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WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2009
Volume 8 Issue 228



Santa Monica Daily Press

COOPER ON THE MEND
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE PARKING PROBLEMS ISSUE



PRETTY UPSET

Brandon Wise *news@smdp.com*

Activists with CODEPINK's 'Stolen Beauty' boycott campaign walk down the Third Street Promenade Tuesday protesting beauty company Ahava.

Wilmont residents eyeing church garage for parking

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

WILMONT As the lack of parking spaces continue to haunt residents living in perhaps the most densely-packed neighborhood in the city, the focus is now turning to a church-owned garage to provide some relief.

Located across from the Santa Monica First United Methodist Church at 11th Street is a three-level structure that holds slightly less than 300 spaces, approximately one-third of which are tandem, all that sit rather unoccupied during hours when the religious institution is not in operation, residents have said.

"We have no parking places at all and all those spaces sit virtually empty," Jeanne Dodson, who chairs the Wilshire-Montana Neighborhood Coalition, said.

The lack of available parking spaces in the neighborhood, which is bounded by Wilshire Boulevard and Montana Avenue from the ocean to 21st Street, has long been

SEE PARKING PAGE 11

Market drops cheesemaker

BY CATHERINE CAIN
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN Any publicity is supposedly a good thing, but in the case of Winchester Cheese Co., good publicity turned out to be harmful.

Earlier this month, Glenn Lingle, a Santa Monica software engineer and fan of Winchester Cheese found his family's favorite cheese vendor to be missing from its usual place at the Main Street Farmers' Market after approximately 15 years of business.

That's because Winchester Cheese was banned from selling at the market after AAA's "Westways" magazine published an article revealing the company no longer owned its own cow herd. The market has strict guidelines meant to protect and promote farmers.

"He is no longer a farmer because he doesn't own his cows," Farmers' Market supervisor Laura Avery said of Winchester. "You have to be the farmer, you have to process your own dairy … in the product that you're selling. You need to be a farmer."

Owned by Jules Wesselink, a native of Holland, the Winchester Cheese Co. sold hand-made gouda cheese at the market for over a decade. In 2001, Wesselink sold his herd of dairy cows, but continued to produce cheese from milk purchased from a next-door neighbor.

Jeffery Smoot, general manager for Winchester Cheese, verified that the dairy herd was sold both because it was cheaper to produce cheese using other milk and because Wesselink was getting older and could no longer handle the duties of herd upkeep.

"Nobody ever thought twice about it," Smoot said of selling the cows. "The person selling their product has to be the producer of the product, and we are the producer of our product. The philosophy of the market is that you have to grow and raise the cows."

Smoot said they work with the cows directly despite no longer owning them. Though the herd was sold, Wesselink still owned the dairy itself, and the cows that were sold stayed on the land until two years ago, when their new owner went out of business and could no longer lease the dairy land and was forced to take the cows away.

SEE MARKET PAGE 10


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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Kick it!
John Adams Middle School
2425 16th St., 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
The International Youth Soccer Tournament presented by the 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.

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Creative critters
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St., 2:30 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
Children ages 3 to 7 are invited to attend a puppet show for free. Tickets must be picked up after noon on the day of the performance. For more information call (310) 392-3804.

Sneak peak
Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave., 7:30 p.m.
Catch a sneak preview of "Julie & Julia" featuring Meryl Streep as Julia Child and Amy Adams as Julie Powell in writer-director Nora Ephron's adaptation of two best-selling memoirs: "My Life in France," Child's autobiography written with Alex Prud'homme, and a memoir by Julie Powell, "Julie & Julia." The film opens Aug. 7. Tickets are $9.

Twilight Dance Series
Santa Monica Pier
7:00 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Free concert featuring Thomas Mapfumo and the Blacks Unlimited. Participate in the fifth installment of this weekly summer music series.

Meet the author
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Hear Mary Frosch give cultural context to her latest anthology, "Coming of Age in the 21st Century," which features over 20 authors, including Sherman Alexie and Junot Diaz. For more information, visit www.smpl.org/libraryevents.htm.

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.





Rachel Dardaashti *news@smdp.com*

PROTECTING SEA LIFE: **Due to over-fishing there is a movement afoot to create Marine Protected Areas to preserve aquatic wildlife.**

Not so many other fish in the sea

Environmentalists work to create national parks in the ocean to protect marine life

BY EMMA TROTTER
Special to the Daily Press

SM BAY With sea life being threatened daily, environmentalists, fishermen and other interest groups proposed competing visions this week of a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) slated for establishment off the coast.

"MPAs function a lot like national or state parks," said Sarah Sikich, Heal the Bay's coastal resources director and one of 64 stakeholders in the south coast region. "They restrict the take of marine life in those areas to allow them to recover."

Sikich said the global fish population is at 10 percent of what it used to be and commercial fishing in Los Angeles is down 50 percent since just 1990. But despite the overwhelming need, very few MPAs currently exist. Those that do — around 80 when the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) initiative was passed in 1999 — were created over almost a century by many different organizations, so they don't function as a network.

"It was really just a mess," said Melissa Miller-Henson, program manager for the initiative.

The act designated six goals to change all that — but very little has been accomplished so far.

The current process began last September. Tuesday's and today's meetings at the Sheraton-Delfina in Santa Monica reflect the end of round two of three revisions. A final vote will be held in October, and then recommendations will be passed on to the California Fish and Game Commission, which regulates fishing.

"Those regulations are set by species — they don't take into account interactions within an ecosystem," Sikich said.

The six proposals aren't doing much better, she added.

"The proposals currently being considered fall short of the science guidelines," she said. "It's important in round three that we make changes to the proposals so that they perform better."

Stakeholder John Balotti, a member of the L.A. Rod and Reel Club, speaks for the interests of recreational angler fishermen. He agreed that the proposals are still a work in progress.

"We're looking for a balance between economic and environmental impacts," he said.

The Blue Ribbon Task Force, established at the act's passage, oversees the proposal process and will vote on the final recommendations.

"We try to look at all interests and make sure they are addressed at some point in the process," Miller-Henson said.

Balotti said that fishing is only part of the problem, though.

SEE **OCEANS** PAGE 9

James Cooper rounds back into shape

Former Samohi and LMU outfielder makes way through Yankees' minor league system

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

NEW HAMPSHIRE The cell phone crackles as the bus makes its way down a New England road, but it isn't the poor reception that's on James Cooper's mind.

The former Santa Monica High School and Loyola Marymount University standout is taking time out during one of the many bus rides that comes along with being in the minor leagues to talk about where he's at with his career following an oblique injury that sidelined him for 40 games earlier this season.

"It's good to be back," Cooper said of his return to the lineup this week. "I missed a big part of the season."

The Trenton Thunder, the double-A affiliate of the New York Yankees, are currently second in the standings and are the two-time defending Eastern League Champs. Cooper was called up to the club midway through last season and helped the team earn a playoff berth. He had just recently been named a single A All-Star and his stock was on the rise.

But as is the case with many ballplayers, the injury bug took a bite out of what should have been a pivotal 2009 season. Despite the injury, Cooper is hitting .279 this season with 21 RBIs.

Cooper said that the injury first surfaced while he was taking swings in the batting cage. He said he felt it pull, but he was quick to tell team trainers that he was fine before stepping back into the cage.

This time there was no doubt that he had injured his oblique. An extended trip to the disabled may have robbed the outfielder of opportunities to show the organization what he could do, but he's not worried about that.

Right now, he just wants to get some playing time.

