-13)
10:30am, 1:00, 3:20, 5:55,
8:20, 10:45

Transformers (PG-13)
11:55am, 3:05, 6:30, 9:50

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

Hairspray (PG)
11:20am, 12:30, 2:10, 3:25,
5:00, 6:20, 7:50, 9:15, 10:45

Knocked Up (R)
11:05, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:40

No Reservations (PG)
11:10am, 1:50, 4:25, 7:00,
9:40, 12:05am

Ratatouille (G)
DLP-Digital Projection
11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10,
10:00

The Simpson Movie (PG-13)
12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15,
12:15am

Transformers (PG-13)
12:45, 4:00, 7:30, 10:55

Landmark Nuwiltshire
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Sunshine (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45

Talk to Me (R)
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00

LAEMMLE'S MONICA
FOURPLEX
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Arctic Tale (G)
11:00am, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45,
8:00, 10:15

Goya's Ghosts (Los Fantasmas de Goya) (R)
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

La Vie en Rose (La Mome) (PG-13)
1:20, 4:45, 8:10

Rescue Dawn (PG-13)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

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

1408 (PG-13)
11:40am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG-13)
DLP-Digital Projection
11:50am, 3:10, 6:30, 9:50

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG-13)
11:10am, 12:30, 2:20, 3:40,
5:20, 7:10, 8:20, 10:20

I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (PG-13)
DLP-Digital Projection
12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30

I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (PG-13)
11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
SILVER

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Friday 8:30am-5pm
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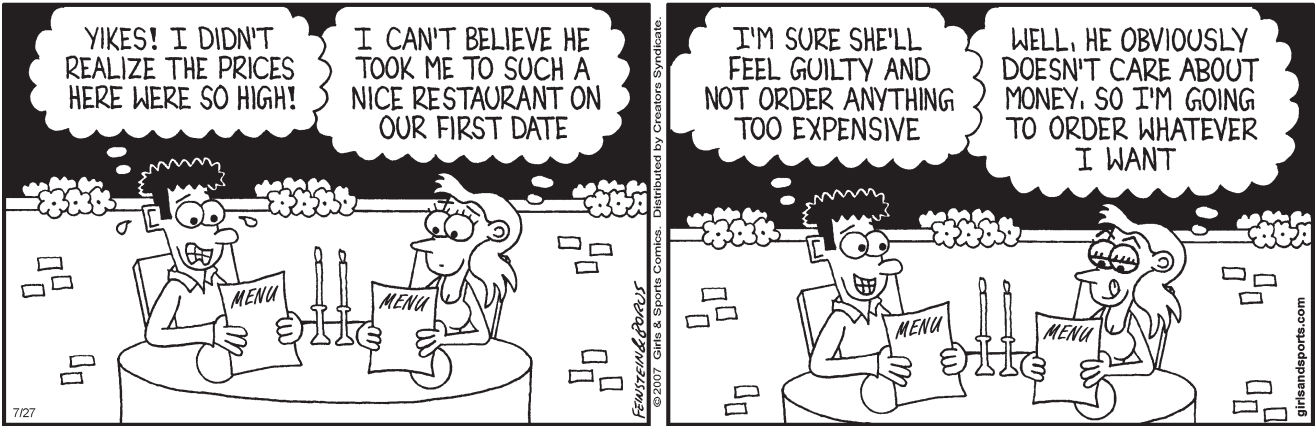
Frank D. Wilson, Agent
Insurance Lic. #: 0164884
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Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm

