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TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 227

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER ISSUE

AHEAD OF SCHEDULE
SEE PAGE 12

City Hall trying to stop pigeons from pooping

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

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

CITY HALL One of the biggest polluters of the Santa Monica Bay, pigeons could soon lose easy access to their toilet.

The City Council tonight is expected to approve a $107,758 contract with Bird Busters to install a net directly beneath the Santa Monica Pier where pigeons roost and frequently defecate, creating challenges for City Hall to meet bacterial levels set forth by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

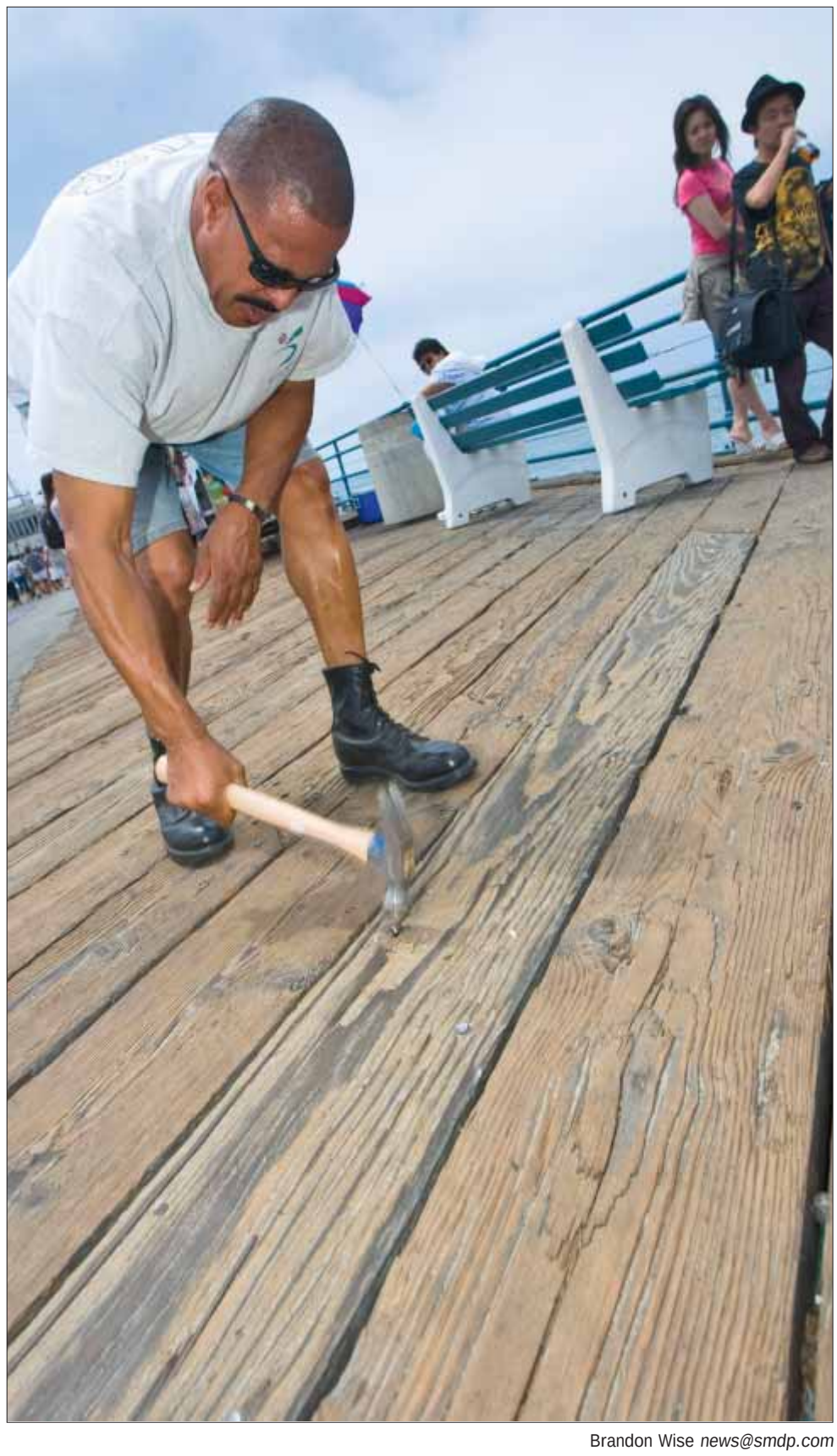
The contract is part of an estimated $1.8 million spending package that includes everything from a redesigned Web site for the Big Blue Bus to structural engineering for the new CityTV studios.

City officials said they believe that installing the net and thereby eliminating the roosting sites beneath the pier will reduce bacteria pollution caused from pigeon feces. A consultant hired last year to evaluate various projects that would keep bacteria levels below the board's requirements identified netting as the most effective solution for deterring birds.

The council will also be asked to extend a month-to-month contract for custodial services at the pier through June 30, 2010.

That $426,000 extension will be granted to High Tech Building Maintenance, which began covering the pier when City Hall's previous contractor, The Resource Collection, filed for bankruptcy in May 2009. Its contract was terminated after City Hall discovered that the company had not paid its employees since April, a breach of the terms under the agreement.

SEE CONSENT PAGE 9



Brandon Wise *news@smdp.com*

UPKEEP: **City employee Robert Griffin hammers in loose nails along the Santa Monica Pier on Monday afternoon. The City Council is expected tonight to extend a month-to-month contract for custodial services at the pier through June 30, 2010.**

Rent Control chair resigns

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Just more than half a year into his second term on the Rent Control Board, Joel Koury, who commanded the most votes in the November election, resigned from his post last week citing the desire to spend more time with his young family.

Such time with his wife and two children — ages 9 and 6 — has become even more scarce since Koury, who was first elected to the board in 2004 as one of several candidates backed by Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, took on a new job as an attorney with the Federal Public Defender in Downtown Los Angeles about a year ago.

He previously worked at the Los Angeles County Public Defender for 18 years.

"The demands at my new job are such that I rarely have time to breathe let alone handle extra responsibilities and that's coming at the expense of my family," Koury said during an interview on Monday.

The announcement during the Rent Control Board meeting last Thursday came as a surprise to fellow commissioners who said they sympathized with their colleague's position.

"He's working on a high-level federal defense team and he's got young children," Robert Kronovet, who was elected last year, said. "He's realizing his kids are growing up and needs to spend precious time with them."

Zelia Mollica said she was shocked when Koury informed the board that he would be leaving, calling the board chairman "humble but extremely smart."

"He has a strong sense of fairness and I feel like we are really losing a great asset for the Rent Control Board," he said.

The next question will focus on who the board will appoint to replace Koury, a discussion that is expected to take place at its next meeting on Aug. 6.

The appointed replacement will serve on the term through the next municipal election in 2010. Whomever is elected will then be seated until Koury's term is up in 2012.

Kronovet said he would like to see someone who has knowledge of the banking or

SEE KOURY PAGE 8



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Strung along

The Santa Monica Amateur Astronomy Club
3131 Olympic Blvd. (New Roads School), 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
For the club's July meeting, Tim Thompson will be speaking on "Why String Theory?" Have we found the theory of everything? Where do we go from here? Be sure to join the club in all 11 dimensions as it explores the developments that have led us to this controversial point in our understanding of the universe. Admission is free. Call (310) 495-7595 for more information.

Support after divorce

212 Marine St. #101, 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
The transition through divorce can be challenging and overwhelming, but there is light on the other side. Joining with other individuals who are recovering from divorce can help you move on with your life so you can begin to create a future of happiness and health. Facilitated by a life coach and therapist. Cost: $30 per session for five consecutive sessions.
For more information, call (310) 439-8964.

Vulnerable environments

Blue Seven Gallery
3129 Pico Blvd.
Conservation photographer Robert McGinley will be exhibiting his latest work until July 31. Titled "Topography, Light and Magic," the exhibit explores natural landscapes that are threatened by development, and captures these environments at their most beautiful and vulnerable. The exhibit's proceeds will benefit both Heal the Bay and Santa Monica Baykeeper, organizations devoted to protecting California's water resources. There will be a closing reception for his latest work Friday, July 31, from 7 p.m. — 9 p.m. McGinley will also welcome actor/environmentalist Ed Begley Jr., who will speak about the importance of land and resource conservation. Admission: Free.
Contact Ali Sivak, (323) 936-1447.

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Kick it!

John Adams Middle School
2425 16th St., 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
The International Youth Soccer Tournament presented by Santa Monica Sister City Association invites the public to the Welcoming Ceremony & Informal Complimentary Lunch as a part of the week-long soccer fun.
Call Monika White at (310) 828-4559 for more information.

Marvelous

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave., 5:30 p.m.
Every Picture Tells A Story Gallery is introducing MARVEL ARTWORKS, a limited edition series of fine art prints from the Marvel Comics archives. The gallery will also host a book signing and reception before Aero Theatre shows "The Legends Behind the Comics," a new documentary film about the origins of the most popular comic book heroes. Admission is free.
For more information, call (310) 395-5558.