He's currently in a five-man outfield platoon, one that affords precious few opportunities to show the player development department what he can do. He said he understands the situation and has decided to concentrate on the things that he controls. It's tough to

SEE **COOPER** PAGE 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Stop frivolous lawsuits

Editor:

Ladies' nights are a thing of the past in California. I should know, because my restaurants – Barney's Beanery –were sued for offering discounted drinks to women. The lawyer who brought this action claimed that my "ladies' night" discounts violated the civil rights of his male clients.

My case was one of hundreds of harassment lawsuits filed against California businesses. Three major league baseball teams have been sued for handing out freebies to women around Mother's Day. A resort in northern California was sued for offering "Furlough Friday" discounts to state employees. All these actions represent a novel class of so called "civil rights" lawsuits and are a new twist on the old business of distorting our laws to generate legal fees for greedy attorneys.

Such lawsuits are based on a twisted interpretation of the Unruh Act, our state's landmark civil rights legislation. That act, in the highest traditions of this country, prohibits discrimination against anyone based on their race, religion, ancestry, gender, or disability. This latest class of lawsuits trivializes legitimate civil law interpretation and pointlessly denies recognition, economic benefits and discounted services to virtually anyone in our state. Legitimate efforts at marketing to members of the community should not be considered civil rights violations just because such efforts do not reach out to everyone with the same appeal.

Of even greater concern regarding these baseless actions is their economic cost. California, and most other states, annually spend tens of millions of dollars contesting pointless legal actions brought chiefly to provide income to attorneys. A survey of small business owners conducted by the National Federation of Independent Business found that more than one third of respondents had been sued, and that nearly six-in-10 had been threatened by lawsuits in the last five years.

Protection for furloughed state workers is on its way. California Sens. Tom Harman and Gloria Negrete McLeod have introduced Senate Bill 367, legislation establishing that it is not a violation of the Unruh Act to provide discounted services or meals to state employees facing pay cuts and uncertain employment. And to its credit, the legal community has joined together to support this legislation. Additionally, some judges have thrown out "civil rights" lawsuits.

However, the unity of the legal community and the actions of these legislative members will only protect discounted goods and services to public employees. Hundreds of other groups and businesses remain potential victims of harassing lawsuits. The easy money made from intimidating small businesses into settlements is too powerful an incentive to too many self-interested attorneys. One frivolous attempt to enforce our civil laws through private legal actions is one too many. Far too often this private enforcement punishes honest businesses like mine and pointlessly costs our economy millions in lost business. Every few years someone discovers a new interpretation of established law just credible enough to pressure small businesses to pay off a lawyer rather than fight in a court room. This kind of opportunism in our legal system is too expensive for us to let it continue. We need a better solution for all "civil rights" lawsuits, better enforcement of our laws and a better option to frivolous lawsuits. We, California business owners and consumers alike, deserve it.

David Houston
Pacific Palisades

Appreciative of gift

Editor:

Last week the Daily Press had a big ad and raffle ticket for the July 18 celebration at B&B Hardware. I attended and on Tuesday received a call that I had won a tool box. I picked it up on Wednesday and was very pleasantly surprised. I thought it was a very nice gesture on the part of the store, which was also giving out hot dogs, popcorn, snow cones and assorted drinks to everybody who attended.

Lois Miller
Santa Monical



Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The second 100 days of hope underway

WOW! WHERE TO BEGIN?

The economy? Since the February installation of a $787 billion supercharger, America has been hurtling down the Hope and Change superhighway at the blinding speed of road kill. But like road kill, voodoo Obamanomics is sort of slow, kind of flat and very smelly as it bakes on the asphalt at the intersection of Reality Road and Rhetoric Alley. Meanwhile the national unemployment rate of 9.5 percent [and rising] skids well past the president's overstimulated guarantee that national unemployment would never veer over 8 percent.

If Dubya has supposedly driven the American economic Hummer into a fiduciary ditch, then the roadside assistance provided courtesy of the Obamamobile Club has lubriciously doused it in tax-and-spend napalm and is charbroiling it beyond recognition.

The environment? The peculiarly pugnacious and oppressively pecuniary issue known as "cap-and-trade" has slid off of the Congressional landscape like a tired polar bear rolling off of a melting ice flow. After Obama-trolls at the EPA sloppily sandbagged a key report before a critical House vote on the mythology of global warming, the Senate has since then demurred on the crapulousness of cap-and-trade.

Rub-a-dub-dub, Obama's enviro-policy just went blub.

Popularity? Let me get this straight. On July 23, an All Barack Channel (ABC) poll proclaimed that Sarah Palin was considered publicly "disapproved" by 53 percent, yet a July 24 Rasmussen poll placed Obama in that same category in a statistical dead heat of 51 percent? It must suck being the most popular president in the history of history only to share the same disapproval ratings with the most reviled person in Christendom this side of Osama bin Laden.

Healthcare? Or should I say "AstrologyCare?" On July 23, Obama declared that "the stars are aligned" to pass healthcare reform. Has he been hanging out with Nancy Reagan lately? Under the astrologically alleged imperatives of ObamaCare, you can exercise your government-run healthcare options only when your "stars are aligned" along your personal astronomical ecliptic. If you're a Pisces, however, it will be just too damn bad if you get sick during Virgo.

Shouldn't the Astrologer-in-Chief submit actual facts and figures pertinent to his argument rather than engage in the augury of goat entrails? Or is the Congressional Budget Office's prognostications of the specious savings under ObamaCare inconvenient to the stark realities of what's important to the American taxpayer? Of course, it would be efficacious to the health of the American body politic if Obama had actually read the bill which he purports to support before he suffers from further bouts of foot-in-mouth disease.

Speaking of exercising health care options. Obesity is reasonably considered the number one health care related issue for the coming decades in the U.S. Please note that over a third of Americans are o-beastly obese while another third is just a little on the clunky, chunky side. The remaining third, like myself, possess a more superior degree of control with a knife and fork than the rest of you so please spare me the progresso-liberal protestations that there is somehow a "health care crisis" in this country when in reality the "crisis" begins with the gaping hole in the middle of your face.

Being Porky Pig's stunt double is a choice, folks.

Since obesity is linked to the concomitant consequences of hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cellulite and Lycra stretch pants, could someone please explain to me why I, as a taxpayer, should have to pay into a socialist healthcare boondoggle for some lazy fascists' adulatory addiction to the contents of their refrigerator?

Or for the healthcare of 14 million illegal aliens?

Sorry, but I would consider a federally-funded sports club membership to 24 Hour Fitness for all Americans as an infinitely more inexpensive healthcare solution than the $1.3 trillion "bargain" suggested by ObamaCare to accommodate the quintile of sociological bottom-feeders amongst the medically uninsured.

And how serious is the Obama administration about "good health" when his own surgeon general-designate is 40 pounds overweight and looks like the love child of Col. Sanders and Godzilla? If this is the Obamanian example of "good health" that he truly wishes to publicly convey then what's the point of discussing the fascism of ObamaCare?

Physician heal thyself.

Folks, health care is not a "right." Look it up in the Constitution or the Bill of Rights and find the words "health care". I will be your cabana boy for life if you do. The funny part is watching progresso-liberals, suffering from electile dysfunction over the ObamaCare debate, somehow overlook the fact that they possess complete political control over both houses of Congress as well as the Rubber-Stamper-in-Chief at the Oval Office and yet neither seems able to scream loud enough to just get it up and get it done.

