



MID-CITY MOMENTS
SEE PAGE 12

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE TACKY BIRTHDAY AD ISSUE

Pier beach gets poor rating

Water quality study finds LA beaches the worst in state

BY KEVIN HERRERA | Daily Press Staff Writer

SM BEACH The water around the Santa Monica Pier has once again been rated as some of the most polluted in the state by an environmental watchdog that is suing the federal government to enact more stringent health standards when it comes to monitoring the nation's beaches and lakes.

The Natural Resources Defense Council called Santa

Monica State Beach at the pier a "beach bum," along with Avalon Beach on Santa Catalina Island and several locations in Long Beach, because those sites failed to meet national health standards more than half of the time, putting beachgoers at risk of developing gastroenteritis, dysentery, hepatitis, respiratory ailments and other serious health problems.

Santa Monica's Heal the Bay also found the pier beach to be one of its "beach bummer" in its 2006 beach report card.

The reason why LA County had some of the worst water quality grades in the state, according to Heal the Bay, was because the county was one of the first in California to modify their monitoring program to collect samples directly in front of flowing storm drains and creeks.

Overall, the NRDC report "Testing the Waters: A Guide to Water Quality at Vacation Beaches" found that beach closings and warnings due to bacterial contamination hit a near-record high in Los Angeles County last year, despite drought conditions that reduced urban runoff — the main cause of polluted beach water.

The report, now in its 17th year, uses data collected from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a peer-reviewed methodology to tally the number of "no-swim days" caused by urban runoff or overflowing sewage systems. The report tallied 2,072 closing and health advisory

SEE DIRTY WATER PAGE 14

CRIME



THIEVES ON A HOT STREAK

Rash of summer thefts has Sunset Park residents on edge

STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 15

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com



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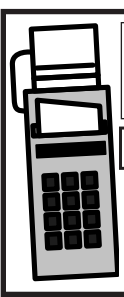


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Calendar

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 2007

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A newspaper with issues

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Friday Family Flicks: 'Freaky Friday'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m. — 3:45 p.m.

The Main Library's Friday Family Flicks festival continues with "Freaky Friday," starring Lindsay Lohan and Jamie Lee Curtis. Seating is first come, first served in the MLK Jr. Auditorium. This event is free.

Mort at McCabes

3101 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.

Mort Sahl, a comedian who influenced Lenny Bruce, Woody Allen, Jon Stewart and others, will be performing and conversing at McCabe's Guitar Shop. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by calling (310) 828-4497 or by visiting www.mccabes.com.

Ruskin's Shakespeare

3000 Airport Ave., 8 p.m.

The Ruskin Group Theatre presents the comedy "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)." All of Shakespeare's plays are presented in 97 minutes. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for students and senior citizens. Call (310) 397-3244 or visit www.ruskingrouptheatre.com.

Power with a side of heart

4437 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City, 7:30 a.m. — 9 a.m.

Powerful You! Women's Network meets every second Friday at Synergy Cafe. This week's topic is "Celebrating Issues as Blessings," with speaker Gwen L. Dittmar. To RSVP or for more information, visit www.powerfullyou.com.

Saturday, Aug. 11, 2007

6th Annual Kickin' Cancer!

San Vicente Boulevard & Darlington Avenue, Brentwood, 7 a.m. — 11 a.m. Kickin' Cancer! is a family-friendly event to raise funds and awareness for the early detection and prevention of women's cancers. Event highlights include T-shirt giveaways, a Kiddie Fun Run, raffle prizes, entertainment and more. For a complete list of fundraising prizes, sponsor links, event information and more, visit www.kickincancer.com.

Literature book group

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 10 a.m. — 12:15 p.m.

The Fairview Branch Library book group will read "A Passage to India" by E.M. Forster.

Emergency care for Fido

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

Pet health advocate Denise Fleck joins the Main Library for this introduction to pet first aid and CPR basics. Free program. Seating is first come, first served.

Everyone's lookin' at you, Travis

6000 Santa Monica Blvd., Hollywood, 7:30 p.m.

Cinespia presents "Taxi Driver" at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery. \$10 donation tickets available at the gate. For more information, visit www.cemeteryscreenings.com.

Wine Crush Festival

1126 Queen's Hwy., Long Beach, 1 p.m. — 9 p.m.

California wine country is coming to Long Beach with the "Crush in the City" tour. Guest speakers will be Ted Allen of Top Chef, Iron Chef America and PBS's Uncorked. In addition to Crush in the City, The Wine Festival will feature more than 100 vineyards offering a multitude of wine sampling and opportunities to meet winemakers as well as live jazz. Tickets are \$40 for a one-day pass or \$70 for both days. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.wantickets.com.

Puppetolio

1255 Second St., 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

Puppetolio is a musical revue featuring marionettes and ventriloquism. Shows are always followed by a chance to visit the museum collection and ask questions. All seats are \$7.50. For more information, visit www.PUPPETMAGIC.com or call (310) 656-0483.

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.

CLARIFICATION:

A series of pictures illustrating the story about the radio station KCRW and its attempt to preserve its music library ("KCRW preserves its history," Aug. 7) should have been credited to Jessica Holmes.



MAD HATTER

Artist Jack Zoltak paints a multi-medium art piece, 'A Tribute to Chet Baker' on Wednesday in his Pico Boulevard art studio. The piece will be displayed in an upcoming art show 'A Tribute to Jazz.' All Zoltak's art pieces in the show will have a hat theme and are inspired by his own hat collection, which he relates to the jazz era. The art exhibition will open on Sept. 21 at the Equator Book Store on Abbot Kinney Boulevard.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

Gasping for clean air

In nation's smoggiest city, residents choke and learn to cope

BY SUDHIN THANAWALA
Associated Press Writer

ARVIN, Calif. Ana Maria Corona was driving home in June when she felt faint and began gasping for air. She prayed she wouldn't get into an accident.

"I asked God, 'Let me see my daughters one last time,'" a tearful Corona, 43, recalled in a recent interview at her home in this San

Joaquin Valley farm community. A doctor later told Corona, who already had asthma, that she now also had a lung infection.

That's life in Arvin, home to the nation's worst air pollution, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Doctors and public officials say asthma and other respiratory problems are common in this town of roughly 15,000 people about 20 miles southeast of Bakersfield.

Arvin's level of ozone, the primary component in smog, exceeded the amount considered acceptable by the EPA on an average of 73 days per year between 2004 and 2006. Second on the EPA's list was the Southern California town of Crestline, at 65 days. The San Francisco Bay Area averaged just four

days over the same period.

"Sometimes you go outside and can hardly breathe," said Arvin resident Irma Garza, 48, who has lived here most of her life. "The worst part is in the summertime you can't send your kids outside to play."

Arvin may seem an unlikely setting for the nation's worst air. It lies in a rich agricultural region surrounded by vineyards and orange groves. The nearby town of Weedpatch was immortalized by John Steinbeck in "The Grapes of Wrath." Many of its mostly Hispanic residents work in the fields, and it has none of the smoke-belching factories or congested freeways of large

SEE SMOG PAGE 7

Reel deal; Movielink is bought

Blockbuster tries to compete with Netflix

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY One of the largest movie rental powerhouses, Blockbuster Inc., announced this week it has acquired a Santa Monica-based online movie downloading firm, strengthening its presence in the increasingly competitive home entertainment market.

The move to purchase Movielink LLC gives Blockbuster access to thousands of movies and television shows available in a digital format for downloading, heating up its rivalry with DVD rental juggernaut Netflix.

The terms of the agreement were not disclosed as of Thursday.

Movielink services allows users to instantly download movies — starting at \$1.99 — directly onto their computer.

The company, located on the 2100 block of Colorado Avenue, was founded in 2002 by five movie houses — MGM, Paramount, Sony Pictures, Warner Bros. and Universal Pictures — helping to deter illegal downloading. A representative for Movielink could not be reached for comment.

Blockbuster plans to continue operating Movielink as it currently stands and will gradually transition elements of the service onto Blockbuster.com, Karen Raskopf, a spokeswoman for Blockbuster Inc. said on Thursday.

The rental DVD market heated up in the late 1990s with the emergence of Netflix, a service where subscribers can receive and return a fixed number of movies through the mail at a set price. Growing to more than one million subscribers in its first four years, and currently with 6.3 million subscribers, Los Gatos-based Netflix currently offers more than 80,000 titles.

"Netflix continues to be the greatest convenient selection and value for consumers ... wanting to rent movies online,"

SEE BLOCKBUSTER PAGE 16



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's a bumpy ride

Editor:

(Re: "This road has one bump too many," Aug. 6)
There's a far more dangerous and abusing bump in the road at Ocean Park Boulevard and Neilson Way (than Hill Street), especially for unsuspecting beach-goers trying to beat the light. They have no way of knowing the gully damage that awaits a car going over 20 miles an hour.
At least, there should be a bump warning posted.
John Blanchette
Santa Monica

Stop making babies!