Pier history

Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk, 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Join Jim Harris, author of the recently published "Santa Monica Pier — A Century on the Last Great Pleasure Pier" to discuss the storied history of the pier. The lecture is free but seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call (310) 393-6149 for more information.

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.

Police say L.A. teen tried to get money before death

BY ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) The last hours of Lily Burk's life were spent trying to get money for a kidnapper who finally beat the 17-year-old to death and left her body in her car in a downtown parking lot, police said Monday.

Burk was found dead Saturday in her black Volvo. A 50-year-old parolee, Charlie Samuel, was booked Sunday for investigation of murder after fingerprints in the car linked him to the killing, Deputy Chief Sergio Diaz said at a news conference.

Samuel was arrested a half-hour after the killing — and before Burk's body was discovered — for an unrelated drug crime. Police said he also has a previous criminal background, but did not provide details.

Samuel remained jailed Monday. It was not immediately clear whether he had a lawyer.

The teenager crossed paths with "one of these monsters that unfortunately we have living amongst us," Diaz said.

Burk, who was about to begin her senior year at Oakwood School in North Hollywood, left her Los Feliz-area home Friday afternoon on an errand to the downtown Southwestern University School of Law, according to police and neighbors.

She went to pick up exams for her mother, Deborah Drooz, 54, who is an attorney and an adjunct professor at the school. About 15 minutes after she arrived at the school, Burk was approached by a man and abducted, Diaz said.

The teen and her kidnapper then drove to an automatic teller machine where she tried several times to get money, according to a police statement. The attempts failed because her credit card was not set up to be used as an ATM card.

Over the next hour, Burk called both of her parents to ask how to use the card and was told by her father that it could not be used at an ATM, police said.

"She didn't tell them that she was in distress," Diaz said.

She said she needed money to buy shoes and was told to come home, her parents told the Los Angeles Times.

"Burk then made arrangements with her father to go to their home to pick up an unspecified amount of money," the police statement said. "She never made it home."

About two hours after Burk was kidnapped, Samuel got out of the Volvo and left it in a downtown parking lot, with Burk's body in the passenger seat, Diaz said. Burk suffered head injuries, apparently from striking the passenger side of the windshield, and there were signs of a struggle, according to police.

Less than a half-hour later, Samuel was seen drinking beer on a Skid Row street and arrested for investigation of possessing narcotics paraphernalia because he allegedly had a crack cocaine pipe, Diaz said. He was still jailed when Burk's body was found.

"We are grateful that the police apprehended someone so quickly and that this man is off the streets," said a statement issued Monday to KTLA-TV from her mother and her father, Los Angeles Times freelance music writer Gregory Burk.

"The thing we want people to know about Lily is that she was a beautiful person and that she was looking forward to her life. She was funny, warm, kind and empathetic. She was deeply and widely loved," the parents said in an earlier statement.

Samuel, originally from San Bernardino County, was in Los Angeles to complete a program he was ordered to take as a parole condition for previous crimes, police said.

"We believe he's not homeless, he has a place to live," police spokeswoman Officer Rosario Herrera said. She did not know where he lived, however.

news@smdp.com



ALL SYSTEMS GO

Brandon Wise *news@smdp.com*

Ella Ward, 8, launches her model rocket on Friday, July 24, with help from teacher Dan Neumann (left) during his 'Science of Flight' class at John Adams Middle School. The summer program was created by the Santa Monica PTA.

SAG opposes closure of a hospital for aging actors

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The Screen Actors Guild has voted to oppose closing a motion picture home where many actors and others have spent their last years.

By a slender margin, the SAG board voted Saturday to oppose closing the Motion Picture & Television Fund's long-term care facility in Woodland Hills.

SAG has no formal say in the hospital's future but many SAG members financially support it and some actors have vigorously campaigned against what they view as the destruction of a legacy.

The motion picture fund, which runs health care centers, assisted living facilities and other services, says the hospital is losing more than $10 million a year.

Fund Chairman Frank Mancuso says the hospital will bankrupt the fund in five years unless its 84 residents are moved.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Health care needed to compete

Editor:

My company, Halon Entertainment, employs around 20 employees and contractors. It is our desire to treat each and every one with respect and to share with them the value they bring to the job. Health care is an important way we show we care. It is also essential when it comes to hiring and maintaining talented artists on our staff. The reality though is when a 1099 contractor becomes a W-2 employee, our overall costs go up by 20-30 percent with health care included. This almost wipes out our profit margin because we can't directly pass on that cost to our customers and it reduces the number of jobs we can support. This directly impacts how fast we can grow – slower. I honestly believe we need healthcare reform in this country all the way to single payer. Businesses in the states have trouble competing abroad because of it to say nothing of the tax credits that come into play in the U.K., Canada and Australia. To level the playing field, treat people the way they deserve to be treated and keep jobs in this country, we need a 21st century healthcare system.

Daniel Gregoire
Santa Monica

To a job well done

Editor:

I'd like to give kudos to Mr. Gary Sanchez of the Risk Management Division at City Hall, regarding the Big Blue Bus crushing the back wheels of my shopping cart.

Since the BBB driver did not file an incident report as she said she would, and since I was upset and was remiss in not getting the driver's name, and, according to the BBB, evidently the recorder/camera on the bus missed the whole incident as they said they had no information; in spite of all this, Mr. Sanchez was kind and caring and took care of the matter. And I deeply appreciate this.

Mr. Sanchez was efficient and did a good job in spite of having received no solid information on the incident from the bus company. So thank you, Mr. Sanchez and the Risk Management Division. I love the Big Blue Bus drivers, but the management, not so much.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

Obey the law

Editor:

In Ms. Laurie's rebuttal ("Walk a mile," page 4, July 24) to my letter she states, "The essential and immediate question that Mr. Pineiro ignored is: Where does a homeless person sleep?"

Then Laurie continued with a lengthy, defensive letter accusing me of [having] no empathy for sleepy homeless people.

If there was absolutely no room at any available homeless shelter for someone to sleep in, then yes, they might have to wait to sleep on the beach or in a park when they are open, and it is legal to do so – during daylight hours.

Laurie also assumes that I don't already support the homeless by suggesting that I "make a large donation to the Westside Food Bank."

I already do.

Well, it's not really important who I donate my personal time and money to. What's important is that people like Laurie understand that, as I stated in my original letter, it's simply not OK to break the law just because you are poor. Is it OK for poor people to steal food from supermarkets if they are hungry? No. Does this mean I don't have empathy for hungry people? Of course not.

I'm sorry that laws (like the camping law) that are made to protect people seem to baffle people like Laurie, but they exist for reasons too lengthy to explain in this letter. The bottom line is that hunger and homelessness is horrible, but stealing food or camping after dark is illegal, and laws must be obeyed for any civilized society to survive.

Carlos Pineiro
Santa Monica



Back to Nature

Reese Halter — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Planting a pain killer

FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS THE FIRST peoples of Earth have known the importance of respecting all living things. There is a natural cure for every ailment that afflicts humankind; the caveat is that we must not continue to dismantle all the wild ecosystems.

One of the most amazing plants that I have come across over the past quarter of a century of studying forests is the South Pacific noni or Morinda citrifolia.

This small blossoming shrub with its dark, glossy, one-foot-long evergreen leaves is indigenous to Tahiti, southeastern Asia and Australia. It has been naturalized in China, India, parts of Africa and the Americas.

About 1,500 years ago the Polynesians took noni seeds with them as they colonized the South Pacific Islands including Hawaii.

The noni plant produces egg-shaped fruits with indented pit-marks. Its tasteless, yellowish-white skin becomes near transparent when the fruit ripens. The ripened pulp, on the other hand, smells of strong cheese and the extracted pulp juice is quite bitter.

The fruits contain reddish-brown seeds that float in the ocean, which accounts for nonis' widespread global distribution. Noni flourishes under harsh environmental conditions including the onslaught of salt, drought, sandy Australian soils, porous volcanic Hawaiian soils and nutrient poor limestone soils of Guam.

Noni fruit was an important food source for Australian, Burmese, Fijian and Samonian aboriginals, and the red dye form the bark and yellow dye from the roots were used extensively by these peoples.

Noni roots, flowers, seeds, leaves, bark and fruits contain more than 140 nutraceuticals or medicinal extracts that act synergistically in the human body and I recommend only using organically certified products — www.hawaiian-noniworks.com. Noni can be taken as a capsule, juice or as an oil in an extract, and is also available in a powder for pets.

Noni fruits contain 800 times more proxeronine than pineapple. Proxeronine is converted in the human body into a group of nitrogenous compounds, the main constituent being xeronine.

Xeronine enables all human cells to work more efficiently in addition to correcting deficiencies and repairing damaged cells.

Noni's medicinal properties are known to enhance the thyroid and thymus glands, which fend off infections. Moreover, noni boosts the human immune system by bolstering macrophages and lymphocytes — two integral parts of our defense system.