STEVE BREEN made the smart conservative choices and has had health insurance for 36 years and is still "the best looking mailman at the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

I'm with stupid, sir

ONE REASON I LOVE LIVING IN Santa Monica is we basically have no street crime. Instead of petty crooks, we have uniformed officers who usually combine an overwhelming show of force with a surprisingly personal touch on their stops and calls. And when you know the SMPD sends three cruisers to respond to a report of a homeless person sleeping in a doorway, you'd have to be an idiot to commit a real crime here. Plus, actual courtesy from cops is a nice change from my hometown police department in Boston. I note my appreciation for the SMPD because it's possible my agreeing with our president's critique of the Cambridge police department and its handling of the arrest of America's preeminent black scholar, Professor Henry Louis Gates, might be misunderstood.

Unless you've been in Alaska for the last week, you know that Cambridge, Mass., police Sgt. James Crowley responded to a reported break-in at Gates' house, discovered that the only person in the house was the legal resident, and placed that legal resident under arrest anyway — all within about five minutes. You've probably also heard President Obama's answer to the question of what the arrest says about race relations in America, "I think it's fair to say, number one, any of us would be pretty angry; number two, that the Cambridge police acted stupidly in arresting somebody when there was already proof that they were in their own home; and number three, what I think we know separate and apart from this incident is that there is a long history in this country of African Americans and Latinos being stopped by law enforcement disproportionately. That's just a fact."

Say what you want about whether or not a president should have answered the question at all, the only part of his answer that any reasonable person could take issue with is the word "stupidly." And if you're going to do that, then what you're saying is Crowley's actions during those five minutes were "smart." A second look at what happened doesn't back that up.

The 911 call Crowley was responding to started with, "I don't know what's happening." The caller, Lucia Whalen, went on to say, "I just had an older woman standing here and she had noticed two gentlemen trying to get in (Gates' house). And they kind of had to barge in and they broke the screen door and they finally got in. When I had looked … closer to the house a little bit after the gentlemen were already in the house, I noticed two suitcases. So, I'm not sure if this is two individuals who … live there."

When asked about ethnicity she said, "one looked kind of Hispanic but I'm not really sure. … I just saw it from a distance." Yet when Crowley arrived on the scene and spoke to her, he says she "went on to tell me that she observed what appeared to be two black males with backpacks on the porch."

I know what I'd call a guy who, within seconds, turns two men (one possibly Hispanic) in the house with suitcases into two males (both black) on the porch with backpacks — and the word "smart" doesn't rush to mind.

In an interview, Crowley said he didn't think Gates "looked like somebody who would break into a house" and was surprised that the professor was "very upset, very put off that I was there in the first place." Crowley said, "when I asked for ID … he asked for my ID. I thought, 'that's not an ordinary request … but if that's all the guy needs … I'll show it to him.'" As Crowley should know, and as the professor probably does know, police officers in Massachusetts are legally required to present ID when requested. Gates held up his end of the ID bargain, Crowley didn't — and that's what most likely set Gates off.

In Crowley's defense, he teaches other officers about how to avoid racial profiling and by all reports doesn't have a racist bone in his body. That said, not profiling the one man in the city of Cambridge with the DA, chief of police, mayor, governor, and president in his Fave Five isn't exactly … what's the word I'm looking for?

Whatever your thoughts on what this arrest means, there are a few things we can all agree on. Number one, the president shouldn't have weighed in on a local case involving a friend about which he didn't have all the facts. Number two, Gates shouldn't have flown off the handle talking to Crowley. Number three, Crowley should have just left when he determined there was no break-in. Number four, when they have their long-awaited beer together, they should all drink from mugs that say "I'm With Stupid" on them.

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider with four-quadrant crossover appeal who hates abuses of police power a little more than he hates racism. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

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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Inspect Your Gadget

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Alejandro Cesar Cantarero II *gadgets@smdp.com*

Let there be light

GADGET: SOLAR HYBRID LIGHT.

THE SOLAR HYBRID FLASHLIGHT IS LIKELY the best flashlight out there for the sole reason that it is solar powered. Usually, by the time I need a flashlight, the batteries inside are dead. Sure, you can just pop some new ones in or use rechargeable, but how is that sustainable?

This product has a built-in solar panel that it uses to rejuice. The amazing thing is that it even charges on cloudy days and indoors. It also has a backup battery reserve just in case you run out of all that stored solar energy. The packaging claims that the flashlight will hold a charge for 10 years and gives you 10 hours of light.

Out of the packaging, mine only lasted for six hours. Not too bad. A photograph on the packaging shows this product in a dog's mouth, so I set up a little torture test for it myself. I rolled this thing down a hill, threw it in a pool and dropped it from my bike. It still works. The Solar Hybrid Light has found permanent residence on my kitchen windowsill.

WINS

Charges on a sunny day, yay! Charges on a cloudy day, yay! Waterproof and durable.

FAILS

No complete charge indicator. Uses lithium batteries for reserve energy which isn't necessarily a bad thing, but if you're not price savvy, these small batteries end up costing you a fortune.

FINAL CALL: WANT

Not too long ago I realized that the most disposable items on this planet are made of plastic, arguably one of the most durable materials ever made. The Solar Hybrid at first glance feels like any other plastic flashlight but what sets it apart is its built-in solar charger. It charges itself in almost any condition and holds its charge for 10 years. Let's see your sexy aluminum Mag Light do that.

If you have any gadgets that need to be inspected, please feel free to send your product information to gadgets@smdp.com

Home prices begin slow climb

J.W. ELPHINSTONE
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK There were fresh signs Tuesday that home prices in much of the country are stabilizing and the housing market is on the mend.

Home prices in May posted their first monthly increase since the summer of 2006, according to the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city index. Prices rose from April in 13 of the cities tracked, notably Cleveland, Dallas and Boston.

The news follows upbeat reports showing sales of newly built and existing homes rose in June for the third straight month. And new home construction, while still weak, is the best it's been since the fall.

The news: The 20-city home price index rose 0.5 percent from April to a reading of 139.8, but was still 17.1 percent below the reading of 168.6 in May a year ago. It was the fourth consecutive month the index indicated prices have turned the corner and are heading back toward positive territory.

The 20-city index has lost more than 32 percent since its peak reading of 206.52 three years ago. That means home prices are back to mid-2003 levels.

The report: The Case-Shiller index measures home price increases and decreases relative to prices in January 2000. The base reading is 100; so a reading of 150 would mean that home prices increased 50 percent since the beginning of the index.

What it shows: The index tracks repeat sales of a designated group of homes in each city. By measuring the sales price of the same properties over time, the index prevents the data from being skewed by a change in the types of homes sold. Sales between related parties, such as family members, are excluded because they may not reflect true market values.

What it doesn't show: The indexes only measure price data in 20 major metropolitan areas in 15 states and the District of Columbia. So many areas of the country are not represented.

Why it matters: Investors closely watch the Case-Shiller indexes to gauge the level and direction of home prices. The indexes include a broader mix of properties compared to the index created by the Federal Housing Finance Agency. That index excludes many high-end properties, as well as homes bought with riskier mortgages or all cash.

The quote: "We may be on the way to recovery," said Maureen Maitland, vice president of S&P's index services. "I say 'may' because it's only been a couple months of data and home prices are seasonal ... It will take a couple more months to see if we have turned around."

Americans gloomy on economy

BY ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Americans are looking past the stock market surge and signs of a stabilizing economy and focusing on something more personal — job worries.

Consumer confidence fell this month, the Conference Board said Tuesday, presenting a big obstacle for already hammered stores as they head into the critical back-to-school shopping season.

The confidence index fell to 46.6, down from 49.3 in June and weaker than what economists were expecting. It takes a reading above 90 to signal Americans believe the economy is on solid footing.