Editor:

Re: ("Having another baby to rekindle the thrill," Aug. 7)
I am surprised that in today's age, with a major population problem, educated and intelligent people are still rhapsodizing about having more babies. How terribly irresponsible! Instead, we should be educating the public that it's OK not to have children or, if they so wish, to limit themselves ... We will be running out of resources (water, food, etc.) not only in the underdeveloped countries, but here as well.
Everyone complains about traffic, congestion, poverty, etc. – keeping the population at a manageable level is one of the most important things we can do to ease these problems.
Ms. (Angie) Wagner should subscribe to the Population Institute's newsletter if she needs to be convinced. We need to limit population growth, not only in Third World countries, but here as well – especially since, in this country, we use a disproportionate amount of limited resources.
Inge Quaglino
Santa Monica

Props for Bonds

Editor:

Congratulations, Barry Bonds, and shame on some Los Angeles TV street interviews that are specifically aired to denigrate this milestone by insinuating that such horrid substances as steroids are accountable!
Maybe it's the envy of one profession for the genius of another. Hitting a 100 mph baseball, which often has a top spin, out of the ball park takes tremendous hand-eye coordination, especially when there are already players on the field who are trying to steal bases to consider protecting. This can't, in any way, be achieved with steroids. Like tennis and golf, it is a matter of contacting the sweet spot.
Barry Bonds, as compared to others, has the discipline to enthusiastically show up for work day in day out, just like Hank Aaron.
Naysayers, truth and validity are not the same thing.
Frank Muller
Santa Monica



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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Cross that bridge when it collapses

WHEN I OPEN THE NEWSPAPER IN THE morning (assuming it's morning), I always read the sports first. The news depresses me. I see Barry Bonds** finally broke the home run record, the Dodgers can't score a run and Kobe whines he'll never play for the Lakers again. So I switched to the front section, where I notice the unity government in Iraq is imploding worse than the Dodgers. Five more ministers are boycotting. This leaves zero Sunnis in the cabinet. Perhaps it's time to take the word "unity" out of unity government?

The big national story last week was the tragedy in Minnesota. The eight-lane I35-W collapsed during rush hour, sending dozens of cars, trucks, a school bus and hundreds of tons of concrete plunging toward the Mississippi River. (My right-wing friends instantly suspected terrorists without thinking why jihadists would pick Minnesota?) It's remarkable only eight died. It's also remarkable that there are 77,000 bridges in the U.S. rated worse than that I35-W. This prompted Transportation Secretary Mary Peters to urge all states to do immediate inspections. She might add the caveat, don't wear heavy boots when you do.

Guess what, folks? Our infrastructure, to use the technical term, sucks! Even Bush, during his flight over I35-W, commented, "I guess things are really getting old." Yes, Mr. President, how astute. (The rumor is false, however, that when W saw all the damage, he asked, "Didn't we already fix New Orleans?")

Engineers have been warning about an infrastructure disaster for decades, but in the 2000 election campaign, I don't remember anyone even mentioning the word. The words I recall were "decency and integrity," as in Cheney's: "On the first hour of the first day, we will restore decency and integrity to the Oval Office." Looking back, an hour is about all it lasted. In 2004, the big issue was gay marriage, which now seems absurd. (Actually, it did then, too.) But who knows? Maybe some die-hard conservatives on the I35, inside their Mercedes plummeting toward the Mississippi, might have reflected, "Well, it could be worse. At least gays can't marry."

Much of our infrastructure was built during the New Deal as WPA projects. And yet, we currently spend only \$22 million annually on inspections. (That's one hour in Iraq.) To completely rehabilitate our infrastructure, estimates range from hundreds of billions to two trillion dollars. Where could we possibly get that kind of money? Wait a minute, those are the same numbers from the Iraq war, assuming we aren't still "surging" past 2010. (Debatable, since Tony Snow compared Iraq to Korea, where we've been for more than 50 years.)

I can hear my right-wing friends. Is Jack seriously blaming poor George and his war in Iraq, which has cost \$500 billion (including \$9 billion that just disappeared), and climbing at \$12 billion a month, for a collapsed bridge in

Minnesota? Yes, I am. Take a deep breath and try to bear with me.

In world history, no country has ever fought a war and lowered taxes at the same time. Until Bush. You see, we're not actually paying for this war, we've just maxed-out the credit cards, so to speak. Our children and grandchildren will be the ones paying. And don't forget, Bush fired the guy who warned the war could cost \$200 billion, while the one who predicted \$50 billion (Wolfowitz) was promoted. So I suppose when George says he listens to the experts, what he really means is he listens to those who agree with him.

As it turns out, the big winner of the war has been Iran, which, ironically, Bush labeled part of the "axis of evil." They feared Saddam, but now they're the dominant players in the region. In fact, we desperately need Iran's help. (I sure hope they aren't sore about that "axis of evil" thing.)

If there were no invasion, the terrorists wouldn't have an on-the-job training laboratory and we'd have an extra 1/2 trillion dollars. (To fix bridges, health care, education, Walter Reed, etc.) And there'd be zero American combat deaths, instead of 3,681, and zero wounded, instead of 27,104 — one-third so severely we'll be supporting them for the rest of their lives.

MAYBE SOME DIE-HARD CONSERVATIVES ON THE I35, INSIDE THEIR MERCEDES PLUMMETING TOWARD THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER, MIGHT HAVE REFLECTED, 'WELL, IT COULD BE WORSE, AT LEAST GAYS CAN'T MARRY.'

Besides Haliburton, Blackwater and the 100,000 contractors, what American jobs have been created? Fixing our infrastructure, however, could put Americans to work in America. Unless, of course, we outsource it to India or China, like AOL and pet food, which has worked out swell, hasn't it?

Arianna Huffington notes that all the new hospitals, schools, roads and bridges are in Iraq, while ours are falling into rivers. So what's the answer? We either face the infrastructure issue and re-prioritize (no more unnecessary wars), or we can just wait and cross that bridge when it collapses.

JACK NEWORTH can be reached at Jackneworth2003@aol.com.

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A newspaper with issues

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR
Michael Tittinger
editor@smdp.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITERS
Kevin Herrera
kevinh@smdp.com

Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz
fabianl@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Christine Chang
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Robbie P. Piubeni
rob@smdp.com

Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

Julie Martinez
juliem@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ASSISTANT
Cynthia Vazquez
advertising@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Tessa Vergara
tessav@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Frances Casareno
production@smdp.com

PRODUCTION INTERN
Tessa Pelias
production@smdp.com

CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER
Annie Kotok
anniek@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Glenn Bolan
glennb@smdp.com

NEWS INTERNS
Reagan Wheeler
Emily Skehan
news@smdp.com

SPECIAL PROJECTS
Dave Danforth
dave@smdp.com

Carolyn Sackariason
csackariason@smdp.com

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1427 Third Street Promenade, #202
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
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Guest Commentary

Charlotte Laws

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

More to a murderer than just their DNA

MAYBE THE RECENT CONNECTICUT home invasion didn't mesmerize us for months like the cable news soap operas I affectionately call "The Guiding Light of Anna Nicole Smith" and "As the World Turns around Natalee Holloway," but it still got entangled in the media's "news flash" net and held our collective attention for a full 48 hours. In the end, two men were arrested and charged with robbing, raping and killing a suburban family, as well as torching their home.

I was not overly surprised by the villainous events of that day. A 2005 U.S. Department of Justice report reveals there is one rape for every 1,000 Americans per year and six murders for every 100,000.

I was also not shocked when the story became the centerpiece on the marketplace of ideas dinner table that night. A review conducted by the Project for Excellence found that media outlets tend to replay the same select news pieces. This gives the stories a life of their own.

What perked my ears about the home invasion crime was the media's obsession with a particular, seemingly out-of-place detail — one of the alleged perpetrators, Joshua Komisarjevsky, had been adopted. One newspaper went so far as to title its story, "Alleged Connecticut Killer Adopted as Baby."

Why not title the story "Alleged Connecticut Killer Ate Lima Beans for Lunch?" Is it because lima beans rarely cause an average Joe to explode into a lawless rampage? Can "defective" genes be a precursor to crime?

Clearly, the adoptive family, the press, or both, accepted the premise that biological factors can trigger violence. It's possible the family, hoping to distance themselves from the heinous act and convey that they have "good DNA," pitched the "he's not related to us" angle to reporters. It's equally possible that members of the press decided this detail was somehow meaningful. Whatever the case, the idea was embedded in multiple articles, although there was no outward mention of a possible link between hereditary factors and criminal behavior.

Newspaper pieces and Internet blogs revealed how Komisarjevsky's family struggled for years to straighten out the wayward boy, who became a burglar at the age of 14. Attempts to make him feel like part of the family were futile.