Incredibly, noni's medicinal properties help the human body attain homeostasis or a state of being normal. For instance, noni will correct blood sugar if it's too high or too low or if the body's acidity is too high or too low.

Japanese scientists isolated the compound damnacanthal from noni fruit, which inhibits some precancerous cells and thus tumor growth. Noni has also been shown to be effective in raising T-cell counts in victims suffering from AIDS.

Noni is an effective treatment for Type II diabetes. Scopoletin is a plant nutrient found in noni fruit that helps dilate blood vessels, and successfully reduces high blood pressure.

Noni has terrific antibacterial properties able to combat Shingella, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Proteus morganii, Staphylococcus aureus, Bacillus aureus and Escherichia coli.

Noni contains a class of unsaturated hydrocarbons called terpenes — key components of essential plant oils, which help rejuvenate cells and possess strong analgesic actions that relieve pain. Noni is renown for its pain relief properties.

JAPANESE SCIENTISTS ISOLATED THE COMPOUND DAMNACANTHAL FROM NONI FRUIT, WHICH INHIBITS SOME PRECANCEROUS CELLS AND THUS TUMOR GROWTH. NONI HAS ALSO BEEN SHOWN TO BE EFFECTIVE IN RAISING T-CELL COUNTS IN VICTIMS SUFFERING FROM AIDS.

In fact, in a study group of 8,000 patients in the U.S. over three quarters of the people that took noni reported relief from arthritis, bursitis, fibromyalgia, carpal tunnel syndrome, cluster head aches and migraines.

Noni is also an anti-inflammatory and antihistaminic that efficiently fights allergies. It reduces menstrual cramps and it lessens the need for men with an enlarged prostate to urinate at night.

Veterinarians in the U.S. have experienced tremendous success using noni in treating pain, inflammation and as an anthelmintic or ridding animals of worms. The use of noni obviates the need for pharmaceutical muscle relaxants, anti-inflammatory and steroids. Noni enhances dog's immune system, joint health, circulation, digestion, and various skin conditions. Noni can also be used to treat cats and horses.

Serotonin is a neurotransmitter that controls appetite, mood and anger. Noni has a powerful serotonin binding capacity, which helps people who suffer from sleep disorder. Furthermore, noni provides relief for those suffering from depression, nausea, digestive problems, diarrhea, anxiety, arrhythmias, and it has been proven to lower cholesterol. Noni increases energy and endurance, and it helps reduce weight.

Noni is safe for children and pregnant or lactating mothers.

This remarkable South Pacific plant packs a tremendous natural punch and is most worthy of being at the front and in the center of your medicine cabinet.

DR. REESE HALTER is a public speaker and conservation biologist. His upcoming book is entitled "The Incomparable Honey Bee," Rocky Mountain Books. He can be contacted through www.DrReese.com.

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Taylor Van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Ryan Hyatt, Steve Breen, Elizabeth Brown, Merv Hecht, Ron Scott Smith Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp Mariel Howsepian, Cynthia Citron, Amanda Cushman, Steve Parker and Phyllis Chavez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

NEWS INTERNS
Catherine Cain, Natalie Jarvey, Emma Trotter
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Ray Solano, Benjamin Brayfied
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Grace Wang
gracew@smdp.com
Drew Swadling
drews@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
A newspaper with issues

410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

Visit us online at smdp.com

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Being a parent is a lifelong commitment

SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING, THE TOURISTS are here and far from their home, but some things just don't change. I was walking through the lobby of the Loews Hotel on Ocean Avenue, and passed a family from France, mother, father, daughter and teenage boy. They were standing in the hallway by the doors to the pool, and the boy, in his exuberance and excitement to get to the fun part, kicks off his flip-flops and heads towards the water. His father grabs him and says, (I'm assuming this because he was speaking in French) "Hey, you can't leave your shoes in the hallway! Come take them with you."

It was one of those moments that surpasses culture and language, and is just a typical part of the human condition. Teenagers are so impulsive and unthinking, and it doesn't matter where they are from, or who their parents are, they just need a lot of attention and guidance.

My mother used to say that your kids are never grown up, and you're never done being a parent. I don't have the experience of being a parent to a human, so I can't say for certain that she was correct, but from my observations, she was right.

Parenting is the one role that a person plays in their life that is truly a lifetime job. There are certainly people who choose to abandon their children, or who want to be friends with their kids, but for the most part, parenting is a major commitment, and one that clearly exceeds any other type of relationship or job.

Mothers and fathers have a huge responsibility to their children, and teaching them goes far beyond what most people think of as the minimums. Children learn far more by what their parents demonstrate, than by the words that they speak. It doesn't take much to see what the true character of a person is, all you have to do is look to their children.

Yesterday I was walking my dog through Virginia Avenue Park, and on Sundays there are usually large family gatherings at the various picnic tables. And just like the French teen who thinks he can leave his flip-flops wherever he is, there are always lots of paper plates left around with half-eaten food from the children. As an exploration of how people raise their families, it is a very interesting window into family values. For example, there were two paper plates left that each had spaghetti and a huge handful of potato chips on them. They were probably put down by a couple of kids who found something more exciting to do.

My observation is not really about the littering that happened. Frankly, that is to be expected with young children and their inability to pick up after themselves. As a non-parent I think is a typical developmental issue. But what concerns me are the food choices. I don't know which kids left these plates, but I see a great many overweight kids. Children are on the fast track to diabetes, obesity, heart disease and hypertension. And it bothers me.

Parenting is comprehensive, and I may be stepping over the line here, but if you have responsibility for another life, it goes beyond just making sure they are fed. I only have myself and a pampered pooch to take care of, but the principle is the same. I have to make sure he doesn't overeat, and that he does exercise daily. I have to make sure that he is properly vaccinated and, this being Santa Monica, has the proper license, which brings me to the Santa Monica Pet Fair and Chip-A-thon that is happening this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Clover Park, which is located on Ocean Park Boulevard and 25th Street.

I was reminded of this event last week when the pampered pooch and I stopped in at his favorite snack shop, Got Pet Food on 14th Street. The owner, Brian Brahms, wanted to make sure that my pet was properly micro-chipped. It's a safety measure so that in an emergency or a disaster, if my dog and I are separated, we can be re-united. This is a very important measure and every pet owner should be aware of the need for it. There will be free micro-chipping, low cost vaccinations, training demonstrations, pet registration and licensing (it is Santa Monica after all) adoptions and pet contests.

Whether you're picking up after your teenager, or your dog, it seems like a never ending job, but we owe it to them, and ourselves, to do it as best we can.

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

The Q Line

All dressed in green?

A recent Daily Press article discovered that a growing number of engaged couples have decided to go green for their wedding.

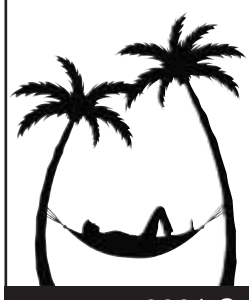
So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Is going green on your wedding day worth the trouble – and money?

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


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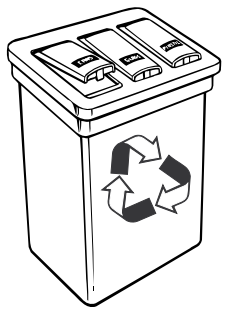


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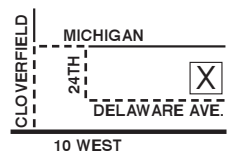


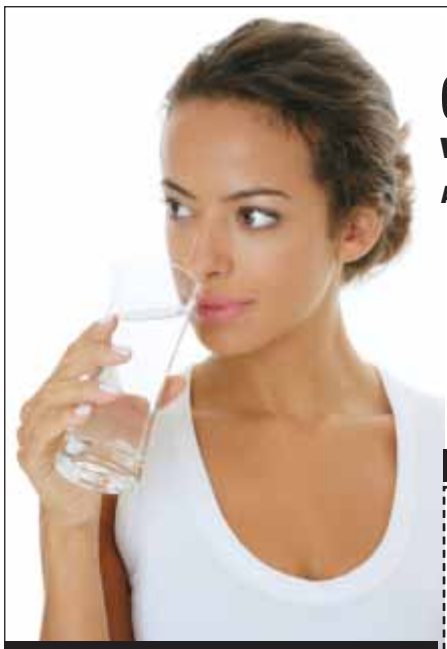
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Summer camps help kids with autism connect

BY DR. RON LEAF
Special to the Daily Press

Summer vacations can be extremely challenging not only for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), but their parents as well. While it is nice to take a break from the day-to-day activities, it is important to maintain structure and consistency in an effort to maintain the skills children have developed. The relationships children with ASD develop are essential to their well-being, just as they are for everyone. Because of this, it is critical that education focuses on developing social skills so that children can build meaningful friendships.

Unfortunately, children with ASD often do not have the skills necessary to develop friendships on their own, so we need to teach them. Identifying key social skills such as joint attention, initiating interaction, playing cooperatively as well as providing them with continuous opportunities to practice, are methods that maximize a child's learning and motivates them at the same time.