The second straight month of declining confidence followed an upbeat report offering more evidence that the real estate market is showing signs of life. According to a widely watched index, home prices in May posted their first monthly increase since the summer of 2006.

But vanishing job security and reduced work hours continue to plague shoppers, who are relying more on their paychecks as two previous sources of money — credit cards and home equity loans — have shrunk.

When the Labor Department releases its monthly jobs report next week, economists expect it to show unemployment climbed to 9.7 percent in July, up from 9.5 percent in June and within shouting distance of its post-World War II high.

And the job cuts keep coming. Just Monday, Verizon Communications Inc. announced plans to slash more than 8,000 employee and contractor jobs before the end of the year.

Irma Sanches of Milwaukee was once a big spender. But now the 25-year-old single mother is having trouble finding a job that offers her flexibility to take care of her infant daughter. She was looking at toys at TJ Maxx on Tuesday but trying not to spend money.

"I'm a shopper, and right now I'm restricted to what I need," said Sanches.

The weak consumer-confidence reading also pushed stocks lower. The Dow Jones industrial average finished down about 12 points at 9,097. Over the past two weeks, better-than-expected earnings reports have reignited the stock market rally. The average topped 9,000 Thursday for the first time since early January, but worries about the economy are putting the rally on hold again.

Americans' lack of confidence presents a big hurdle for retailers because consumer spending accounts for more than 70 percent of economic activity. Confidence had been rebounding since March after reaching historic lows. But since June, harsh economic realities are catching up with shoppers again.

"Even though we have seen an improvement in economic indicators, there hasn't been any meaningful improvement in household finances," said Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wells Fargo. "Consumers are not in the position to step up their spending in a major way. This doesn't bode well for the back-to-school season."

Frank Newport, editor-in-chief of the Gallup Poll, said recent surveys have picked up growing skepticism among Americans about the government stimulus plan, hurting confidence.

Both components of the Conference Board's consumer confidence gauge — one that measures shoppers' current assessment of the economy and another that measures shoppers' outlook over the next six months — further declined from last month.

The consumer confidence survey was sent to 5,000 households and had a cutoff date for responses of July 21.

The encouraging news is that the housing market, while far from healthy, is showing some signs of stabilizing. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home price index of 20 major cities rose slightly in April but is still well below levels of a year ago.

Thirteen cities showed monthly increases, with the best results in Cleveland, Dallas and Boston. On Monday, the government said new home sales increased last month at the fastest pace in more than eight years as buyers took advantage of bargain prices.

But economists believe an improving job picture, not housing, is the vital factor in boosting confidence and getting people spending again.

Jen Ferguson of Milwaukee feels fairly secure in her job as a city planner, but she'll watch closely as budget talks get under way this fall. She recently bought a condo and said she's had to watch her spending habits.

"It's not a total stop, but I'm waiting to know if I have the money before I spend it," she said.

Vitner said he doesn't believe that the job market will begin to bottom out until mid-2010 and doesn't expect confidence to return to healthy levels until 2011 or 2012. "We are going to have a slow and frustrating climb out of this recession," he said.

AP Real Estate Writer J.W. Elphinstone in New York and AP Retail Writer Emily Fredrix in Milwaukee contributed to this report.

DreamWorks beats 2Q expectations

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLENDALE DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc. on Tuesday reported second-quarter earnings that blew past Wall Street forecasts on the strength of last year's films.

The company said domestic pay TV revenues for "Kung Fu Panda" and international DVD sales of "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa" bolstered results.

DreamWorks earned $26 million, or 30 cents per share, in the three months through June, down slightly from $27 million, or 30 cents per share, a year ago.

Revenue fell 7 percent to $132 million.

Analysts polled by Thomson Reuters expected DreamWorks Animation to see revenue of $117 million, with earnings of 16 cents per share.

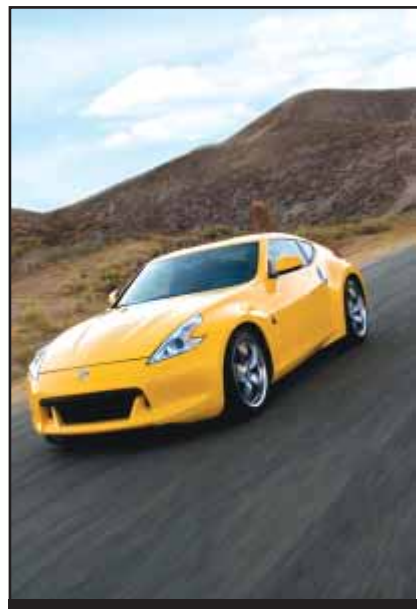
"Monsters vs. Aliens," the company's sole release this year, contributed just $10 million in the quarter, mainly because of a video game agreement with Activision Blizzard Inc.

The company said the 3-D movie has grossed $377 million worldwide since its release in late March.

DreamWorks said its third-quarter results would be driven mainly by the DVD and Blu-ray sales of "Monsters" and revenue from "Madagascar 2" on domestic pay TV.

DreamWorks Animation was spun off from the privately held live-action studio headed by Steven Spielberg, DreamWorks SKG Inc., in a public stock offering in 2004.

Shares rose 18 cents to close at $28.68 Tuesday before the results were announced.


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Cooper waits for his chance

FROM COOPER PAGE 3

advance in a system that includes the likes of Hideki Matsui and Johnny Damon, both starters in the Yankees' outfield.

"I wish I was out there every day," Cooper said. "All I can do is try to help the team win when I get my opportunities."

Cooper's head coach while at LMU, Frank Cruz, said that he thinks the outfielder has the tools to crack a big league lineup, even if some of those tools don't show up in a box score.

"His biggest asset is being a leader," Cruz said. "Without being a really vocal guy, he led by example."

Cooper may have the traits to make it to the show, but it's hard to tell if his bosses feel the same way.

"I never know what they are thinking," Cooper said of team evaluators. "They don't tell you much."

He describes his time in the Yankees' organization as being under the radar — a place he said he's accustomed to.

Since being drafted in the ninth round out of LMU, Cooper said that he hasn't been a highly-touted prospect, but that hasn't stopped his ascent through the minors.

"I try to do the best I can and leave the rest up to God," he said.

HOME ON THE ROAD

Cooper, who graduated from Samohi in 2002 and went on to attend LMU, never had to travel far from the Westside during his school years. That all changed once the Yankees made him a draft choice.

He said that the endless road trips were


Photo courtesy Trenton Thunder
COOPER

trying at first for a player who wasn't used to being away from home.

"My parents and friends couldn't see me play as much," Cooper, who lives in the area during the offseson, said.

He added that the camaraderie with fellow minor leaguers has helped, but nothing replaces familiar faces for a player new to the road.

It took a little time for Cooper to grow accustomed to the increased number of games at locations across the country, but it wasn't long until he shook off the road jitters and began to fall into the schedule of a pro ballplayer.

"Now I know what to expect," Cooper said. "I understand that I'm going to be gone for half of the year.

"I'm just used to it."

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Water quality not addressed in MPAs

FROM OCEANS PAGE 3

"The ocean should be managed as a sustainable resource," he said. "However, the process doesn't take into account lots of factors that impact habitat protection, including water quality."

> **THIS IS NOT ABOUT SETTING ASIDE THE MAJORITY OF THE OCEAN FROM FISHING.**
>
> **Sarah Sikich, Coastal Resources Director**
> Heal the Bay

Miller-Henson said that other organizations — such as state and regional water control boards — hold all the cards when it comes to addressing water quality concerns.

"We're not ignoring it," she added, citing recommendations made by the science advisory team regarding the issue.