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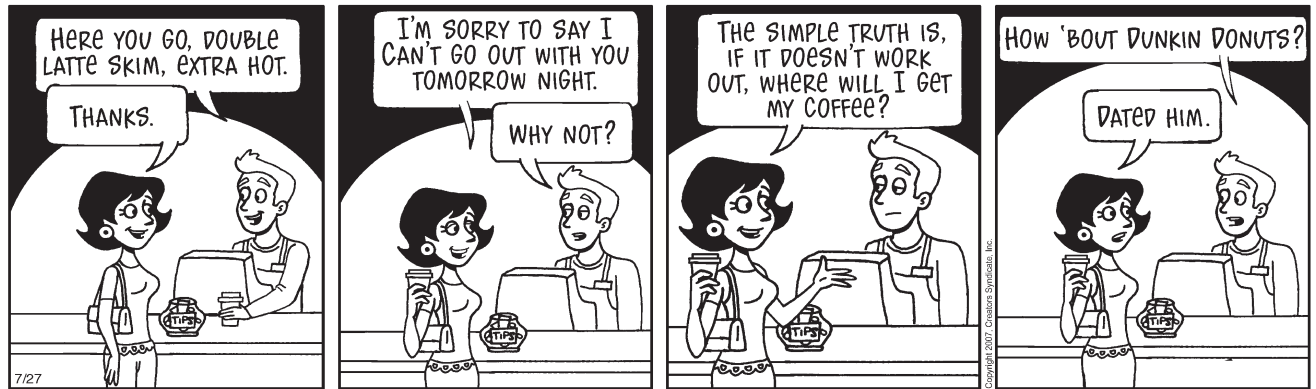
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