This reminded me of a disturbingly similar story from a 1999 "60 Minutes" segment,

which described the case of Jeff Landrigan, a young man who was adopted at birth by a law-abiding family, but who now sits on death row for murder. Landrigan's adoptive sister speculated that her brother had bad genes, adding, "I personally think that the day my brother was born, his fate was probably sealed ..."

While on death row, Landrigan found out his birth-father was imprisoned on death row in another state and that his family tree was peppered with felons. He told "60 Minutes" he believed crime was passed down in his family "like cancer or heart disease."

A body of evidence supports Landrigan's theory, although environmental influences are likewise powerful and should not be discounted. In "Change Your Brain /Change Your Life," psychiatrist Daniel Amen states that the cingulate gyrus, curving through the center of the brain is hyperactive in murderers. Other researchers have determined that violent males have low levels of serotonin, a condition that has a high rate of heritability. The National Institute of Health conducted a study on the serotonin levels of prison inmates and determined with an 84 percent accuracy which ones would return to crime upon their release.

Dr. Sarnoff A. Mednick's study of 14,427 adopted children, as discussed in the New York Times, reveals how a propensity to chronic criminal behavior may be passed through the genes. Although Mednick does not believe criminal behavior is directly passed down, he holds that certain biological factors that might be associated with crime can be inherited. He cites a biological predisposition towards substance abuse as an example.

Most scientists and psychologists will tell you the nature vs. nurture debate is complex and by no means resolved. Landrigan promoted the "my genes made me do it" argument in several court appeals. In the end, he lost. The U.S. Supreme Court made the final ruling against him three months ago, and he is likely to be executed soon.

Komisarjevsky's case is next and inquiring minds want to know: Will he desperately seek his DNA, or do what most defendants do and blame it on his "nurture" resume?

Unfortunately, the "lima beans defense" rarely works.

CHARLOTTE LAWS, Ph.D. is an author and Los Angeles Commissioner. She is also an adopted child. Her Web site is www.CharlotteLaws.org.



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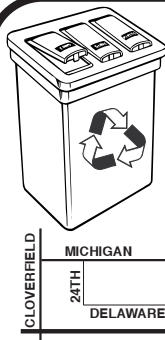
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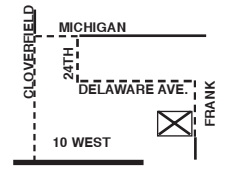


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The Q-Line

All points bulletin

The Santa Monica Police Department recently took the unprecedented step of warning the public about a known pedophile who was recently spotted in the neighborhood. While he admits to being attracted to children, he has yet to act on it.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think that SMPD went too far or did they do the right thing in issuing the warning to the public?

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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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Parking in SM can be dangerous

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 1, AT 2:20 P.M.

Santa Monica Police officers responded to the 1400 block of Fourth Street after receiving a call about a woman who had just been struck by a car. When officers arrived, they spoke with the victim, who said she was standing in a parking space on Fourth Street, trying to save it for a friend who was circling the block, when a woman drove up and tried to park. The victim would not move from the space, so the driver allegedly nudged her with her vehicle. A witness said they watched as the driver used her car to force the victim to move, police said. The driver was taken into custody and booked for assault with a deadly weapon likely to produce great bodily injury. The driver was identified as Julija Naskova, 37, from Los Angeles. Her bail was set at \$30,000.

THURSDAY, AUG. 2, AT 1:35 P.M.

Officers responded to the 1600 block of Lincoln Boulevard – Fisher Hardware & Lumber – regarding a theft suspect who had been detained. When officers arrived, they spoke with employees at the hardware store who said that a man in custody had come to purchase lumber on three previous occasions in July, driving off twice without paying. When employees saw him pull up in his truck for the fourth time, they called police. The suspect was taken into custody and booked for commercial burglary. Police said the suspect stole more than \$1,800 worth of lumber, or approximately 556 feet. In the two thefts, employees said the suspect would have the lumber loaded into his truck and then would pretend as if he was going to pay, but suddenly jump in his truck and speed off. The suspect was identified as Henry Harian Harris, 53, of North Hollywood. His bail was set at \$20,000.

FRIDAY, AUG. 3, AT 6 P.M.

Officers responded to the 1300 block of 19th Street regarding a vandalism suspect in custody. When officers arrived, they spoke with firefighters from the substation located at Arizona Avenue and 19th Street, who said that the suspect came to their door and picked up a telephone used for emergencies. Firefighters said they tried to talk with the man to find out what assistance he needed, but before they could figure it out, the man allegedly slammed the phone's receiver on the ground, breaking it. The suspect then ran off, but was detained by firefighters a short time later. Officers arrested the suspect for vandalism. He was identified as Michael Bruce Riblet, 51, a transient. His bail was set at \$21,000 because of an outstanding warrant.

THURSDAY, AUG. 2, AT 8:50 P.M.

Officers on routine patrol in the 1900 block of 21st Street spotted a vehicle driving without brake lights. Officers conducted a traffic stop. The driver and passenger were on parole. Officers searched the vehicle and discovered two plastic baggies containing cocaine. Both suspects were arrested for possession of a controlled substance. They were identified as Derek Lamar Sanders, 26, and Asjah Boldware, 24, both from Santa Monica. No bail was set because the two men were on parole.

SATURDAY, AUG. 4, AT 1:20 P.M.

Officers on patrol in the area of Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue spotted a suspect wanted in connection with a strong-arm robbery that occurred on July 25. The victim stated that she was sleeping in the 700 block of Santa Monica Boulevard when she was suddenly awakened by a person she recognized who suddenly began to attack her. The victim eventually ended up needing 41 staples to close a wound to the side of her head, police said. The suspect was taken into custody by officers and booked for strong-arm robbery. The suspect was identified as Raymond Lewis Beavers, 41, a transient. No bail was set because the suspect was on probation.

SUNDAY, JULY 29, AT 10:25 P.M.

Officers responded to the 100 block of Santa Monica Boulevard – Ye Old King's Head pub – regarding a man who was yelling profanities outside the business. When officers arrived, they spoke with the pub's doorman, who said that the suspect had been denied entry and became irate, yelling and screaming at people who passed by. Police took the suspect, who appeared to be intoxicated, into custody and he was booked for disturbing the peace and a probation violation. He was identified as Afshar Jamshid, 49, a transient. His bail was set at \$10,000.

Staff Writer **KEVIN HERRERA** contributed to this report.

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LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION

Latinos love their liberals

Hispanics still favor Dems over the GOP, but the gap is closing

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Democrats hold an edge with Hispanics in national elections, but Latinos' growing tendency to register as independents and split their vote between parties is buoying Republican prospects for 2008.

Younger and college-educated Hispanics in particular offer fertile ground for the GOP, new data show. And while no one suggests Republicans have become the party of choice for the nation's fastest-growing minority, Democrats have been gradually losing ground.

"The Democrats began in the 1980s to slowly lose Latino registration," said Antonio Gonzalez, president of the William C. Velasquez Institute, a San Antonio-based research group that studies Hispanic issues. "It's drip, drip, drip."

President Bush claimed 40 percent of the Hispanic vote in 2004, a record for a Republican presidential candidate. But it will be challenging for the party to repeat or build on that performance — Bush's popularity has withered and many Hispanics were soured by remarks by GOP conservative

hard-liners during the immigration debate.

Although Hispanics tend to vote Democratic, the percentage of Latinos who call themselves Democrats has declined in the last decade, even as the overall number of Hispanic voters climbed.

In California — home to the nation's largest Hispanic population and a coveted cache of 55 electoral votes for the 2008 presidential election — nearly two of three Hispanic voters were registered Democrats in the mid-1990s. By 2006, that figure dropped as low as 56 percent, according to polling and registration data.

Research last year by the Public Policy Institute of California found that Hispanics in California are about equally divided among those who describe themselves as conservative, liberal and moderate.

And many Hispanic voters are choosing no party at all.

In 2002, the institute said 18 percent of likely Hispanic voters were registered as independents or some other party. By 2006, the percentage had climbed to 22 percent. Republicans gained a few percentage points in registration over that time.

Democrats continue to hold a healthy advantage with Hispanics, and nearly seven in 10 Hispanic voters supported Democratic congressional candidates last year. Party leaders say independent Hispanics lean Democratic, so the registration percentage dip is not as significant as the figures might suggest.

Dirty air has the residents in Central Valley choking

FROM SMOG PAGE 3

urban centers like Los Angeles.

Although the city itself may not produce much pollution, like much of the San Joaquin Valley, it doesn't get rid of what blows in. Surrounding mountains trap airborne particles that coat the single-story homes and deserted streets and can blot out views of the nearby Tehachapi range on hot summer days.

Arvin's main problem is its location. It lies downwind of every city in the valley, making it the final destination for air pollution from Bakersfield, Fresno and even the Bay Area. Residents complain the air often smells toxic.

"It's common for people here to say, 'I'm going to the beach so I can breathe,'" said Raji Brar, a local councilwoman who joined the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's governing board in February.