The south coast region, from Point Conception to the Mexican border, will be the third of five regions to make recommendations to the commission. In the first two regions, Sikich said, only about 9 percent of the ocean was placed under protection.

"This is not about setting aside the majority of the ocean from fishing," she said. "It's about benefiting the future of coastal ecosystems and the future of fishing."

Today's meeting starts at 8 a.m. at the Sheraton Delfina. Those who are unable to attend meetings, call or e-mail to share their concerns regarding the MLPA initiative at (916) 654-1885 or mlpacomments@resources.ca.gov.

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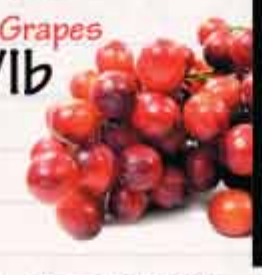
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Photo courtesy Winchester Cheese Co.

SLOW PROCESS: **Workers with the Winchester Cheese Co. at work in an undated photo. Winchester was recently prohibited from selling its products at the Santa Monica Farmers' Markets after city officials learned the company no longer owns the cows it gets its milk from.**

Dairy farms in trouble

FROM **MARKET** PAGE 1

Some cows are still left in the dairy, but there are not nearly enough to support the company, which is why Wesselink's family gets raw milk from a neighbor.

Winchester Cheese and various other small companies face even larger problems than losing business in small, city markets. Smoot and Avery said the Food and Drug Administration is considering placing a ban on raw milk, which is essentially unpasteurized milk that comes directly from the cow.

Additionally, many small and family-owned dairies are losing business to larger corporations.

"I feel bad in general because I know the dairy industry in California will be obsolete in five years," Avery said. "All the small, independent dairies are going out of business."

However, "our Farmers' Market will not save the small dairies in California," she added.

Though Avery said she enjoys Winchester's unique cheese and commends them for making authentic gouda in a way no one else does anymore, she is firm in the market's decision to ban the company from selling their product.

Avery explained that most of the market is made up of certified farmers, while a small portion is made up of non-certified vendors who are not considered farmers and sell prepared foods or crafts. This is to distinguish small farmers from other vendors and to aid the health and agricultural departments in inspections.

"A milk producer is a certified producer, they have to grow their own product," she said. "[Wesselink] buys from the guy right next door. … We are not interested or going to be enlarging the non-certified section, to do that would eliminate farmers from the market."

Despite the regulations, some feel Winchester Cheese has been unfairly singled out by the market.

"They are certainly supporting the neighbor dairy farmer they are getting some of their milk from, but apparently the Santa Monica Farmers' Market management has decided that there is a certain number of cows they are required to own," Lingle said. "My family can no longer experience the fine, raw milk artisan cheese we've been purchasing from our 'cheese lady,' face to face, for years because of an apparent philosophical position that has been taken by the [market] management."

Customer Karen Pomer finds Avery's reasoning dubious.

"As a regular customer of Winchester farms at the Sunday market, I am outraged at this unfair development," she said. "The market's rationalization is absurd and arbitrary. Leasing some of their cows is the same as a farmer leasing land."

Smoot urges those who enjoyed the cheese to protest the decision.

"They want us to prove certain things to the market that other cheesemakers have not had to prove," he said.

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Brandon Wise *news@smdp.com*

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO PARK: **A car drives into the underground parking structure for the First United Methodist Church on 11th Street on Tuesday afternoon. Residents in the Wilmont want the church to share their parking spaces with residents.**

City Hall exploring shared parking options for residents

FROM **PARKING** PAGE 1

a bane for residents, the problem that year after year tops the list of the biggest issues in a survey of coalition members. It's a challenge that many attribute to the high concentration of apartments and condominiums and that others believe is exacerbated by some residents using their garages for storage — a touchy topic on its own.

The solution that Dodson has presented is to arrange for a shared parking arrangement between residents and owners of larger lots and garages after business hours, bringing in a third party to handle disputes.

The operator of the garages could determine when and where the residents could park, establishing specific hours and designating locations. Residents who purchase permits would be assigned a card that would be scanned upon entry each time, notifying the operator when the cars are there illegally. The owner could also enter an agreement with a tow company to take care of cars that are not supposed to be in the garage during certain hours.

The shared parking proposal presents several challenges for the First United Methodist Church, which outside of its worship services, offers its facilities for various non-affiliated programs, hosting more than a dozen 12-step group meetings, the Boy Scouts and Musica Angelica concerts, said Patricia Farris, the senior minister. The church also lends its garages on occasion for other local religious houses that need it for overflow parking.

The irregular schedule is what makes the shared-parking idea difficult to adopt, Farris said.

"The availability would be quite limited and not consistent day to day and week to week," she said. "We certainly understand the issues and the concerns and part of our challenge at this point is that we make it available so much for the community already that we got people in and out … during the evening."

She added that the church does not want to get into a situation where the permit holders are inconvenienced by having to move their cars when a funeral or other unanticipated event is scheduled.

"We want to be cooperative and yet we are really interested in working out something that fits our mission in the community," she said.

The proposal is currently being evaluated by Annette Colfax, City Hall's new transportation demand manager who has been following up on leads of possible shared-parking opportunities.

Colfax said that church officials also have concerns about liability and security. The plan that Dodson presented would require that residents waive liability.

The one issue that appears to be shared by businesses that have been approached about the shared parking option is the hours of operation.

City Hall recently sent out a survey to Montana Avenue merchants, receiving responses to 22 of them. Several did identify some parking spaces that might be available during certain hours in the evening and Sundays.

"There are businesses that are connected to small amounts of parking that is not used during certain hours, but which hours it's not used vary depending on whether the business is a boutique or a restaurant," Colfax said. "Some of the businesses share parking amongst themselves and use it during different hours.

"There is definitely potential to identify parking that can be shared with residents but each solution has to be very individually crafted."

Shared parking has worked relatively well in Long Beach where more than 1,200 spaces have been created for residents since Councilmember Suja Lowenthal in 2006 made a motion to create a community parking program. Approximately half of the spaces are from city-owned garages. Private operators are allowed to set their own rates.

Dodson said that even though the church has its own garage, some of its congregants still park on the street.

"It's more convenient for (them) to park on the street and take our parking places rather than use the parking places they have available to them," she said.

She suggested that a portion of the garage could be set aside for the residents, perhaps the third level.

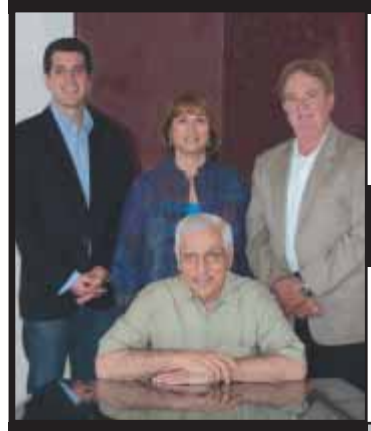
Some relief could come from the campus enhancement project at St. Monica Catholic Church, which is proposing to build a new Community Center and subterranean parking garage that will have approximately 270 spaces.

Jason Farmer, spokesman for St. Monica, said that the staff is currently in the process of reviewing its plan to increase on-site parking and is open to considering opening neighbor access to its facility, depending on availability after meetings and operational needs of the church and two schools.

"As always, we are open to talking with our valued, long-time neighbors," he said.

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Schwarzenegger signs budget with more welfare cuts

JUDY LIN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a revised $85 billion budget Tuesday that he said contained "the good, the bad and the ugly," including additional cuts to child welfare programs, health care for the poor and AIDS prevention efforts.