JUST BECAUSE SCHOOL IS OUT, DOESN'T MEAN THAT LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT HAS TO BE PUT ON HOLD FOR THE SUMMER. EVEN DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS, THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS (ABA) IS TO IMMERSE THE CHILD INTO TREATMENT FOR AS MUCH OF THE DAY AS POSSIBLE.

Just because school is out, doesn't mean that learning and development has to be put on hold for the summer. Even during the summer months, the key to successful Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is to immerse the child into treatment for as much of the day as possible. By doing so, valuable time is not lost. Young children are not only able to tolerate intensive intervention, but also thrive on the stimulation. It is important to utilize as many opportunities throughout the day to teach appropriate skills and to reduce the child's opportunity to engage in detrimental behaviors.

Summer day camps enable children to continue social development while school is out of session. They are designed to increase quality of life and functional independence through themed programs which include games, arts and crafts. At Autism Partnership, our ABA experts will identify the important skills needed for each specific camper so that we can address each child's unique abilities. Each week-long day camp will focus on developing behavioral and social skills that will enable each child to improve their communication skills.

Treatment should be fun and creative. Summer camp programs should be designed to benefit the needs and interests of the children. These programs and camps focus on classroom readiness skills, social responsiveness, initiating and sustaining interactions and keeping a child's emotions under control. The key to summer camps is to provide a fun environment for children and adolescence while continuing to provide consistent treatment. Both are necessary to improve their chances of recovery.

Below are the types of themed camp programs that Autism Partnership offers in August:

Going Green (Aug. 10-14): Going Green camp will help children focus on self-awareness and the ability to understand what others are saying/doing and respond appropriately. As more and more schools and communities actively seek ways to "go green," this camp will teach children the importance of saving the environment and inspire greater social awareness through exciting outings and fun projects. Our "conservationists-in-training" will learn about the benefits of reducing, reusing and recycling in order to reduce our carbon footprints while learning essential social skills.

Sports, Sports, Sports (Aug. 17-21): Sports camp will help children better understand the rules of games, taking the initiative to be an active and involved participant in a game and the importance of displaying good sportsmanship. They will also learn how to tolerate and control their frustrations as well as show empathy for their teammates and opponents.

Lights, Camera, Action (Aug. 24-28): Theater camp will help children understand the importance of sharing, compromising and negotiating, which are essential to being part of a successful ensemble as well as with friendships. Children can choose to be part of the action in front of the camera or behind the scenes and work on set design, programs and publicity. This program helps them improve social skills, maintain behavioral control and sustain attention in a group.

When considering any program for your child, it's important to consider:

• Choose a "good" ABA program: High quality ABA utilizes a variety of natural reinforcers such as activities, toys and social reinforcement. The ultimate objective is that children become internally reinforced.

• Focus on the whole child: Be sure that the program for intervention focuses on the entire child including communication, social, play and self-help skills.

• Expert ABA therapists: Teaching techniques need to be as natural as possible and should take place in natural settings with instructions that model natural language. Good therapists have received comprehensive and on-going training and instruction in areas such as teaching techniques, evaluating progress, curriculum and program design. It is also essential that they've participated in hands-on training. Don't be afraid to ask questions about their experience.

• Natural settings: It is important that children learn in natural settings with the typical distractions that occur in schools and the community. Removing distractions and utilizing artificial cues does not benefit the child. It is important that their environment is a true, real day-to-day environment, with a strong foundation on how to learn.

• Parent participation: It is crucial that parents, teachers, and family members are properly trained so that they know how to maximize the child's learning while at home. This will ensure success on all levels.

DR. RON LEAF is the co-director of Autism Partnership and a licensed psychologist who has over 35 years of experience in the field of autism.



The Quackers

Phyllis Chavez
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Creating a safe passage

Editor's Note: The Quackers are three awesome ducks from the canals of Venice who are on a mission to educate the community about the dangers of global warming and the importance of practicing sustainability, all while surfing the most gnarly waves possible.

BREATHLESS, RUSTY CAME RUNNING into the house screaming for me to call 911. His eyes were wild, he was pale. I reached for the phone trying not to panic.

"Is Richard hurt?" I asked.

He answered, "No, its Ray! Hurry, Sidney, just call!" He ran back out. Quickly, I started dialing the phone and ran after him. Rusty yelled to our neighbor, "Ray's been hit by a car!" I was ready to hit the last number when I realized he meant Ray, the raccoon. We might need a vet, but not 911.

I heard Rusty shout, "Check for a pulse!" Richard was staring down at the baby raccoon, his head bowed low. Sadness filled his voice as he said, "It's too late Rusty. He's gone."

Rusty cried out. "Move over. Let me try mouth to mouth. He can't be gone. Help me with the chest compressions. It's Ray, we have to try to save him."

We pulled Rusty away and sat him on the curb. Our neighbor, Mrs. Angeletti, brought him water and patted his shoulder while Richard carefully wrapped Ray in a towel and gently carried him into the yard.

Raccoons are not pets, just a different kind of neighbor. We noticed a mom and three babies one night from our balcony. We think they came by to look for snails and slugs in our garden or to sample our neighbor's cat food. The smallest was our favorite. He always trailed behind the rest, stopping to sniff this or inspect that with great curiosity. Rusty dubbed him Ray.

We tried our best to comfort Rusty. We helped with the funeral arrangements. Richard carved a beautiful headstone and planted rosemary around it for remembrance. Still Rusty remained sad.

I made Rusty's new favorite, fish tacos, for dinner. He just picked at them. Richard and I talked about the weather, then sports, but nothing interested Rusty until the topic of wildlife corridors came up.

We both read about the "Y2Y, Yellowstone to Yukon" Initiative. It is a joint, U.S. and Canadian, conservation effort to ensure the Yellowstone to Yukon region retains enough connected, well managed and good-quality wildlife habitat for animals to travel safely between protected areas, like national parks, as they roam in search of food and mates. Their vision is to have human communities and wildlife communities in that region coexist in a way that allows both to thrive.

We read that housing, roads and other development are causing fragmentation and keeping wildlife from moving freely between suitable habitat and that these barriers are growing rapidly. Global warming is also playing a big part. Vegetation is moving upward in both latitude and altitude as the temperatures rise. A contiguous, suitable habitat would allow wildlife to follow these habitat shifts.

In some areas highways have already fragmented populations. In Banff National Park in Canada, 22 underpasses and two overpasses have been built to help moderate habitat fragmentation and adverse ecological conditions created by a highway. When we showed Rusty a picture of one of the overpasses and told him how it had cut wildlife mortality on that road by 80 percent, the sparkle returned to his eyes.

Rusty could barely contain his excitement. "We could do that here," he said. "Let's build underpasses and overpasses to help save our wildlife. Call the Mayor!"

WE READ THAT HOUSING, ROADS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT ARE CAUSING FRAGMENTATION AND KEEPING WILDLIFE FROM MOVING FREELY BETWEEN SUITABLE HABITAT AND THAT THESE BARRIERS ARE GROWING RAPIDLY. GLOBAL WARMING IS ALSO PLAYING A BIG PART.

I set up an appointment with the mayor. Richard continued to research the subject. Rusty circulated a petition supporting our proposal. With an air of importance, he told everyone he met. "I'm taking a meeting with the mayor."

The mayor listened intently as Rusty described his vision. The mayor was impressed by the number of signatures on the petition. He told Rusty, "I'm feelin' you Rusty, but this must go before council. I'll add it to next week's agenda."

Rusty's heart was pounding and his voice quacked a little. That soon passed as he gained strength and courage by speaking from his heart. We stood by his side as he eloquently listed the reasons wildlife overpasses and underpasses should be part of the city's Land use and Circulation Element that was currently in development. He also urged it be designated as a public benefit. The audience roared their approval. To the sound of thunderous applause we returned to our seats.

The council debate was long and heated. Voices were raised, comments were challenged. We cringed when we heard, "Have you Quackers gone crackers?" and "This is absolutely absurd." We cheered when we heard, "Our hedges could be used to support tiny bridges creating an aerial corridor throughout the city." And "I like the sound of that. It's … so green."

We tasted victory as the final vote was announced. Our proposal was on the way to the Planning Commission. We did it for you Ray.

For more information: www.y2y.net.

PHYLLIS and the Quackers can be reached at phyllis@phyllischavez.com

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RFP: Electronic Plan Submittal and Review System

- The City of Santa Monica is seeking qualified companies to submit detailed proposals covering experience and abilities in implementing and managing an Electronic Plan Submittal and Review System, including but not limited to installation of all hardware and software, maintenance of the system, operation of the system, and training. A copy of the RFP can be downloaded at http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/bidsearch4.cfm.

- Please submit eight (8) copies of your entire proposal and one (1) electronic copy in Microsoft Word format or Adobe PDF format to the Building and Safety Division, Attn: Mr. Andy Pong, at 1685 Main Street, Room 111, Santa Monica, CA 90401 by 3:00 PM on August 10, 2009.