Ground-level ozone is created when car exhaust and other noxious fumes are cooked by heat and sunlight. It can trigger asthma attacks, aggravate chronic lung diseases like emphysema and bronchitis and may even reduce the immune system's ability to fight respiratory infections, according to AIRNow.gov, a Web site developed by several agencies, including the EPA, that monitors ozone levels around the country.

A 2002 study published in the British medical journal The Lancet found children who breathe polluted air are more likely to

develop asthma, although that conclusion has been challenged by other researchers.

While specific data for Arvin is not available, surrounding Kern County has a childhood asthma rate that exceeds that of both the state and the nation.

According to a 2003 report from the California Department of Health Services, 17.5 percent of children under the age of 18 in Kern County suffer from asthma. That compares to a state average of 14.8 percent. The national average in 2002 was 12.2 percent, according to the state report.

Dr. Ronnie Pasilio, who works at the community health center in Arvin, said asthma and allergies are the primary conditions he treats. He advises patients to stay inside when the air is bad, but realized not all can follow that advice because they work in the fields.

Residents of Arvin complain of watery eyes, dry throats and inexplicable coughs, particularly in the summer, when temperatures can climb over 100 degrees and stay there for days. Corona said spending even a few minutes outside her home can trigger an asthma attack.

Still, the San Joaquin Valley air board voted in April to extend by 11 years the region's deadline to meet federal ozone standards, saying cleaning up the air by the previous target date of 2012 was not possible.



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Obama tries to mend fences

BY SCOTT LINDLAW
Associated Press Writer

OAKLAND Democratic presidential contender Barack Obama said this week that it's critical for Pakistan to be a constructive ally in fighting al-Qaida, one week after threatening military action to hunt down terrorists if President Pervez Musharraf doesn't act.

Obama declined to criticize the Bush administration's policies on Pakistan, and expressed sympathy for Musharraf, who faces a growing militant backlash in his Muslim nation.

"President Musharraf has a very difficult job, and it is important that we are a constructive ally with them in dealing with al-Qaida," the Illinois senator said.

Obama did not repeat the most incendiary line from his foreign policy speech last Wednesday, when he promised: "If we have actionable intelligence about high-value terrorist targets and President Musharraf won't act, we will."

That pledge set off ripples of resentment in the relationship between Washington and Islamabad, prompting Pakistani officials to warn against U.S. incursions into their country.

President Bush was vague on Monday when asked whether he would consult with Pakistan before chasing al-Qaida leaders into Pakistan. Last year, he offered a clearer answer, saying he could not send thousands of troops into Pakistan to search for Osama bin Laden without an invitation from the government. "Pakistan's a sovereign nation," Bush said then.

Asked Wednesday whether there was any difference now between his position and the Bush administration, Obama twice sidestepped the question, once saying he did not know Bush's stance and then saying he did not speak for the White House.

Obama repeated his insistence that, "We can't send mil-



AP photo
REACHING: Presidential hopeful Barack Obama, shown greeting fans at a recent rally, is under fire for comments on Pakistan.

lions and millions of dollars to Pakistan for military aid, and be a constant ally to them, and yet not see more aggressive action in dealing with al-Qaida."

Bush recently tried to ensure just that, signing into law a measure that ties U.S. aid to Pakistan to progress in combatting militants.

The closest Obama came to directly criticizing the Bush administration on the matter was to cite a report in The New York Times that said then-Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld had called off a raid against al-Qaida leaders in Pakistan in 2005, despite having actionable intelligence.

"The American public needs to understand these issues because part of what's at stake in this next, upcoming foreign policy debate is the need to shift resources out of Iraq, in

part to attend to these problems," he said. "If the American people don't understand that this is where the real threat is, that we're on the wrong battlefield right now, then we may get confused and elect a president who continues down the wrong road instead of the one that's really going to make a difference in terms of our security."

In Islamabad, a spokesman said Musharraf's government is not ruling out imposing a state of emergency because of "external and internal threats" to Pakistan and deteriorating law and order in the volatile northwest near the Afghan border.

Tariq Azim, minister of state for information, referred to recent military action against militants in northwestern border areas that he said had resulted in the deaths of many soldiers.

He also said statements coming from the United States, including Obama over the possibility of U.S. military action against al-Qaida in Pakistan "has started alarm bells ringing and has upset (the) Pakistani public."

Obama spoke to reporters after spending the morning with a home health care worker, Pauline Beck, as she made her rounds in Oakland. The senator helped clean a house, and said afterward it had reshaped his views on health care and unions.

He also said it was more gratifying work, in some ways, than working the halls of Congress.

"It actually was kind of liberating. When you're in the Senate you spend all your time talking," he said. "When you're cleaning out some cobwebs or you're mopping the floor, and you wring out the mop and you see the dirty mop water, you know that you actually accomplished something."

Obama was the fourth Democratic presidential candidate to participate in a program sponsored by SEIU, the service-workers' union.

Federal regulators investigating Chinese seafood

BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday it is checking whether shipments of Chinese seafood on an agency watch list were properly cleared for public consumption without being tested for banned drugs or chemicals.

Agency officials said that while they believe the shipments were screened correctly, they wanted more details. That review comes in response to findings The Associated Press published Tuesday that at least 1 million pounds of frozen shrimp, catfish or eel raised in Chinese ponds were on an agency watch list but were not diverted to a lab.

The 28 shipments the AP identified arrived under an FDA "import alert," which is supposed to trigger the tough screening requirement.

The seafood, equal to the amount 66,000 Americans eat in a year, did not pose an immediate public health risk; the FDA has worried that long-term exposure to substances fed to some Chinese seafood could increase the risk of cancer or make antibiotics less potent.



SUSPECT SEAFOOD FROM CHINA HAS REACHED DINING ROOM TABLES IN AMERICA."

Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich. Energy and Commerce Committee

A leading Democrat in the House of Representatives said the AP's report raises serious questions about FDA's inspection system and his committee's investigators want the FDA to explain what percentage of all import alert shipments from China — not

just seafood — are being stopped and tested.

"The discovery that suspect seafood from China has reached dining room tables in America without being tested is disturbing," said Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., whose Energy and Commerce Committee has been



investigating the FDA's imported-food safety record. "Apparently, the 'import alert' system used by the FDA to test high risk foods cannot be trusted."

The agency said it has about 450 budgeted positions for screening all the imports it

oversees — approximately 20 million shipments of everything from fish to vegetables to pharmaceuticals. Funding for inspectors has not kept pace with the surge in imports over the past decade and FDA employees have told Dingell's committee they're too stretched to guarantee food safety.

For its investigation, the AP reviewed 4,300 seafood shipments from China and found 211 that arrived under import alert between October and May. It was during that period the FDA was putting specific Chinese companies with seafood that had flunked lab tests on its watch list, leading up to a June announcement that all farm-raised shrimp, catfish and eel had to be inspected.

The AP was able to reach importers that brought in 112 of the shipments. They said that 28 of the 112 shipments had not been detained and tested.

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Nunez blasts GOP over budget

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO The impasse over the state's long-overdue budget turned heated this week when the Democratic leader of the Assembly said Republicans would lose the gains they had won previously if they fail to end the stalemate quickly.

"Political hostage-taking is not the way to do business, and we can't reward it," said Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, recently returned from a European vacation. "I'm not going to support it. I won't do it."

The Legislature was supposed to pass a budget by June 15 and send it to the governor in time for the July 1 start of the fiscal year.

But Senate Republicans have refused to support the \$145 billion spending plan after it passed the Assembly on July 20. They have held out for additional spending cuts and sought concessions on a variety of issues, some of which have little to do with the state budget.

Nunez warned Republicans that they risk losing what they had gained in the negotiations that led to the budget deal passed by the Assembly. That includes a package of tax incentives for California businesses, as well as cuts to public transit funding and social service agencies.

"They're shooting themselves in the foot," Nunez, D-Los Angeles, said in a telephone interview. "Why would I agree to any budget that is worse for Democrats than the budget that we closed on? I just couldn't do that."

Partly at issue is a \$700 million deficit that Senate Republicans want to eliminate, while Democrats say they have cut enough. The amount represents about one half of 1 percent of the state's overall budget.

Nunez's comments were intended to prod senators into action and encourage the Senate to strike a deal before lawmakers return from summer recess Aug. 20.

The stalled negotiations have frustrated not only lawmakers but also Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. The Republican governor has said he supports the Assembly's version of the budget and wants it approved so he and lawmakers can move on to major policy issues such as health care reform.

unless people talk."

Among the other issues Republicans want addressed is how state environmental laws are applied to local governments. In short, the attorney general has threatened to punish cities and counties if they approve housing, road and other projects without considering their negative effects on global warming.

Republicans want cities and counties freed from such constraints, and the governor and

are upset that Senate Republicans won a promise from Schwarzenegger to cut even more from the budget. The governor has assured Republicans that he would use his line-item veto power to try to eliminate the \$700 million deficit.