Schwarzenegger used his line-item veto authority to save an additional $656 million that will let the state restore a reserve fund he said is needed for tough times. Democrats immediately questioned whether he had the authority to make some of the cuts.

The new budget should help the state's cash crisis. It remained unclear, however, how soon the state could stop issuing thousands of IOUs to vendors and contractors.

The governor's vetoes included $80 million from child welfare programs; $61 million from county funding to administer Medi-Cal, California's version of Medicaid; $52 million from AIDS prevention and treatment; $50 million from Healthy Families, the low-cost health insurance program for poor children; and $6.2 million more from state parks.

"Those are ugly cuts and I'm the only one that is really responsible for those cuts because the Legislature left, they didn't want to make those cuts," he said after signing the budget in his office.

Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, a Democrat who negotiated the original budget compromise with Schwarzenegger, immediately questioned the legality of many of the governor's vetoes.

"We will fight to restore every dollar of additional cuts to health and human services," Steinberg said in a written statement. "This is not the last word."

Schwarzenegger called the budget package aimed at balancing the state's budget through June 30, 2010, the toughest since he took office in 2003. Still, the Republican governor said the package included reforms he has long sought and forces government to live within its means.

He said additional cuts were needed to build a $500 million reserve fund after the state Assembly rejected about $1.1 billion in revenues from local transportation funding and by allowing new offshore oil drilling.

With much of state spending tied up by federal and constitutional requirements, the Schwarzenegger administration wants to ensure the state has a cash cushion in case of emergencies such as earthquakes and wildfires.

California's economy has been hit by the housing market slump and high unemployment, and the latest efforts to close a $26 billion shortfall came just five months after lawmakers and the governor ended months of negotiations to close a previous $42 billion deficit.

The governor and lawmakers hope the revised spending plan will end California's cash crisis and let the state stop issuing IOUs. Schwarzenegger's finance director, Michael Genest, said it would take days for finance officials to finish analyzing the revised budget's impact on cash flow.

"It's not going to happen overnight, but they're going to work on it," Schwarzenegger said of Genest and the state treasurer and controller.

Genest warned Tuesday that even with the revised budget deal, California will need to borrow $8 billion to $10 billion to cover its cash needs this year, and the state is likely to face another $7 billion to $8 billion deficit in the 2010-11 fiscal year.

Matt Fabian, a bond analyst at Municipal Market Advisors, based in Concord, Mass., said California's plan was filled with accounting tricks and will likely do little to improve the state's poor credit rating.

Among the questionable maneuvers in the plan, the state will accelerate income tax withholding by 10 percent to inflate revenues during the year and shift state employee payroll by one day for a paper savings of $1.2 billion. The state also will sell a portion of the state's workers compensation insurance business for $1 billion, which the Legislature's nonpartisan analyst doubts could be done within the fiscal year.

Fitch Ratings rates California's general obligation bond debt at "BBB," which is still investment-grade. Most states have a higher-quality "AAA" or "AA" ratings.

The package lawmakers agreed to included about $15 billion in spending cuts, as well as reforms that include tougher sanctions on CalWORKS recipients who don't meet work requirements. Also, in-home support workers will have to undergo background checks and have their fingerprints taken.

In earlier rounds of cuts, California reduced Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for health care providers and eliminated optional benefits such as dental and eye care for adult recipients.

With the vetoes announced Tuesday, the cut to California's state parks totals about $14 million. Genest said that will likely force as many as 100 of the state's 279 parks, beaches and attractions to close, although he cautioned that figure wasn't firm.

The additional cuts Schwarzenegger made Tuesday also include $37.5 million from the In-Home Supportive Services program, $50 million from the Early Start program to screen children for developmental disablities, and more than $6 million in cuts from programs for the aging.

For the first time since the recession began in late 2007, the state will reduce county funding for child protection and foster care services. Under the governor's cut to AIDS prevention and treatment, Genest said the state will continue to provide patients with drugs and monitor the spread of the disease.

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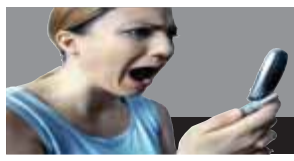
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July 29-31

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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°

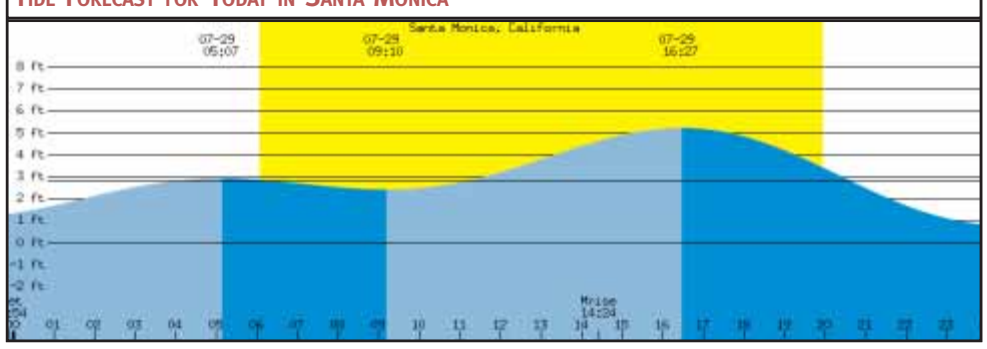
Swell Forecast

Today is waist to chest at south facing breaks, waist high at west facing breaks. Winds should be light and variable in the AM, and onshore in the afternoon 15 mph.

Long Range Synopsis

This weekend we may see a touch of NW wind swell come in as southern hemi fades. So far it's looking like a knee to maybe waist high day most everywhere.

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 -- 0
- 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, The 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 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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Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card® is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

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

Army brass using extreme sports to help war veterans

GREGG BELL
Associated Press Writer

FORT LEWIS, Wash. Sgt. Sylvia Portillo went first.

Secured with elastic cords to a railroad bridge more than 200 feet over a gorge south of Mount St. Helens, Portillo's mission was to dive over the edge. She pretended to throw up, getting a nervous laugh out of the troops behind her. Then, keeping her own anxiety in check, she bungee-jumped into the lush green below.

Dozens of soldiers in the 2nd Battalion, 12th Field Artillery Regiment and the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team took the plunge that day last fall. Most had been recently deployed in Iraq. Few had bungee-jumped before.

As he stood at the edge, Sgt. Steve Damron felt a mix of trepidation and adrenaline that he likened to patrols through Baghdad. "It's a chance to calm our brothers down," he said, "to push that adrenaline out."

That's the idea.

More than 323,000 Army soldiers have served more than one deployment in Iraq or Afghanistan, according to Defense Department statistics entering June, and the Army had the highest rate of suicides on record last year. Researchers reported this month that 37 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans seeking care at Veterans Affairs clinics for the first time are being diagnosed with mental health disorders.

The situation has the military searching for ways to supplement and redefine its counseling and self-awareness evaluation programs, and now, for ways to bring the thrilling terror of war home through safe outlets.

The battle-weary 4th Stryker Brigade based at Fort Lewis, outside Tacoma, was picked for the third and final trial of a new Army program called Warrior Adventure Quest. It sends soldiers just back from war on outings of paintball, mountain biking, scuba diving, sky diving, whitewater rafting, alpine skiing, snowboarding and rock climbing.

Army officials say they've learned that soldiers who are used to life in a war zone suddenly find life at home to be moving at a glacial pace. The theory is that extreme experiences such as thrill sports can help troops overcome what one soldier in the 4th Stryker Brigade called "the Rambo syndrome" — the emotional need for some of the tension and fear-tinged excitement of combat.