For further information, please contact Mr. Andy Pong at andy.pong@smgov.net.

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AP source: Jackson doc gave him drug before death

BY THOMAS WATKINS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Michael Jackson's personal doctor administered a powerful anesthetic to help him sleep, and authorities believe the drug is what killed the pop singer, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Monday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing, said Jackson regularly received propofol to sleep, a practice far outside the drug's intended purpose. On June 25, the day Jackson died, Dr. Conrad Murray gave him the drug sometime after midnight, the official said.

Though toxicology reports are pending, investigators are working under the theory that propofol caused Jackson's heart to stop, the official said.

Murray, 51, has been identified in court papers as the subject of a manslaughter investigation and authorities last week raided his office and a storage unit in Houston. Police say Murray is cooperating and have not labeled him a suspect.

Murray's lawyer, Edward Chernoff, has said the doctor "didn't prescribe or administer anything that should have killed Michael Jackson." When asked Monday about the law enforcement official's statements he said: "We will not be commenting on rumors, innuendo or unnamed sources."

Murray became Jackson's personal physician in May and was to accompany him to London for a series of concerts starting in July. He was staying with Jackson in a rented Los Angeles mansion and, according to Chernoff, found an unconscious Jackson in the pop star's bedroom the morning of June 25. Murray attempted to revive him but could not.

Police searching Jackson's home after his death found propofol and other drugs, an IV line and three tanks of oxygen in Jackson's bedroom, and 15 more oxygen tanks in a security guard's shack.

Propofol can depress breathing and lower heart rates and blood pressure. Because of the risks, propofol is only supposed to be administered in hospitals.



Board to discuss replacement at next meeting

FROM **KOURY** PAGE 1

real estate industry, adding that the taxpayers are entitled to a professional individual who understand various aspects of housing and not someone who is a "party member."

Excluding Koury, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights has a 3-1 majority on the Rent Control Board.

Koury, who was a renter for six years and has been a homeowner since, decided to make a run for the board because he felt it was important to mediate disputes between landlords and tenants fairly.

"It's important to the property management side that there is someone fair listening to their issues and seeing they get a fair return entitled under the law and I think it's obviously important to renters that they not get unnecessarily priced out of their homes," he said.

"THE DEMANDS AT MY NEW JOB ARE SUCH THAT I RARELY HAVE TIME TO BREATHE LET ALONE HANDLE EXTRA RESPONSIBILITIES AND THAT'S COMING AT THE EXPENSE OF MY FAMILY."

Joel Koury
Rent Control Board Chairman

He said the board has weathered several storms in the past few years, including fighting Proposition 98, which sought to end eminent domain and ultimately, according to rent control advocates, phase out rent control across the state. The proposition was defeated in the June 2008 primary.

The board also went through a long process of replacing several key personnel, including the general counsel and administrator.

"I think we put the department in a position where it will be stable and strong for the next 10 years at least," he said.

It's one of the reasons why Koury said he feels comfortable leaving the board at this point.

Koury said his job with the Federal Public Defender brings with it some constraints when it comes to taking off time, noting that some of his colleagues were surprised when he decided to take off Independence Day, which fell on a Saturday this year.

"The time and the flexibility is what is lacking with the Federal Defender's Office," he said.

Tracy Condon, who was hired to replace former Rent Control Board Administrator Mary Ann Yukonis in 2007, said Koury was a significant contributor to the board and was always well-prepared for meetings.

"He thought carefully about each of the decisions that he made and that the board made," she said.

melodyh@smdp.com



Brandon Wise *news@smdp.com*

STOP THAT: **Two pigeons stand guard over their nests under the Santa Monica Pier on Monday. The City Council is expected tonight to approve a $107,758 contract with Bird Busters to install a net directly beneath the pier where pigeons roost and frequently defecate, creating challenges for City Hall to meet bacterial levels set forth by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.**

Higher parking rates on pier's birthday

FROM **CONSENT** PAGE 1

IN PRE-PRODUCTION

There appears to be a lot more work to be done before CityTV can move into its new studio at 1654 19th St.

Nonzero Architecture, which is responsible for designing and preparing bid documents to convert the former automotive repair shop into a space suitable for a cable television station, will need an extra $8,056 to perform structural engineering design work to accommodate mechanical requirements for the building, including constructing a new attic that will hold some equipment.

The architectural firm was hired late last year on a $198,550 contract, including a 10 percent contingency that was exhausted when City Hall hired a civil engineer to redesign the storm drain system because existing drawings were deemed inaccurate.

CityTV was previously located at 525 Broadway in a commercial building that is slated for redevelopment.

KEEPING IT RUNNING

The consent calendar includes a series of contracts for the Big Blue Bus, including $14,883 for new batteries, $8,719 for filters, and $1.24 million for biodiesel fuel.

But perhaps the most pertinent to actual customer service is the redesign of the BBB Web site.

The public transportation agency is expected to hire Mortar Advertising LLC to not only revamp the site, but build a new online application that will allow riders to plan their trip before leaving their home.

"This contract would also include interface design services for new online applications including real-time bus information and online trip planning," a city staff report said.

The contract is part of a $7.5 million effort to improve technology and communication between BBB and its growing customer base. The agency just recently installed a series of signs at bus shelters along Broadway and Santa Monica Boulevard that inform riders when the next bus is due to arrive.

HIGHER PARKING RATES ON PIER'S BIRTHDAY

Cars might be better left at home on the day of the Santa Monica Pier's centennial.

City officials are considering raising parking rates on Sept. 9 — the pier's 100th anniversary — at various lots and garages throughout Downtown.

The proposal includes setting rates at $25 for vehicles entering beach lots after 2 p.m., $15 after 6 p.m. for structures 1-9 along Second and Fourth streets, and $10 at the Civic Center Parking Structure starting at 6 p.m.

The revenue from the increased rates is anticipated to bring in about $65,000, helping to cover City Hall-related expenses for traffic management and maintenance related to the event, which will include a ceremonial procession, rededication of the pier, and a 20-minute fireworks show.

GOING GREEN

City Hall is planning on reinstating a contract with Commerce Energy to buy renewable energy for various city facilities through June 30, 2010.

Assuming that City Hall consumes the same amount of energy as the previous year, which was more than 17 million kilowatt hours, the cost savings for this fiscal year is estimated to be $1 million.

"Purchasing renewable electricity for city facilities is a key strategy supporting the energy goals in the Sustainable City Plan," a city staff report said.

SOME SOURCES OF EXTRA MONEY

The Santa Monica Police Department is slated to receive a $103,805 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety that will go toward enhancing enforcement programs such as DUI checkpoints and motorcycle safety operations.

The grant is one of a few items on the consent agenda that will involve bringing in money to City Hall, not expending it.

A new lease for city-owned property at 3300 Pico Place is also on the table, estimated to bring in about $7,560 in rent through the life of the agreement, which is slated to end July 31, 2012.

The tenancy will go to Morgan Auto Services, which has rented the property since 2003 to use for parking seven tandem spaces. The lease is based on a rate of $90 per parking space.

City officials, who considered transforming the lot for public parking, said the parcel is small and irregularly-shaped, located in a remote spot just next to the I-10 Freeway. They opted to keep the lot for private uses, concluding that striping it would not yield as many parking spaces as an operator who manages tandem spots.