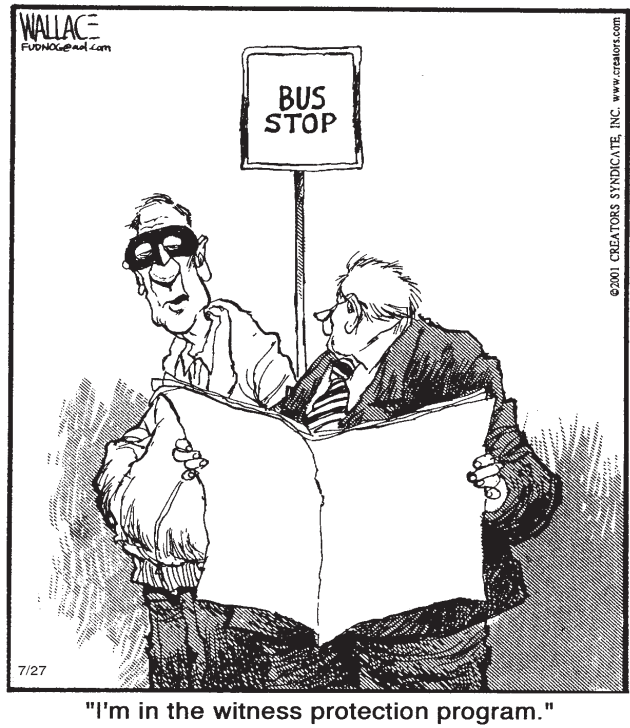


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



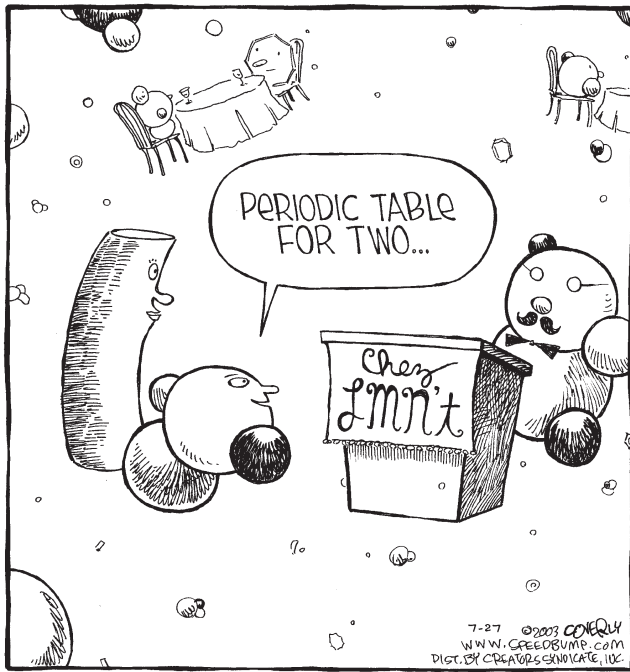
Natural Selection

By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Structure
5 Defeat
9 "M. Butterfly" star
11 Lazy sort
13 Brothers' boss
14 River from Dijon
15 Hitch
16 Dish, perhaps
18 Coxswain's count
20 Hall of Famer Williams
21 Disperse
22 Elongated fish
23 Rufous
24 Meadow cry
25 City on the Skunk
27 Coot's home
29 Clay's cousin
30 Fine wool fabric
32 Ahead
34 Fighting
35 Search thoroughly
36 Love, in Lombardy
38 Engaged

39 Mike

- holders
40 Vortex
41 Elevated poems

DOWN

- 1 Orders
2 Planet paths
3 Noted actor/director
4 Letters on a "6" button
5 Catalogs
6 Nantes notion
7 Noted actor/director
8 Boxer's home
10 Backed
12 Goes through the paper
17 Modern
19 Mineral sources
22 Hearing aids
24 Drinker's debt
25 Buggy occupants
26 City of Indiana
27 Wk. start
28 "Tommy, can you —?"
30 Prolix
31 Getup
33 Lamented
37 Holstein comment

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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			

7-27

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
8 17 20 23 50
Meganumber: 17
Jackpot: \$55M

Super LOTTO
12 19 27 43 44
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: \$45M

Fantasy 5
12 15 17 32 36

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

DAILY DERRY
1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:44.70

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

News of the Weird first mentioned "Breatharians" in a 1999 report, referring to people who claim to subsist on only water, air and sunlight, even though there is scant proof of their self-denial and utterly no scientific evidence that humans can live beyond a few weeks on such a diet. In June, London's Daily Mail profiled German Michael Werner, who claims not to have eaten (except for fruit juice, coffee, wine and an occasional grape or nut) since 2001 yet is active and appears robust at 6-feet-2 and 175 pounds, attributing his success to a hunger-ignoring state of mind. The two most famous Breatharians (Australian Ellen Greve and American Wiley Brooks) were both later exposed in the press as having sneaked food on the side.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1794 French Revolution: Maximilien Robespierre is arrested after encouraging the execution of more than 17,000 "enemies of the Revolution."

1866 The Atlantic Cable is successfully completed, allowing transatlantic telegraph communication for the first time.

1921 Researchers at the University of Toronto led by biochemist Frederick Banting announce the discovery of the hormone insulin.

1940 A Wild Hare is released, introducing Bugs Bunny.

1953 Korean War ends: The United States, People's Republic of China, and North Korea, sign an armistice agreement. Syngman Rhee, president of South Korea, refuses to sign but pledges to observe the armistice.

1974 Watergate Scandal: The House of Representatives Judiciary Committee votes 27 to 11 to recommend the first article of impeachment against President Richard Nixon: obstruction of justice.

1981 British television: On Coronation Street, Ken Barlow marries Deirdre Langton, which proves to be a national event, with massive viewer numbers earned for the show.

1996 Centennial Olympic Park bombing: In Atlanta, Georgia, a pipe bomb explodes at Centennial Olympic Park during the 1996 Summer Olympics, killing one and injuring 111.

2002 Ukraine airshow disaster: A Sukhoi Su-27 fighter crashes during an air show at Lviv, Ukraine killing 85 and injuring more than 100 others, the largest air show disaster in history.

WORD UP!

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AT THE 11TH HOUR - a decisive moment! Humanity faces enormous crises. British author Benjamin Creme offers a message of hope. Hear about a golden future: SATURDAY AUGUST 4, 7:30PM (FREE) DoubleTree Guest Suites, 1707 4th St, Santa Monica. Information: 888-242-8272 www.share-international.org

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