"If they want adrenaline, let's give them adrenaline. Let's give it to them in a manner in which they are going to survive," said John O'Sullivan, the Army's program manager for outdoor recreation and the Warrior Adventure Quest.

Damron said bungee jumping worked on an emotional level.

"It's like your first time going in a house" in Iraq, he said. "You have no clue what's on the other side. You hit one room, awesome sweep. Now, OK, you've got to hit another room. You're walking in the middle of the night. You have no clue what's out there — like bungee jumping."

Warrior Adventure Quest is really a post-deployment extension of an emotion-based battlefield assessment the military has developed for small-unit leaders. It goes beyond the traditional review of tactics to include immediate assessments of soldiers' reactions and the acknowledgment of the need for "self and buddy aid."

The team that began developing Warrior Adventure Quest recommended debriefings after each activity. The sessions are aimed at helping soldiers realize the connection between the extreme sport experience and challenges of reconnecting to their daily lives back home.

"It's a final reset" before returning to society, said Lt. Col. Ed Busher.



CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed Request for Proposals (RFP) for:

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- 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.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Double Feature: The Legend Behind the Comic Books (NR) 1hr & Batman: Mask of the Phantasm (NR) 1hr 16 min

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

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ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Conversations have a sober tone. Be ready for some hard work. Avoid boredom through breaks that mean something! Take a walk if you cannot concentrate. Others respond to your intensity. Tonight: A discussion over dinner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Get on top of a personal matter. How you juggle different demands is unique to you. Coming from a secure place impacts many. Listen to creativity and your inner voice. Tonight: Go with an appealing suggestion.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Sometimes others would like you to hush up and just do what you need to do. Emphasize daily life, effectiveness and perhaps streamlining your must-dos. A family member continues to weigh you down. Tonight: Put your feet up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Talks open doors, giving you permission to change your tune. Listen to another person's perspective. Though you might not want to follow someone's path, you don't have to shrug off his or her ideas. Consider what is happening behind the scenes. Tonight: Say what you need to.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Honor a need to close your door or stay home. You have a lot of work to do. On the other hand, don't underestimate the role of self-discipline in making what you want happen. You might be tired or a little off kilter. Tonight: Make it an early night.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Be aware of the impact of your attitude. If you are being critical or difficult, it will have an impact. Keep communication flowing and get to the bottom of a problem. Listen to your thoughts -- how negative are they? Tonight: Visit with a pal.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Take your time with a problem. Open up talks with a trusted adviser. Get feedback before you make a key decision. Your finances need to be dealt with appropriately before they handle you! Tonight: Buy a little treat on the way home. You deserve it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ How you deal with someone and the choices you make could be more important than you realize. Handle yourself accordingly. You keep tolerating a difficult person. Do you really want to do that? Be honest with yourself. Tonight: As you like.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might want to rethink a situation that involves a boss, work and/or your true inner desires. A must appearance seems inevitable, though you might not want to be involved. Take needed time to center yourself. Don't act until you know what you are doing. Tonight: Read between the lines.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ A meeting proves to be beneficial, giving you even more information. Investigate your options by tossing out ideas to a group of like-minded people. Tonight: Where the gang is.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Complete a project. Feedback comes forward that allows you to close off a difficult situation. A partner could be tough. Listen to his or her feedback. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Reach out for others at a distance. How you deal with someone could be very different once you grasp another person's limits. He or she might keep putting out his or her true intent, but not until recently have you grasped it. Most no's need to be honored, as you will learn. Tonight: Use your imagination.

Happy birthday

You might have a more serious tone than you've had in years. Others wonder where their bright and sunny friend, family member or loved one has gone. You are in a period of thought, rebuilding and restructuring your basic life. Physical changes might not be needed, as you are making an internal adjustment. Key relationships transform to a new level of comfort. If you are single, you might be resistant to plunge into any bond. If you decide to, show acumen and insight. If you are attached, whether you are aware or not, you are testing this bond. Be open with your thoughts and feelings. SCORPIO reads you cold and pushes your buttons.

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

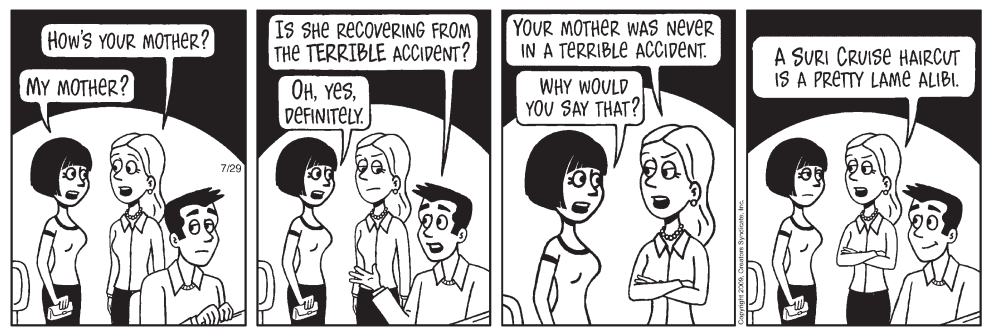
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



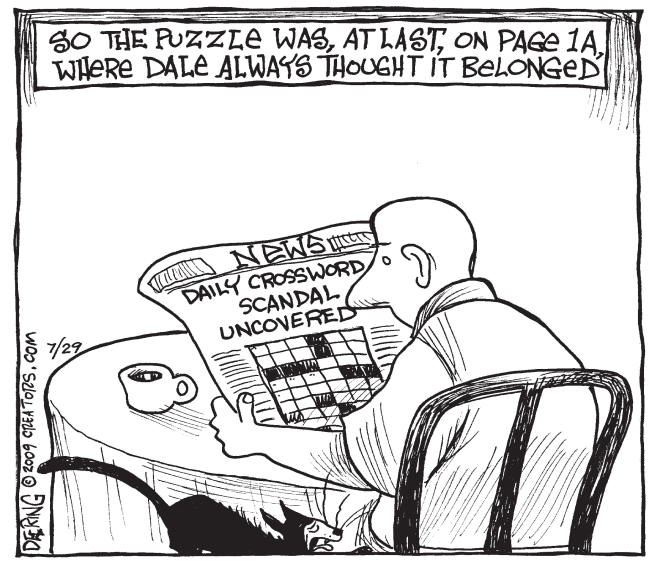
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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 Con artist's helper
6 Slender
10 Unbilled role
11 Future fungi
12 Stockpile
13 Egged on
14 Table parts
15 Whatever person
16 Inventor Whitney
17 Decline
18 Poseidon's realm
19 Belts
22 Shipshape
23 Orange cover
26 Leaves work
29 Herbert of "The Pink Panther"
32 Got together
33 Glimpse
34 Troubleridden
36 Sleep sites
37 Floppy topper
38 Moroccan city
39 Worker's reward
40 Make speeches
41 Scads
42 Vegas action

DOWN

1 Justice symbol
2 Piper's place
3 John Lennon song
4 Minus
5 — Alamos
6 Agile
7 Company symbols
8 Peace goddess
9 Sorceress of myth
11 Red, in a way
15 Blood system letters
17 Rough guess
20 Empty talk
21 Frank McCourt book
24 Oats holder
25 Library book stamp
27 Ring item
28 Lab worker
29 Fall sign
30 Ryan of film
31 Racer Andretti
35 Witty remark
36 Vamp Theda
38 Quarrel

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Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	■	■	6	7	8	9
10					■	11				
12					■	13				
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16			■	17			■	18		
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34			35			■	36			
37					■	38				
39					■	40				
41				■	■	42				

7-29

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 17 24 25 48
Meganumber: 34
Jackpot: $60M

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

Fantasy 5: 8 13 14 28 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 4 3 9
EVENING: 8 0 2

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 07 Eureka
RACE TIME: 1:48.77

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

■ (1) Researchers in Japan and Spain found recently that Argentine ants, normally highly aggressive and territorial, are actually one huge global colony with three expanding centers: a 3,700-mile-long stretch in Europe, a 560-mile strip in California, and a swath of Japan's west coast. Researchers hypothesized the kinship because, when members from those groups were thrown together, they became docile. (2) A June article in the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases reported the worldwide reach of incidents of tapeworms that grow inside humans to nearly 40 feet in length. The most serious carrier, according to a Scientific American summary, is salmon sashimi. (Anthony Franz's 2008 lawsuit against a Chicago sushi restaurant, for a 9-foot-long tapeworm, is still pending.)