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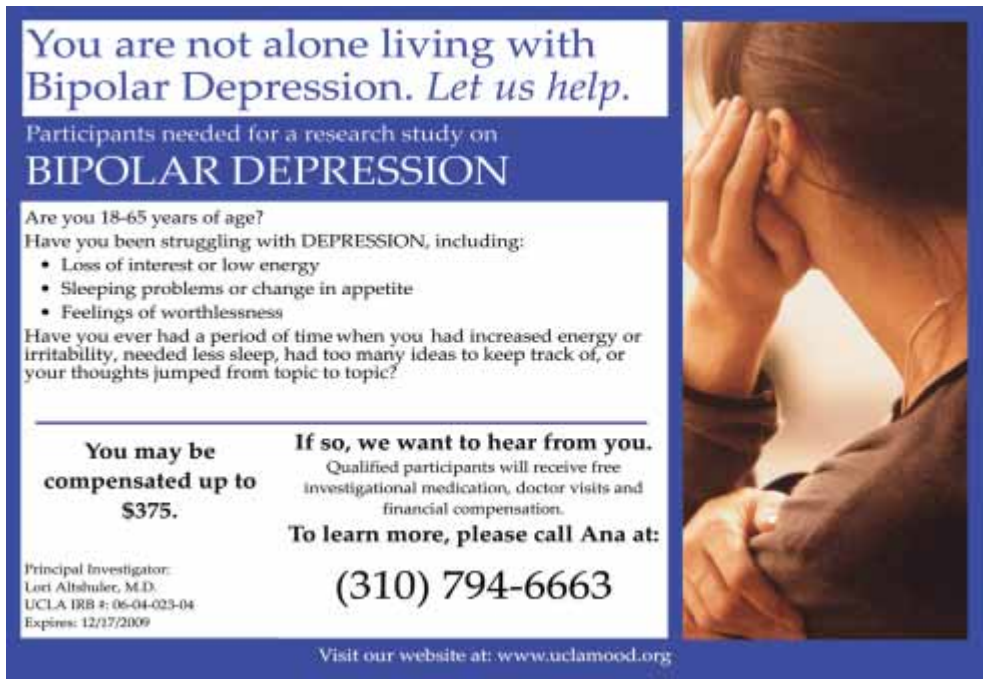
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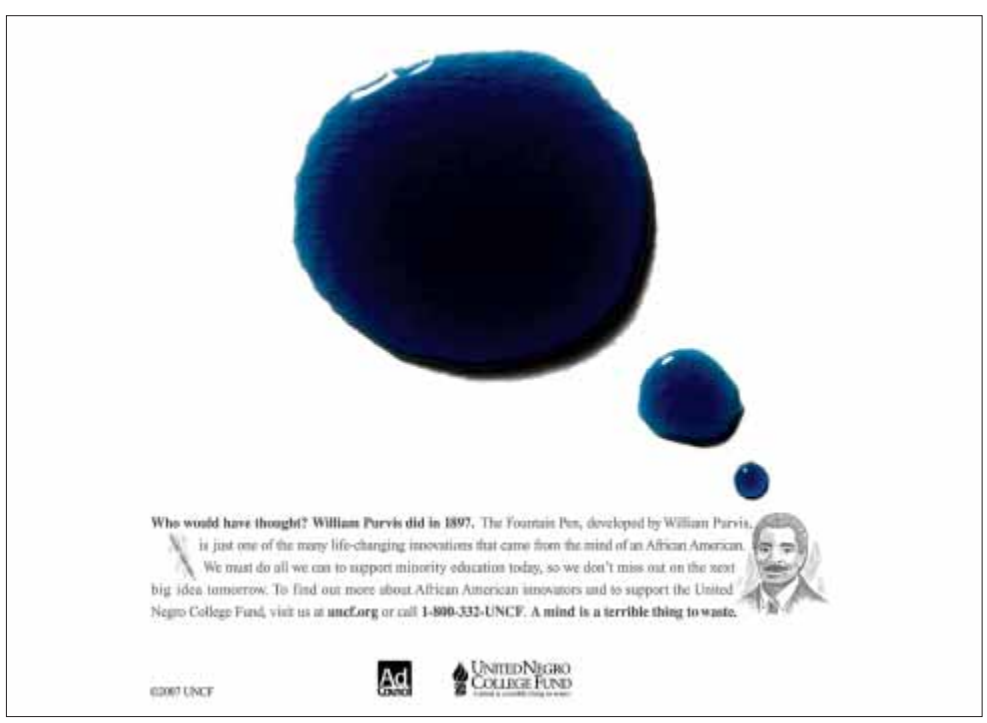












Police: Woman accused of killing newborn ate brain

BY PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO A woman charged with murdering her 3Ω-week-old son used a knife and two swords to dismember the child and ate parts of his body, including his brain, before stabbing herself in the torso and slicing her own throat, police said Monday.

Otty Sanchez, 33, is charged with capital murder in the death of her infant son, Scott Wesley Buchholtz-Sanchez. She was recovering from her wounds at a hospital, and was being held on $1 million bail.

San Antonio Police Chief William McManus said the early Sunday morning attack occurred a week after the child's father moved out. Otty Sanchez's sister and her sister's two children, ages 5 and 7, were in the house, but none were harmed.

Otty Sanchez's aunt, Gloria Sanchez, said her niece had been "in and out" of a psychiatric ward, and that the hospital called several months ago looking to check up on her. She did not elaborate on the nature of her niece's health problems.

"Otty didn't mean to do that. She was not in her right mind," a sobbing Gloria Sanchez told The Associated Press on Monday by phone. She said her family was devastated.

McManus, who appeared uncomfortable as he addressed reporters, said Sanchez apparently ate the child's brain and some other body parts. She also decapitated the infant, tore off his face and chewed off three of his toes before stabbing herself.

"It's too heinous for me to describe it any further," McManus said.

McManus described the crime scene as so grisly that police officers barely spoke to each other while looking through the house. Parts of the child were missing, including pieces that Sanchez allegedly ate.

"At this particular scene you could have heard a pin drop," McManus said. "No one was speaking. It was about as somber as it could have been."

Officers called to Sanchez's house at about 5 a.m. Sunday found her sitting on the couch screaming "I killed my baby! I killed my baby!" McManus said. They found the boy's body in a bedroom.

Police said Sanchez said the devil told her to kill her son and that she was hearing voices.

"It was a spontaneous utterance," McManus said.

Police said Sanchez did not have an attorney, and they declined to identify family members who might speak on her behalf.

No one answered the door Monday at Sanchez's one-story home, where the blinds were shut. A hopscotch pattern and red hearts were drawn on the walk leading up to the house.

Neighbor Luis Yanez, 23, said his kids went to school with one of the small children who lived at the house. He said he often saw a woman playing outside with the children but didn't know whether it was Otty.

"Why would you do that to your baby?" said Yanez, a tire technician. "It brings chills to you. They can't defend themselves."

Authorities said Sanchez and her sister took turns watching the baby Sunday morning, and that the boy was placed in Sanchez's care at about 1:30 a.m. Her sister discovered what happened about three hours later and called police.

Investigators are looking into Sanchez's mental health history to see if there was anything "significant," and whether postpartum difficulties could have played a role in the attack, McManus said.

The killing called to mind the drowning of five children by their mother in the bathtub of their Houston-area home in 2001. Attorneys for the woman, Andrea Yates, said she suffered from severe postpartum psychosis and, in a delusional state, believed Satan was inside her and was trying to save them from hell. A jury found Yates not guilty by reason of insanity in 2006.

7 in North Carolina charged with participating in 'violent jihad'

BY MIKE BAKER
Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH, N.C. A North Carolina man trained in Pakistan and Afghanistan has been charged along with six of his alleged recruits with conspiring to support terrorism and traveling overseas to participate in "violent jihad," according to an indictment unsealed Monday.

Daniel Patrick Boyd, 39, and the six other men were arrested Monday and made their first appearances in Raleigh, charged with providing material support to terrorism.

"These charges hammer home the point that terrorists and their supporters are not confined to the remote regions of some far away land but can grow and fester right here at home," U.S. Attorney George E.B. Holding said in a statement. He declined further comment.

The indictment said Boyd, a U.S. citizen, trained in Afghanistan and fought there between 1989 and 1992 against the Soviet Union before returning to the United States. Court documents charged that Boyd, also known as 'Saifullah,' encouraged others to engage in jihad.

Two of the suspects are Daniel Patrick Boyd's sons: Zakariya Boyd, 20 and Dylan Boyd, 22. The others are Anes Subasic, 33; Mohammad Omar Aly Hassan, 22; and Ziyad Yaghi, 21.

Hysen Sherifi, 24, a native of Kosovo and a U.S. legal permanent was also charged. in the case. He was the only person arrested who was not a U.S. citizen.

All were residents of North Carolina, but it wasn't immediately known where they lived. It was not immediately known if they had attorneys. No attorneys for the men were listed in court records.

The indictment claims Boyd traveled to Israel in 2007 with several of the defendants, hoping to engage in "violent jihad." The attempt was unsuccessful, though, and the men returned home, officials said.

Boyd was also accused of trying to raise money last year to fund others' travel overseas to fight. One of the men, Hysen Sharifi, allegedly went to Kosovo to engage in violent jihad, according to the indictment, but it's unclear if he did any actual fighting.

Several of the defendants, including Boyd, were also charged with practicing military tactics on a private property in Caswell County in June and July of this year.

Santa Monica Sister City Association

International Youth Soccer Tournament

July 29-31

Santa Monica College (SMC)

John Adams Middle School (JAMS)

See Local AYSO and SAMOHI Soccer Teams Compete against International Youth Teams!