Nunez warned the Senate to get a deal in the next two weeks and have the budget finished by the end of the summer recess in late August. He said there would be consequences if the impasse continues and budget negotiations have to be reopened.

Democrats have the upper hand because they have majorities in the Assembly and Senate.

Nunez said he would demand that lawmakers restore \$150 million for programs designed to help the poor, blind and disabled. He also would require \$800 million be restored to a transportation fund that sustained \$1.3 billion in cuts to balance the budget. Most of that money comes from public transit programs that Democrats typically are reluctant to cut.

"That will just make the deficit that much deeper," Nunez said.

He said he is no longer interested in promoting a last-minute bill he negotiated with Assembly Republicans to give tax credits to movie studios, high tech firms and other companies. Perata's office estimated the tax credits would cost the state between \$600 million and \$1 billion a year.

Nunez outlined his objections in a sharply worded letter sent to Ackerman on Wednesday.

"You and your members have personally maligned me and the members of this house during the past two weeks," Nunez said in the letter, referring to criticism that the Assembly took its summer vacation after passing its version of the budget.

POLITICAL HOSTAGE-TAKING IS NOT THE WAY TO DO BUSINESS, AND WE CAN'T REWARD IT."

Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles

As Nunez was scolding Senate Republicans, the Senate's leader also was trying to exert pressure.

Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata, D-Oakland, convened a news conference Wednesday to say he is done negotiating. He also said no legislation will move until Republicans capitulate and approve the budget.

"The Senate will take up no issues — none," Perata said.

The Senate has voted against the spending plan twice because it cannot reach the two-thirds majority needed to pass it. At least two Republican votes are needed in the 40-member chamber, and so far only one of the 15 GOP members has voted for it.

Senate Minority Leader Dick Ackerman, R-Tustin, criticized the Democratic leaders for refusing to continue negotiations on the budget and what he considers related policy issues.

"That's not really a responsible position," he said. "It's not going to happen

Democrats have said they are willing to talk about the issue once a budget is signed. Skeptical Republicans are refusing to budge, believing they will gain the environmental concession only by blocking the budget.

Republicans also want assurances about how transportation bond money approved by voters last fall will be spent.

Ackerman said Perata is wise to halt other legislation until a budget is completed.

The two sides have not had substantive talks since the last failed budget vote in the Senate on Aug. 2.

Hardening the lines between Democrats and Republicans is the pressure they are receiving from their core supporters.

Conservatives, who have been writing regular blogs about the budget negotiations and view the Legislature's spending habits suspiciously, are urging Senate Republicans against giving in.

Nunez, meanwhile, said some Democrats

Fifth woman to testify that Spector wielded his firearm

BY LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES The judge in the Phil Spector murder trial overruled defense objections Wednesday and said he would allow a fifth woman to testify about being threatened with a gun by the music producer.

Prosecutor Alan Jackson had argued that Devra Robitaille's testimony was warranted because Spector's attorneys had attacked the veracity of one of the four women who earlier testified they were held at gunpoint by Spector. Jackson said that by attacking that woman the defense implicitly attacked the others as well.

Defense attorney Bradley Brunon argued that prosecutors deliberately held Robitaille's testimony back until near the end

of the trial to give it added impact during the rebuttal stage. That, he said, is impermissible, but the judge disagreed.

"I do believe this does properly qualify as rebuttal evidence," Fidler said.

After Melissa Grosvenor testified last month that Spector threatened her with a gun the defense called her estranged sister to the witness stand to testify that she had made up the story so she could take part in a high-profile trial.

"She was bragging about going to be on Court TV," Angela Pileggi Silverstein told jurors.

Fidler said allowing Robitaille to testify would indicate that "other witnesses are telling the truth and there is strength in numbers."

"For all those reasons, I find this is appropriate rebuttal and I will allow this witness to testify," the judge said.

The prosecution has made the women's testimony the heart and soul of its case against Spector, claiming he showed a pattern of taking women home with him, holding them at gunpoint and refusing to allow them to leave.

Also Wednesday, the battle of the scientists over what really happened to Clarkson's body after she was shot took an odd turn when one defense expert contradicted another's theory that Clarkson expelled a projectile spray of blood from her mouth with her dying gasps.

Dr. Jann Leestma, a neuro-pathologist, said under cross-examination that blood would have flowed and there could have been involuntary movements of the body after a gunshot to Clarkson's mouth severed her spine. But he said a projectile-like spray of blood that would result with force similar to when someone emits a loud "raspberry" would be unlikely.



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Photo courtesy of United States Air Force

WAR OF WORDS: Some critics believe that the F-22 Raptor isn't the best tool for fighting the type of war that the nation is currently facing.

Stealth fighter has new home

BY JAMES HALPIN

Associated Press Writer

ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE, Alaska

The U.S. Air Force on Wednesday stationed its first squadron of stealth fighters outside the contiguous United States, saying the Alaska base is an ideal gateway to Asia and Europe.

It was standing-room only as earplug-wearing onlookers craned their necks to see the touchdown of the F-22 Raptor, an insidious, super-cruising fighter that officials say is unmatched by any other aircraft.

Eight of the stealth fighters are now stationed at the Anchorage base. When Elmendorf's two squadrons are complete, the 40 planes — including two reserves for each squadron — will make up more than a fifth of all the Air Force's Raptors.

The reason for that is Alaska's unique strategic location, said Gen. Paul Hester, commander of the Pacific Air Forces. Its easy access to Asia and Europe make Alaska an ideal location to house the most deadly tool in the box, he said.

Planes are now being test flown at other bases, with one other combat squadron stationed at Langley Air Force Base, Va.

The Air Force also announced Wednesday it had signed a production contract with Lockheed Martin to add 60 Raptors to the Air Force by December 2011, which will complete plans to buy 183 total planes.

Among those on hand for Wednesday's welcoming ceremony was U.S. Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, who noted he has worked on the program since its inception in 1981.

Stevens said recent criticism of the program — that it's overpriced and unnecessary in the age of terrorism because there is no other air power in the world that can challenge the U.S. — is dated and off-base. He said the Air Force needs the cutting-edge technology of the Raptor to keep America secure.

"Rather than asking who we're going to fly the F-22 against, we should ask who's going to fly against the F-22," he said.

Critics also claim many of its features, such as its stealth capability, were included to showcase American ingenuity rather than to build a practical, modern-day fighter.

Less than half of climbers reach nation's tallest peak

By The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska Less than half of the climbers who attempted to summit North America's tallest peak this year were successful, Denali National Park and Preserve officials said Thursday.

This season, 1,218 mountaineers attempted various routes on Mount McKinley, with 573 reaching the 20,320-foot summit. Five climbers died.

Climbing Mount McKinley and other Alaska Range peaks is allowed year-round, but weather and unstable glacier conditions typically limit the climbing season from late April to mid-July, park spokeswoman Kris Fister said in a prepared statement.

A new record was set this year for the

oldest individual to summit Mount McKinley, she said.

Michio Kumamoto of Tokorozawa, Japan, celebrated his 76th birthday on June 17 while climbing with three companions. Fister said the youngest member of the group was 61 years old.

The team reached the summit June 29, and spent a night camped at 18,500-feet when one climbing partner suffered snow blindness. That person was evacuated, but the others climbed down unassisted.

Masatoshi Kuriaki, of Fukuoka, Japan, became the first solo climber to conquer the nearby Mount Foraker in winter.

Fister said 20 other people unsuccessfully attempted to scale the 17,400-foot peak — North America's sixth largest — after Kuriaki's summit on March 10.

Rescuers close in on Utah miners

BY PAULINE ARRILLAGA
AP National Writer

HUNTINGTON, Utah If the six trapped miners are alive, they may be sitting in inky darkness, their headlamps having burned out. Wearing thin work clothes in the 58-degree cold, they could be chilled to the bone if water is seeping into their chamber 150 stories below ground.

How much air they might have is anyone's guess.

On Thursday, more than three days after the thunderous cave-in, a drilling rig on the mountain above the Crandall Canyon mine closed in on the men, trying to bore a hole a mere 2 1/2 inches wide to bring them air and lower a two-way communications device and a tiny camera to check for signs of life.

The drilling rig was erected 1,869 feet above the presumed location of the men and had drilled down 1,530 feet by late morning. It was expected to punch through late in the afternoon, said Bob Murray, part-owner of the mine.

But he warned that things could go wrong, including equipment breakdowns and the possibility the drill was off target.

"We may not come out in the mine where we want to be. We may come out in a solid pillar and have to start all over again," Murray said.

The plan was to lower down the hole a device that would listen for the miners, who were trained to banged on roof bolts if they heard a drill.

"We may get no noise," Murray cautioned. "They may be dead."

Rescuers used a second drill to bore a second hole nearly 9 inches wide, but they had reached only 355 feet as of mid-day. The bigger hole could be used to lower more sophisticated cameras and provisions into the ground.