■ Former elementary school principal John Stelmack, 62, was sentenced in July in Bartow, Fla., to five years in prison for a collection of child pornography, even though no child was directly involved. Without the aid of computer software, but rather, using scissors and paste, Stelmack had meticulously placed photos of the faces of young girls over the faces of adult women in sexual poses.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1030 The patron saint of Norway, King Olaf II, was killed in battle.

1588 The English attacked the Spanish Armada in the Battle of Gravelines, resulting in an English victory.

1890 Artist Vincent van Gogh, 37, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers-sur-Oise, France.

1900 Italian King Humbert I was assassinated by an anarchist; he was succeeded by his son, Victor Emmanuel III.

1914 Transcontinental telephone service began with the first test phone conversation between New York and San Francisco.

1948 Britain's King George VI opened the Olympic Games in London.

WORD UP!

sapid \SAP-id\ , adjective:
1. Having taste or flavor, especially having a strong pleasant flavor. 2. Agreeable to the mind; to one's liking.

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All classified liner ads are placed on our website for **FREE!** Check out ***www.smdp.com*** for more info.

Obituaries

BELOVED FATHER of three died on July 26, 2009. Andrew Hieatt Sr. will always be remembered for the love he had for his family. In memory of my father may his soul live forever! Love, AmbereMarie

Miscellaneous

$NEED CASH FAST$. $500, $1000, $1500 direct to your account. No Credit History Required. Get CASH now. For Details. www.TOPPLUSCASH.com

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$1350 SM 1 bedroom North of Wilshire, secluded quiet bungalow, no pets, wood floors, (310)717-6206

12309 CULVER Blvd unit 12, 1bdrm/1bath $1025/mo. stove, fridge, carpets, blind, laundry, utilities included, gated parking, intercom entry, no pets. (310) 578-7512, jkwproperties.com

2478 Corinth Ave. $1675 front unit 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, ceiling fan, onsite laundry, small gated front yard 2 parking spaces, 20 lb. pet OK w/ deposit $500 off move-in (888)414-7778

3623 KEYSTONE Ave.unit 3, $725 bachelor, lower, fridge, microwave, wood & tile floors, blinds, utilities included laundry, parking included, no pets $300 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

3623 KEYSTONE Ave.unit 5, $675 bachelor, lower, fridge, microwave, carpet, blinds, utilities included laundry, parking, no pets $300 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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501 N. Venice 1+1, #25 $1225/mo stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $750 off move-in (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

501 N. Venice unit 10 single, $1025/mo $500 off move-in stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

833 5TH St. SM unit 101 2+2 $2495 stove, carpet, blinds, swimming pool, laundry, granite countertops, wood/tile floors, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. (310)393-2547 www.jkwproperties.com

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MAR VISTA 12760 Matteson Ave #2 2+2 $1400/mo newly upgraded, stove, fridge, wood, tile andcarpet floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets Call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt. only (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA near Marina $1100 2+1 Stove, refrigerator, carpet, blinds, laundry, parking, no pets.(310)456-5659

MARVISTA-LA $2225.00 2bdrms, 2 baths, no pets, balcony, stove, refrig, dshwshr, washr/dryr, loft, parking 4077 Inglewood Blvd #7 To view this apartment, Please call for appt: (310)780-3354

PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #102 $925 Single, stove, fridge, blinds, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets. (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #205 $1050 1+1 upper, stove, fridge, blinds, bamboo & vinyl floors, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets.$500 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3540 Overland units 2 & 5 $995 Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, street parking, no pets. $300 off move-in special. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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SM 1228 Berkeley St.2 available units Single $1195/mo, 1/2 month FREE OAC 1+1 $1395/mo, 1/2 month FREE OAC. Newly remodeled units, new appliances, new wood floors, private enclosed garage pets OK (310)278-8999

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Westwood 1639 Selby unit C 2+2 $1725/mo stove, fridge, carpet, dishwasher, blinds, washer, dryer, patio, tandem under ground parking, intercom entry nopets, $750 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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WLA: 2BDRM/1BATH. $1600/mo. Lower unit. Great location, new carpet, tile, clean, parking, patio. Brenda (310)991-2694.

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091015817 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BCG SANTA MONICA, 457 17TH STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90402, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : GLENN P. CRAMER,457 17TH STREET, SANTA MONICA, CA 90402; LAWRENCE N. GODDARD, 5812 ZUMIREZ DR, MALIBU, CA 90265; WILLIAM E. BAGSHAW, 800 ALISAL COURT, SANTA MONICA, CA 90402 This Business is being conducted by, a general partnership. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)1/1/1991. /s/: GLENN P. CRAMER
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/7/09. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/10/2009, 7/17/2009, 7/24/2009, 7/31/2009

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20090990012 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as THE FAIR LOAN COMPANY AI #/ON 2998698, 600 N. GARFIELD AVE, #110, MONTEREY PARK, CA 91754, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : DESIGN LX, INC., 600 N. GARFIELD AVE, #110, MONTEREY PARK, CA 91754 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: DESIGN LX, INC., PRESIDENT, ALEXANDER LEE
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/1/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/29/2009, 8/5/2009, 8/12/2009, 8/19/2009

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- Fulton Haight, Royalty Auto Body

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PREVIEWS

Kate Bransfield

Estates Director
Society of Excellence
Previews Properties Specialist

310.395.1133

1608 Montana Avenue
Santa Monica, CA



16730 Calle de Catalina
5 Bed, 3.75 Bath
$1,879,000
Single Family Home
w/ High Ceilings & Ocean,
Canyon & Mountain Views
Easy to Show
Call for Appointment

123 Georgina Avenue #2
2 Bed, 2.5 Bath
$1,349,000
North of Montana
Beautifully
Updated Townhome
Easy to Show
Call for Appointment





275 Monte Grigio Drive
4 Bed, 2.5 Bath
$1,488,000
Palisades, Single Family
w/ Ocean, Canyon
& Mountain Views
Easy to Show
Call for Appointment



714 Euclid Street
3 Bed, 2 Bath
$1,799,000
North of Montana
Charming, 1927 Spanish
With 1 Bed, 1 Bath In-Law Unit
Easy to Show
Call for Appointment



201 Ocean Avenue #1009P
2 Bed, 2.5 Bath
Reduced $1,499,000
Condo with
Ocean, Canyon
& City Views
Easy to Show
Call for Appointment

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Median Price of ALL Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Late July 2009

	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$2,499,000	$3,495,000
North of Montana	$3,250,000	$1,049,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$2,000,000	$1,049,000
South of Wilshire	$899,000	$575,000
Sunset Park	$1,175,000	$615,000
Ocean Park	$1,650,000	$879,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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