	JULY 29 Wednesday Day 1	JULY 30 Thursday Day 2	JULY 31 Friday Day 3
8:00 am	*Team Orientation*	*Warm-Up*	*Warm-Up*
9:00 am	*Game SMC JAMS*	*Game SMC JAMS*	*Game SMC JAMS*
Lunch 11:30 am 1:00 pm	*Welcoming Ceremony JAMS*	*JAMS*	*JAMS*
1:00 pm 4:00 pm	*Game SMC JAMS*	*Game SMC JAMS*	*Game SMC JAMS*
4:00 pm 5:00 pm	*Leisure*	*Leisure*	
5:00 pm			*Award Ceremony*

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 70°

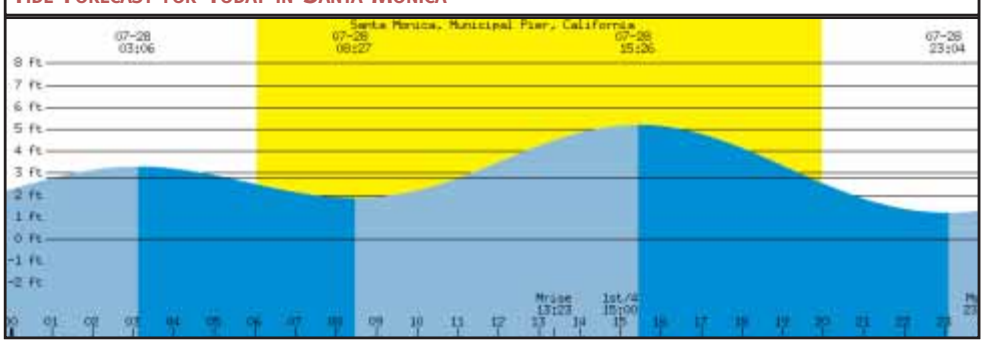
Swell Forecast

Swell should back down to around waist to chest high max. Winds should be light and variable in the AM, and onshore in the afternoon to 15 mph.

Long Range Synopsis

Later this week is looking fairly small, although a light swath of southern hemi energy should pass through the area.

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 21, 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 -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 44 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 3 / 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
Los Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa 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.	C	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	A	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	B	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'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.

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.

London Olympics on track with 3 years left to go

BY STEPHEN WILSON
Associated Press Writer

LONDON This Olympic training went so well that the two star British athletes broke out in smiles.

The needle-nosed "Javelin" high-speed train carried officials, athletes and media from central London to the main site of the 2012 Olympics in 6 minutes, 45 seconds — smashing its scheduled target time of 7 minutes.

That's even faster than Michael Phelps and the rest of the U.S. 800 freestyle relay team swam at the Beijing Olympics while winning in 6:58.56. And the sleek blue-and-yellow train wasn't even clad in a bodysuit, although it probably could've used one to knife through the steady London showers.

Monday's test run came three years to the day when the 2012 Olympics will begin — and it was an important success for London organizers who have been concerned about transportation for the games.

Olympics Minister Tessa Jowell said the three-mile journey "bodes very well indeed" for 2012, when the train service is expected to transport up to 25,000 visitors per hour from St. Pancras International station in central London to the Olympic Park in the Stratford area to the east.

"Ninety-seven percent of people who come to the Olympic Park will travel by public transport," Jowell said. "These will be the public transport games."

The train runs on a 140 mph line along the same route used by Eurostar trains from London to Paris and Brussels. Spectators arriving at the Stratford station will walk over a bridge into the park, where a run-down area is being turned into the showpiece complex.

The train journey began with London 2012 chairman Sebastian Coe, a former two-time Olympic gold medalist in the 1,500 meters, speaking to the passengers over the PA system.

"Hello, this is Seb Coe," he said. "The good news is that I am not your driver this morning. The bad news is that I have (two-time Olympic decathlon champion) Daley Thompson here who is. The train will depart as scheduled at 9:42 a.m."

The train sped through a long tunnel for most of the trip and pulled into the Stratford platform. Coe and the other VIPs then stepped off the train with big smiles after the journey went even faster than predicted.

"Today means pride, it means progress and it means excitement," Coe said later. "Pride that we've made such a good start and we've made such good progress and excitement because we are three years away from the opening ceremony. The competitor in me tells me that is just around the corner."

Coe and the other dignitaries — including 15-year-old Tom Daley, Britain's newly crowned world champion diver — toured the park site by buses, getting a firsthand look at what officials say is the biggest construction project in Europe.

Work is progressing on all the main venues in the park, including the Olympic Stadium, aquatics center, velodrome, media center and athletes' village. Most striking so far is the main 80,000-capacity stadium, whose external structure is already completed. The wave-shaped roof structure on the aquatics center is more than halfway finished.

Coe said the Olympics are on time and ahead of schedule in some cases, as well as on budget. Keeping the momentum going for the next three years is his biggest challenge.

"Everybody wakes up every morning focused on delivering a fantastic games to time and within budget," Coe said. "That's why we get up in the morning."

The British government's overall budget for the games is $15 billion. There is a shortage of private financing because of the recession, forcing the government to dip into a contingency fund to pay for the athletes' village and media center projects. Officials say $2.1 billion in reserve funds remain.

Coe said organizers have already raised $874 million from domestic sponsors — more than any previous host city — and are on their way to meeting an overall target of $1.1 billion.

About 4,000 construction workers are employed at the bustling site, which is peppered with cranes, trucks, bulldozers and other equipment.

The light showers continued for the tour — not unusual for London but a possible worry for 2012.

Mayor Boris Johnson, known for his bombastic style, was unperturbed.

"It is not raining in London 94 percent of the time," he said, repeating the line three times. "We have exactly the same climatic conditions as Paris. Rumors of our wetness are grossly exaggerated."

Jowell, the Olympics Minister, said British spectators won't be bothered by rain drops.

"In the unlikely event that at some point it rains during the Olympics, people are used to pulling on raincoats to watch sport in this country," she said.

The Olympic Stadium, home to the opening and closing ceremonies and track and field competition, has a partial roof covering 40 percent of the seats, which Coe said was "more coverage in terms of roofing capacity than the last three Olympic Games."

Questions remain over the post-Olympics use of the stadium, which is designed to be downsized after 2012 to a 25,000-capacity arena for track and field and other events. Organizers say they are determined not to leave any "white elephants."

But Baroness Margaret Ford, head of a new 2012 legacy agency, has suggested the stadium could remain as is, especially if England wins its bid to host soccer's 2018 World Cup.

Still to be completed are the venues for shooting and boxing.

Daley, who won a gold medal in diving for Britain at the world championships in Rome last week, is sure to be one of the faces of the London Games.

"It's crazy," he said after seeing the aquatics center, where digging has just begun on the diving pool. "At the moment there is just a roof there. Just to think what is going to be inside there is incredible because I always imagine myself every time I come here to be on top of the 10-meter board."

"If I was to do anything like I did in Rome it would be amazing to stand on top of the podium in London with the national anthem playing, in your own country," he said. "It would be just incredible."

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

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

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

Up (PG) 1hr 36min
11:40 a.m., 2:15, 5:10, 7:45, 10:10

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (PG-13) 2hrs 24min
11:45am, 3:05, 6:25, 9:40

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

G-Force (PG) 1hr 28min
11:15 a.m., 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 9:05

G-Force: In Disney Digital 3-D (PG) 1hr 28min
12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 10:05

The Proposal (PG-13) 1hr 48 min
11:05 a.m., 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
12:20, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35

Public Enemies (R) 2hrs 23min
12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 2hrs 33min
10:45 a.m., 12:00, 2:00, 3:30, 5:30, 7:00, 9:00, 10:30

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

(500) Days of Summer (PG-13) 1hr 35min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 7:00, 8:00, 10:15

The Answer Man (R) 1hr 35min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 9:50

Moon (R) 1hr 37min
1:50, 4:20, 9:30

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

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

Orphan (R) 2hrs 3min
1:20, 3:50, 4:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30

The Ugly Truth (R) 1hr 35min
11:10 a.m., 1:40, 4:10, 6:40, 9:10

The Ugle Truth (R) (Digital Projection) 1hr 36min
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

Bruno (R) 1hr 22min
12:30, 1:30, 3:00, 5:30, 6:50, 8:00, 10:20

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
11:40 a.m., 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:20

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

Easy does it, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Look someone square in the eye when discussing solutions, problems or a wild idea. Extremes come from out of left field. Adjust and don't make a big deal about a difference of opinion. Tonight: Catch up on news over dinner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ If you ever felt lazy, the time to act on this predisposition is now. Listen to someone who has a very different lifestyle. Discuss your perspectives, and you might feel more justified in making decisions later. Tonight: Easy does it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ An easy approach works with an associate, but you will need patience to hang in that space. The unexpected occurs. Your creativity will flourish if you can get your mind off one specific issue. Answers will just bubble forth. A close associate gives you powerful feedback. Tonight: Work as late as possible.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your imagination and charisma mark your actions and results. You have a way of drawing out others. Just through a conversation, someone can inspire you to another level. Others seem to be transforming right in front of your very eyes. Tonight: Add more magic to your life.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Stay anchored and deal with a situation head-on. Your creativity flourishes when you are centered and determined. A style change in your daily life with work, errands and life brings transformational results. Tonight: Head home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Use an ability to make sense of a sequence of events. Inspire your daily life with more ideas and perhaps accept new ideas and technology. The unexpected occurs when you least expect it, making it more surprising. Let your intense ingenuity and creativity open up. Tonight: Make plans with pals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Curb a need to have events occur in a certain manner. You might want to be in control. Stop. Remember, you can never control anyone. They might let you think that, but ultimately they hold the reins to their life. Tonight: Balance your checkbook.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your smile rewards many people, but these same people need to have more of say. Let go of a need to control, and allow associates and friends to do more. Don't worry -- no one can steal your thunder. Tonight: Do what you want.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Somehow you are hearing echoes in your head. You are picking up another's vibes and might need to respond in some way. Creativity might be your strong suit, but be careful when applying it to your finances. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Opportunities arrive through associates, friends and networking in general. News heading in from out of left field could be a real eye-opener. Use the insight that evolves to break into new thinking and better ideas. Tonight: Find your friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Others ask you for feedback, which also is a way of getting you more involved. Be sure the ramifications of carrying this weight are justified. Tonight: Follow-through counts.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★You might not be able to deal with the status quo, and decide on a practical way to change what is going on. Investigate options rather than react, and you will get a better solution. Tonight: Use your imagination.