Simultaneously, rescuers struggled to clear rubble from a horizontal tunnel in an attempt to actually reach the miners and bring them out. But progress was slow at about 300 feet a day, and officials said it could take a week or more to break through to the miners.

The miners were working in an area with an 8-foot ceiling, and the corridors in the mine are typically about 14 feet wide, officials said.

"I'm sure their lights have died by now. I'm sure it's pitch black," said miner Robby Robertson, 27, of Orangeville, Utah, who worked in the mine several years ago. "Imagine the darkest place you've ever been."

Murray, however, said that if the minors survived the collapse itself, they would probably be spending most of the time in the dark to conserve their headlamp batteries, which are generally good for about 12 hours each.

"As soon as they realized they were trapped, it is very likely they went down to one light and very likely they went into total darkness a lot of the time and only used that light for the purpose of getting to the materials they need to ensure their survival," Murray said. "It wouldn't be bright. It would be like a very, very, large flashlight."

Their other materials typically include a half-gallon of water each in coolers, he said.

Whether air is flowing into the chamber where they were working or is running out is not known. But officials had some reason for optimism, because there was no fire or explosion to eat up oxygen or poison the air.

Mine owner is fined millions for violations

BY JOE MILICIA
Associated Press Writer

CLEVELAND The chairman of the company that co-owns the Utah coal mine where six workers are trapped has campaigned to improve mine safety — but his companies have incurred millions of dollars in fines over the last 18 months.

Robert Murray's Cleveland-based Murray Energy Corp. has 19 mines in five states that vary widely in the number of fines, citations and injuries, according to an Associated Press review of federal Mine Safety and Health Administration records.

At Utah's Crandall Canyon mine, where the fate of the miners was unknown after a cave-in Monday, the safety record was remarkably good, said R. Larry Grayson, a professor of mining engineering at Penn State University.

"The injury rate for the last four years has been significantly below the national average," Grayson said.

But a mine in southern Illinois owned by Murray subsidiary American Coal Co. has had a significant number of recent violations.

The Galatia mine, which has about 850 workers and produced 7.2 million tons of coal in 2006, has 869 violations so far this year, leading one mining expert to believe the company is "just going for the production and not going for the safety."

Bruce Dial, owner of Dial Mine Safety, a consulting company near Charlotte, N.C., said the high number of fines, \$1.46 million so far in 2007, indicates the mine is not taking the necessary steps to remedy problems.

The mine has accumulated more than \$3 million in fines dating back to 1999. Records show Galatia is contesting many of the fines.

On June 4, MSHA inspectors cited and fined the mine \$54,000 for violating regulations on the accumulation of combustible materials.

More Hispanic immigrants laboring in mines of Utah

BY GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press Writer

HUNTINGTON, Utah The Utah mining accident has illustrated the way increasing numbers of Hispanic immigrants are working the mines in this heavily white, mostly Mormon state.

Three of the six men trapped in Monday's cave-in are from Mexico, according to the Mexican Consulate.

"People come here because they know that there's enough work to go around," said Salvador Lazalde, a local Hispanic leader whose cousins work in a nearby open-pit copper mine and who worries that one of the trapped miners is from his hometown, a village in the Mexican state of Zacatecas. "If the pay is good, people say the risk is worth it. They know that starting the job."

Exactly how many Hispanics are working the mines in Utah is not clear. But as the global coal market has heated up, some mining companies across the West have filled a rash of new jobs in recent years with immigrants from Mexico.

Immigrants are often more willing to settle for low wages and accept the dangers involved in digging coal thousands of feet beneath the surface.

Little is known about the trapped miners. But relatives have confirmed the names of three of them to The Associated Press: Manuel Sanchez, 41; Kerry Allred, no age available; Carlos Payan, in his 20s.

The Mexican Consulate in Salt Lake City had no information on their hometowns. Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman said he was told by the consulate that the Mexican miners are legal immigrants.



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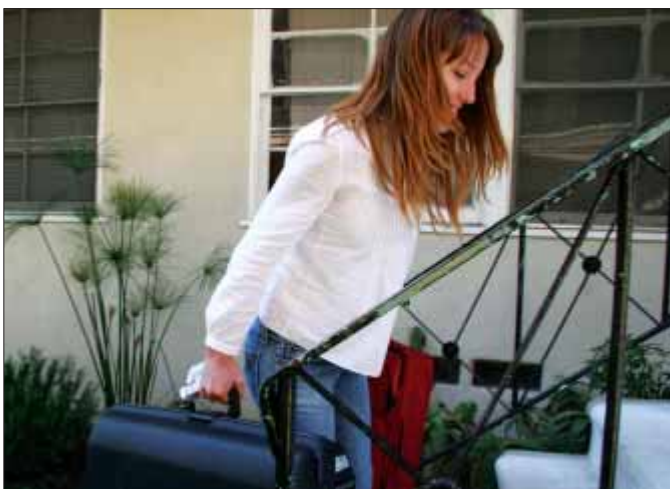


Photos and text by Christine Chang news@smdp.com

MID-CITY IN MOTION: (Clockwise, from top left) A Santa Monica resident waters her son's community plot at Euclid Park; a former trading post on 829 Broadway is scheduled for demolition, to be replaced by a four-story apartment building; intentional graffiti adorns the side wall of The Tulip Cafe on Colorado Avenue; Amber Kennedy returns to her apartment on 14th Street, back from visiting her family in North Carolina. 'I love the weather here! It's hot and sticky in North Carolina;' Mario Manjarrez gets a head start skateboard-racing while his cousin Robert Manjarrez trails behind.

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

AUGUST 8, 2007



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Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.



Photo by Michael Mazzoni



U.S. Department of Transportation



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

WALKING THE WATER LINE: A recent report on water quality found the beach by the pier to be one of the dirtiest in the state.

LA County water is worst in state

FROM DIRTY WATER PAGE 1

days in 2006 for LA County beaches, the second highest since statewide testing standards began seven years ago.

"Families shouldn't be worried about keeping the kids out of the water so they don't get sick," said David Beckman, a senior attorney with the NRDC and the director of its California Coastal Water Quality Program. "But too often, unfortunately, that's the case."

Aging and poorly designed sewage and storm water systems were largely to blame for the high number of closures, the report found. Unmitigated urban sprawl that continues to overwhelm wetlands and other natural barriers, such as dunes and beach grass, which help filter hazardous pollutants, was also cited.

"We can fix leaky pipes; we can require coastal developers to maintain vegetation to absorb rain," said Nancy Stoner, director of the NRDC's Clean Water Project. "The solutions are out there."

The NRDC pointed to the Santa Monica Main Library as an example of the type of "smarter building" that needs to take place to protect the environment. The library, which opened in 2006, received a LEED Gold rating from the U.S. Green Building Council for its eco-friendly design, which includes a water management system that captures, filters and holds 200,000 gallons of rainwater in a cistern, keeping it from overwhelming the city storm water system. The stored water is used to irrigate the library's garden.

The report warns that the number of closures could be greater if water quality standards are upgraded. Currently, water quality standards are 20 years old and rely on obsolete monitoring standards and outdated science that leave beach-goers vulnerable, officials with NRDC said.

This forced NRDC to file a lawsuit against the EPA a year ago after officials with the agency missed a deadline to comply with revised standards approved by Congress in 2000. The NRDC suit seeks to force the EPA to adopt protective standards on a tighter schedule.

FAMILIES SHOULDN'T BE WORRIED ABOUT KEEPING THE KIDS OUT OF THE WATER SO THEY DON'T GET SICK."

David Beckman
a senior attorney with the NRDC and the director of its California Coastal Water Quality Program.

A court recently ruled that the EPA violated the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act and is setting a schedule for compliance, officials with the NRDC said.

Mendocino County has the highest percentage of monitored beaches with no closures, while Los Angeles County had the most.

"Beachgoers should use this report to inform themselves about the quality of water at local beaches," said Michelle Mehta, an attorney with the NRDC. "Choose your beach wisely."

"If there is any doubt, or if the water smells bad or looks dirty, stay out of it."

kevinh@smdp.com

CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for the:

Colorado Ocean Relief Sewer Project, SP 1984

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **September 12, 2007**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Contract Documents.

Prebid Conference: August 15, 2007 at 10:00 AM, 1437 4th Street, Suite 300, Santa Monica, CA 90405

ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE: \$11,300,000
CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS: 525
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: \$2,500.00 PER DAY
COMPENSABLE DELAY: \$2,000.00 PER DAY

Contract Documents may be obtained at the Office of the City Engineer or by mail for an additional mailing charge (check or money order payable to the City of Santa Monica). Cost of the documents shall be **\$75.00**. Additional mailing charge shall be **\$15.00**. Contract Documents may also be examined in City Hall, at the Civil Engineering and Architecture counter, phone number (310) 458-8721. Additional information may be obtained on the City's website at www.santa-monica.org/engineering. The Contractor is required to have a Class **A** license at the time of bid submission.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

Break-ins put locals on edge

Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK When Nancy Pierandozzi returned from a summer vacation, she got an unpleasant surprise.

While out of town in mid-July, her home was burglarized, the culprit claiming several pieces of jewelry and her son's Cooperstown baseball bag.

Through her 14 years as a resident of Sunset Park, few things had been tampered with at the Pierandozzi home — a Santa Claus prop and a couple of pumpkins outside. This latest incident, in which the perpetrators allegedly struck in broad daylight and entered through her backyard, came as a shock.

"It was a big mess," she said on Thursday, in reference to the July 20 break-in. "They tore everything up."

Neighbors have noted that incidents of home burglaries, car break-ins and vandalism have been more prevalent in this southeastern Santa Monica neighborhood in recent months, putting the small community on high alert of suspicious activity.

Colin Maduzia, who lives near Pierandozzi, was tasked with watering his neighbor's lawn while she was out of town. One day, he arrived at the house to see the gate ajar, a chair suspiciously propped against the wall and found the back doors were wide open.

He initially thought that a friend or relative was staying in the home while Pierandozzi was away ... until he noticed the home in complete disarray.

"The place was completely ransacked," Maduzia said on Wednesday.

Santa Monica Police have noticed the increase in burglaries in the Sunset Park neighborhood — bounded by Centinela Avenue to the east, Lincoln Boulevard to the west, Ocean Park Boulevard to the north and the city limits to the south. Police came to address the issue during the Friends of Sunset Park annual membership meeting in June.

Police have stepped up enforcement efforts in the neighborhood over the past few months, sending out more uniformed and plainclothes police, said SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla on Thursday.

At least two suspects have been arrested in the area over the past few weeks for being in possession of burglary tools and stolen property. One man was arrested on July 24 at Pier Avenue and 24th Street, caught with lock picks and key cutters. Another suspect was arrested three days later, at Ocean Park Boulevard and 16th Street, also caught with burglary tools, Padilla said.

Several of the burglars have targeted vehicles.

Ellen Mark has been the victim of van-

dalism and car break-ins three times in the past five months, the first incident taking place at the end of March, when a window was smashed in. Nothing was reported missing from the car.

Her husband went outside on July 10 to find that the front and rear tires had been punctured with a nail, situated in a location where it was obviously intentional, police told Mark.

"Police said that it was not random," she said on Wednesday. "We were spooked when we heard that."

Another incident on July 28 didn't ease her nerves, the window of the car was smashed and her daughter's digital music player stolen.

Timothy Maher, who has lived near the corner of Cloverfield Boulevard and Pearl Street for three years, found someone had rifled through his belongings in his sport utility vehicle in April, though nothing was missing.

"The dealership said that a lot of times, the SUVs are broken into to steal the third row seat," Maher said Thursday.

Contributing to the increases of burglaries is the hot summer weather, forcing the air conditioner-less residents to keep their windows open and doors unlocked when they run out for a quick errand.

"When it gets hot, people forget they left their backdoor open ... and don't go back and check windows to make sure they're locked and secured," Padilla said.

With the recent narcotics-related arrests made in the Pavilions Motel on Ocean Park Boulevard, combined with stepped up enforcement and extra vigilance by residents, police are hopeful for a decrease in the number of burglaries and car break-ins.

"Sometimes when you arrest drug addicts, they tend to be involved with other criminal activity," Padilla said.

A drop in burglaries is what Erin King is hoping for after a construction trailer on the site of her future home was broken into on July 27. Approximately \$5,000 worth of construction equipment was stolen from the trailer, which is located at Ashland Avenue and 16th Street.

Because of the significant loss, the construction company now leaves with the equipment at the end of each work day, King said on Thursday.

The incident was surprising, considering the trailer was secured with a heavy duty lock that she thought was safe from cutters.

"I've noticed recently there seemed to be even graffiti in the alleyway," King said, commenting on the increase of criminal activity. "It just seems like it's a rash of activity."

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Santa Monica Daily Press



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SURF REPORT

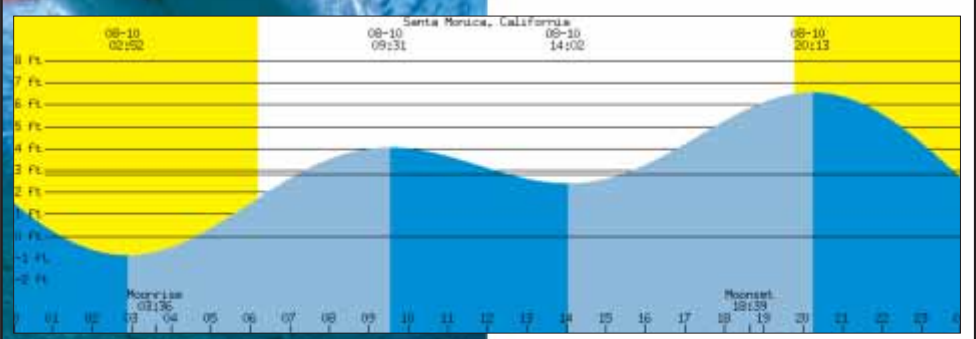
SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 68°

SWELL FORECAST (3-5 FT)
Today is looking smaller as the southern hemi swell fades and wind swell remains extremely weak along the coast. South facing breaks still may see some chest high stuff early, but by late morning this swell should drop to knee to waist. Winds look rather nice and calm for the AM.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
SMALLER WEEKEND AHEAD, BUT WEATHER, WINDS FAVORABLE
POSSIBLE WIND SWELL MID NEXT WEEK

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **August 4, 2007**

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 -- 3
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 0
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 42 / 15
Number of [C,D,F] grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 10

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from 

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Camillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Del Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Micholas Beach at San Micholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Palga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Alamos creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Tennessean Canyon drain	A	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Morado State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chimneyway)	A+	ns
Druid Beach at Trabancas Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montebello Ave. drain	A	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Rancho Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Venice storm drain	A	ns
Escandido Creek, just east of Escandido State Beach	A	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurant)	A+	ns
Loriga Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	ns
Selenia Canyon at San Blocker County Beach	A+	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	C	ns
Puente State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A	ns
Marin Canyon storm drain at Puente Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	C	ns
Serfider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	F	ns
Serfider Beach (beach location) - daily	A	ns	Venice Beach - projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A+	ns	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach - lifeguard tower	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	C	ns
Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (joint vent)	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 16943 PCH stairs	A+	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Los Flores County Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of B&W jetty)	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Tapanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyattsville Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	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			

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.

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Movielink's SM locale up in air

FROM BLOCKBUSTER PAGE 3

Steve Swasey, a spokesman for Netflix, said on Thursday.

Dallas-based Blockbuster, which operates more than 8,000 stores worldwide, punched back in 2004, rolling out a similar mail service with 70,000 available titles. The long-time rental chain used its stores as an advantage, offering a bonus to its subscribers who, rather than waiting for a movie to arrive in the mail, could just drive to their local Blockbuster and grab a new one.

Netflix offers a competing product to Movielink, where its subscribers could instantly view more than 4,000 available selections on their computers without downloading, Swasey said.

It has yet to be discussed whether Blockbuster will continue to maintain Movielink's Santa Monica location and whether it will change the current pricing structure for download, Raskopf said.

The idea of watching movies online seemed appealing to Fanny Franklin of

Santa Monica, who was checking out a few DVDs at the Blockbuster on Lincoln Boulevard on Thursday.

Since she lives so close to Blockbuster, Franklin said she doesn't subscribe to the company's mail-in service, adding that she wouldn't have the patience to wait for snail mail.

I WOULD (USE MOVIELINK) IF I WAS COMPUTER SAVVY, BUT I'M NOT REALLY."

Fanny Franklin, Blockbuster customer

"I would (use Movielink) if I was computer savvy, but I'm not, really," Franklin said. "But it seems like a good thing."

melodyh@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEF

LOS ANGELES

Bulking up bridges

After the collapse of a Minneapolis interstate bridge last week, Los Angeles is checking up on the safety of local bridges. City Councilmembers Bill Rosendahl and Wendy Greuel introduced a motion calling for the Department of Public Works and the Department of Transportation to provide a status report on the city's bridges and the programs that exist to repair, retrofit, and maintain them.

"This is an issue of public safety," Rosendahl said. "The Minneapolis tragedy was a wake-up call for us. We want to have a clear understanding of our bridge system and any safety issues that need to be addressed within our infrastructure. I would rather be safe than sorry."

There are more than 500 bridges in Los Angeles and many are considered historic. Some of the city's bridges, such as the Vincent Thomas Bridge in San Pedro, serve as the only roadway connecting two areas of the city.

Last Wednesday in Minneapolis, the 40-year-old 35W bridge, which crosses the Mississippi River, collapsed during the evening rush hour, killing at least four people and severely injuring countless others.

The motion was referred to the City's Public Works Committee and is expected to be heard this month.