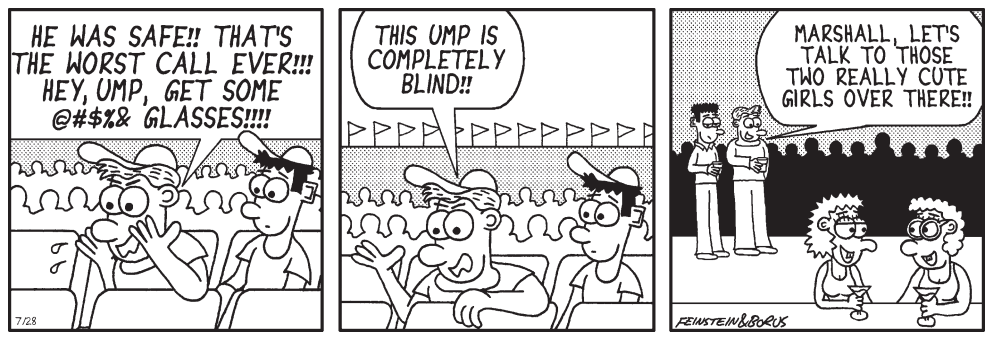
Happy birthday

This year, you often might need to stop, even if you are in a groove. Much changes quickly this year, not only in your life, but with those around you. What worked last week might no longer be effective or relevant. Continually update. If you are attached, your partner could start living with greater intensity; more adjustments will be called for in your interactions. Flex, understand and respect differences. If you are single, realize that it could take a full year after you meet someone until you really know him or her well. Be open, but keep this fact in mind. SCORPIO puts you on a pedestal but might not let you know it!

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

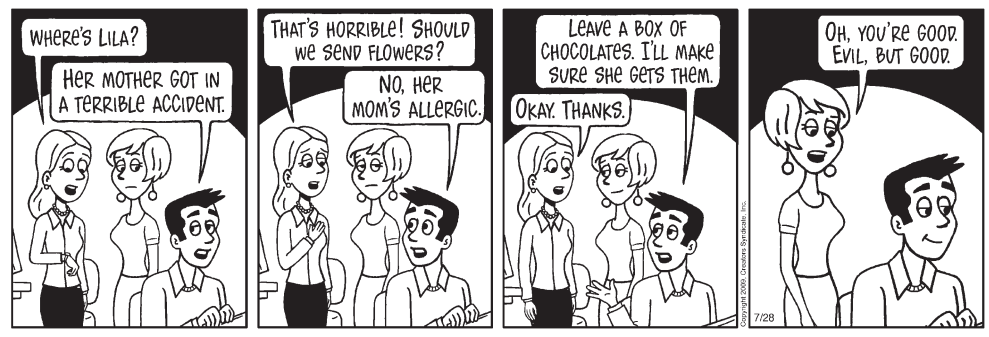
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



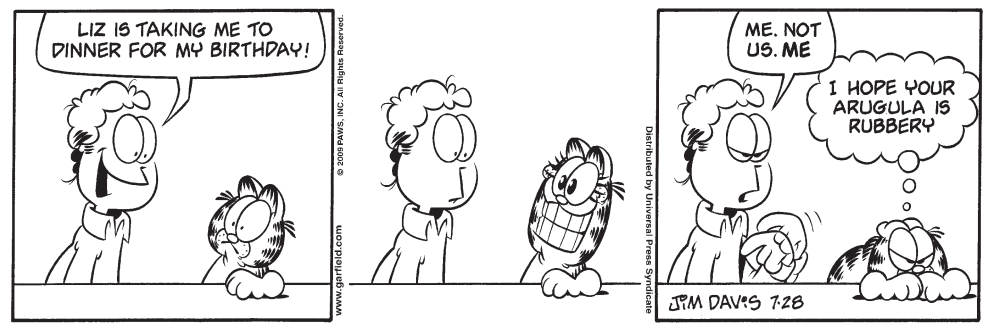
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



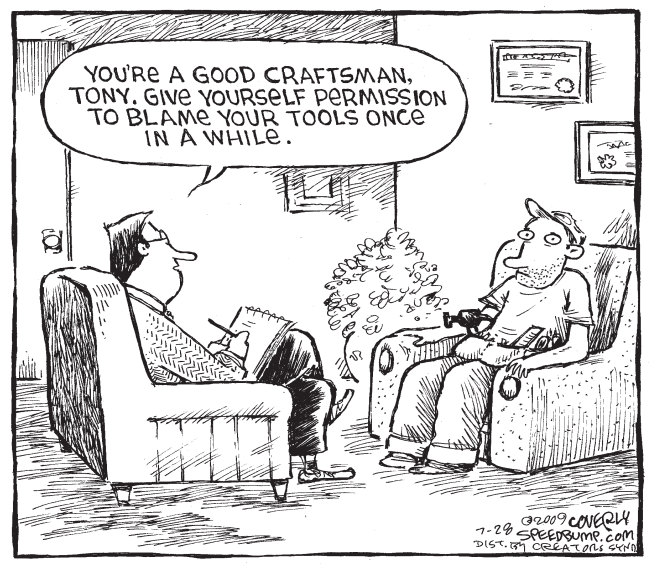
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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- Memory jogging exercises
- Fun entertainment
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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

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

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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. Hint: Try Downtown. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Like good watchmen
6 Blueprint data
11 Romantic one
12 Director Almodóvar
13 Sandra Bullock film
15 Rooster's mate
16 Pale
17 Hauler's unit
18 Patriotic tunes
20 Mamie's mate
21 Pub supply
22 Couplet creator
23 Chinwags
26 Ranch staff
27 Violent anger
28 Gear part
29 Go astray
30 Party supplier
34 Sports drink suffix
35 Good times
36 Lennon's love
37 Sandra Bullock film
40 Glutton
41 Chilled
42 Tale
43 Circus sights

DOWN

1 First letter
2 "Two Women" star
3 News item
4 "Losing My Religion" band
5 Mason's tools
6 Whirls
7 Parrot or puppy
8 Newspaper issue
9 Dishonest
10 Shakespeare poems
14 Resume starter
19 Despise
22 Book unit
23 Makes
24 Construction site wear
25 Authorize
26 Place with Wi-Fi
28 Crime boss
30 Indian dish
31 Violinist's stuff
32 Make law
33 Parts to play
38 For each
39 Binary digit

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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

7-28

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 3 6 43 51 52 Meganumber: 36 Jackpot: $60M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 4 12 20 36 47 Meganumber: 13 Jackpot: $10M

FANTASY 5: 1 4 8 12 28

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 9 4 3 EVENING: 4 1 2

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 01 Gold Rush 2nd: 07 Eureka 3rd: 08 Gorgeous George RACE TIME: 1:43.88

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

■ According to the Pentagon, there are only 566 surviving U.S. prisoners of war from the Vietnam era and 21 from the first Gulf War, but the Veterans Administration has been paying POW-labeled disability benefits to 966 and 286 people, respectively, according to an April Associated Press investigation. The AP found that, even though the Pentagon POW list is posted online, the VA does not routinely check it when a veteran applies for POW status. (POW claimants go to the front of the VA disability-application line and receive various other privileges.)

■ (1) Thomas Stites, 25, was charged with first-degree sexual assault of a child in Manitowoc, Wis., in June, thus becoming the fourth Stites brother to face sex charges recently. (In addition, brother Michael Stites' wife and their son have also been charged with sexual assault.) (2) Mykal Carberry, 13, was arrested in Hyannis, Mass., in March and charged with arranging for the murder of his 16-year-old half-brother, Jordan, so that, according to police, he could take Jordan's place atop the family's prosperous Cape Cod cocaine distribution ring. (The boss's job was open following the boys' father's recent imprisonment.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1540 King Henry VIII's chief minister, Thomas Cromwell, was executed, the same day Henry married his fifth wife, Catherine Howard.

1821 Peru declared its independence from Spain.

1914 World War I began as Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia.

1929 Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis was born in Southampton, N.Y.

1932 Federal troops forcibly dispersed the so-called "Bonus Army" of World War I veterans who had gathered in Washington to demand money they weren't scheduled to receive until 1945.

WORD UP!

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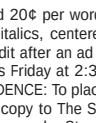
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