DAILY PRESS



ODDS OF A CHILD PERFORMING AT CARNEGIE HALL:
1 in 73,000

ODDS OF A CHILD BEING DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM:
1 in 166

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Bump & grind

Pop star Spears hits parked car, walks off

Oops, she dinged it again.

Paparazzi took pictures and videos of a puppy-totting **BRITNEY SPEARS** steering her car into another one as she tried to turn into a spot in a Studio City parking lot. Then assessing the damage to her own car only. Then heading off to shop.

But the tale of the tape made it clear to the owner of the parked car just who it was who scraped up her

silver Mercedes-Benz.

Kim Robard-Rifkin, 59, told the entertainment Web site CelebTV.com on Wednesday that nobody from Spears' camp had contacted her about the damaged car.

"It's sad because I was really hoping she'd step up and be a mensch, be a human being," Robard-Rifkin said. "It was simply like my car didn't matter to her, my inconvenience didn't matter to her."

A video on CelebTV.com, taken Monday, shows the 25-year-old pop star (with a puppy on her lap) attempting to park her black convertible and hitting the adjacent car.

Robard-Rifkin, a registered nurse, said she was "sort of amused and sort of shocked" when she learned it was Spears who hit her car, and figured she would hear from the embattled entertainer.

"There were obviously a lot of paparazzi there and what kind of person wouldn't realize that this (would) be on TV and she had to be responsible and contact me," she said.

"I'm not asking for money. I'm not asking for a new car. ... I simply want my car fixed, the same as I would fix somebody's car if I had done that."

Robard-Rifkin filed a police report on Thursday. An e-mail to Spears

spokeswoman at Jive Records was not immediately returned.

Spears' divorce from Kevin Federline became official on July 30. Since February, Spears and Federline, 29, have shared joint custody of their sons, 22-month-old Sean Preston and 10-month-old Jayden James. When the divorce was finalized, a child custody hearing was scheduled for Aug. 14

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARTER, BURTON EXPECTING

HELENA BONHAM CARTER is pregnant again.

The 41-year-old actress and her partner, Tim Burton, are expecting their second child together, her publicist, Karon Maskill, said Thursday. No other details were provided.

The couple have a 3-year-old son, Billy Raymond. Bonham Carter stars as evil witch Bellatrix LeStrange in "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," the fifth film adapted from J.K. Rowling's wizarding saga.

AP

Bertinelli's career rebounds thanks to her chubby cheeks

VALERIE BERTINELLI was used to hearing the f-word. F, as in fat, that is.

The 47-year-old actress is enjoying a career rebound since she became a Jenny Craig spokeswoman and pledged to lose 30 pounds, which she has since revised to 40 pounds.

"It's so funny," Bertinelli said. "If you say you're fat, all of a sudden people like you! I've never

had so many people be so kind and wonderful and giving and loving."

Viewers will see a heavier Bertinelli in her latest role, which she filmed before dropping more than 22 pounds. She plays a widowed psychic who helps catch a serial killer in the TV movie "Claire," airing Saturday on the Hallmark Channel.

Bertinelli was inspired by fellow Jenny Craig

spokeswoman Kirstie Alley to go public with her weight battle.

"If Kirstie was able to do it so boldly, with such a great sense of humor and be so successful at it, who am I to pretend that people don't see that I've gained all this weight?" she said.

"It took me a few days to prepare myself mentally. I thought, 'Am I ready for this? It's so public. What if

I fail?' Because of the response I've gotten from people, it's the best job I've ever had," she said.

Bertinelli starred in the 1970s sitcom "One Day at a Time." She was also a regular on "Touched by an Angel" from 2001 to 2003.

She married Eddie Van Halen in 1981, and filed for divorce from the rock guitarist in 2005.

AP

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

Don't push yourself, Leo

Happy Birthday!

You'll go far this year if you trust your instincts. Emotions run deep and stir up an enormous amount of feelings. Learn to honor these strong signs as guideposts. Be gracious in this instance. Listen to your inner voice. Use spontaneity within a partnership to heat up the emotional climate. If you are attached, you discover just how important you are to a certain someone. If you are single, evaluate before you find yourself so deeply in a relationship that you cannot get out. **CANCER** reads you cold.



Born Today
Actress Angie Harmon (1972)

Singer Jimmy Dean (1928)
Singer Eddie Fisher (1928)

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Your intuition kicks in and saves the day. A surprising insight could encourage you to approach a family member or domestic issue much differently. You'll realize how much influence this new view could have. Tonight: Head on home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You say what you think, but fortunately, even if you surprise others, everything else will work out just fine. Someone you expected to react one way does just the reverse. This action reminds you to never expect any set results. Tonight: Hang out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Your finances could take a radical shift, and not necessarily for the worse. The change in direction could be the result of dynamic thinking and action. Know when to reverse gears and when to stay anchored. Tonight: Be open to the unusual.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Resulting from additional self-confidence, you can do whatever is necessary to move a project or idea forward. When you really understand where someone else is coming from, compassion arises. Tonight: Make an offbeat choice.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You don't have to push too hard to make an impact. You know what you want and exactly where you are heading. You might decide that lying low suits you. A partner reveals more of his or her colors as a result. Tonight: Don't push yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Note how many people you have working with you. What you want can and will become a strong possibility. Others give advice. Weigh suggestions with openness and the knowledge. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Though you might be hard-pressed to accomplish what you believe you must, you will. Hop over obstacles, and use them as an excuse to short-circuit your day or an event. Allow yourself greater personal freedom. Tonight: A must show.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ Take in a greater perspective, and you will be a lot happier. Your imagination runs circles around others. This ability only intrigues someone even more. A loved one might be taken aback by someone else's ability. Tonight: Follow your feelings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Tension builds when family, roommates or others involved with your security start doing the unexpected. You might want to toss everything out the door; don't. Listen to a trusted associate. Tonight: In the whirlwind of life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Extremes punctuate your decisions. As a result, because nothing feels grounded at first, you might abandon plans or walk in another direction. Remember, the Goat never gives up. This includes you too. Tonight: Join a friend or two.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Curb gambling, and you will be happier, at least your wallet or feelings will be. Still, an unanticipated event could occur that might force you to regroup. Understand that others also might be slightly out of sync. Tonight: Say "yes."

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Sometimes you act more erratic or unpredictable than you realize. Stop. Though your actions might please you, could they be impacting someone you care about in a negative manner? Only you can answer that question. Tonight: Love the moment.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Frostbite (Frostbitten) (NR)
7:30 pm
Journey to the Center of the Earth (1959) (NR)
7:30 pm

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

Bourne Ultimatum, The (PG-13)
10:30 am, 1:15, 4:05, 6:55, 9:50
BRATZ (PG)
11:00am, 1:35, 4:25,
Daddy Day Camp (PG)
10:50 am, 1:20, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:20
Simpsons Movie, The (PG-13)
10:40am, 1:00, 3:25, 5:55, 8:15, 10:35
Transformers (PG-13)
7:00, 10:10

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

The Bourne Ultimatum (PG)
11:00am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:45, 10:40
Hairspray (PG)
11:20am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:50, 10:45
No Reservations (PG)
11:45am, 2:20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50
Ratatouille (G)
DLP-Digital Projection
11:25am, 2:25, 5:10, 8:05, 10:50
The Simpson Movie (PG-13)
11:35am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:10, 9:40
Stardust (PG-13)
11:05am, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00
Underdog (PG)
11:10am, 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Talk to Me (R)
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45
This Is England (NR)
1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:00

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

2 Days in Paris (Deux jours a Paris) (R)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:55
Becoming Jane (PG)
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
La Vie en Rose (La Mome) (PG-13)
1:20, 4:45, 8:10
The Ten (R)
12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00

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

El Cantante (R)
11:10am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:20
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG-13)
12:10, 3:10, 6:30, 9:50
Hot Rod (PG-13)
12:00, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
I Know Who Killed Me (R)
11:00am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:10
I Now Pronounce You
Chuck & Larry (PG-13)
11:20am, 2:10, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
Live Free or Die Hard (PG-13)
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 10:10
Rush Hour 3 (PG-13)
11:30am, 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30, 12:00am
Who's Your Caddy? (PG-13)
11:40am, 9:40

Janric Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty
SILVER

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Friday 8:30am-5pm
Saturday 10am-2pm



Frank D. Wilson, Agent
Insurance Lic. #: 0164884
Bus: 310-696-0555
Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm

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State Farm Insurance Companies • Home Office: Bloomington, IL
smdaily.com

Girls and Sports

WHY'RE YOU WEARING SUNGLASSES INDOORS?

JOANN, A GOOD POKER PLAYER WEARS SUNGLASSES AT ALL TIMES TO HIDE HIS EMOTIONS

OH, WE'RE HAVING DINNER WITH MY PARENTS TONIGHT

SOUNDS GOOD. I DIDN'T WANT TO WATCH THE BASEBALL GAME ANYWAY



By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

The Meaning of Lila

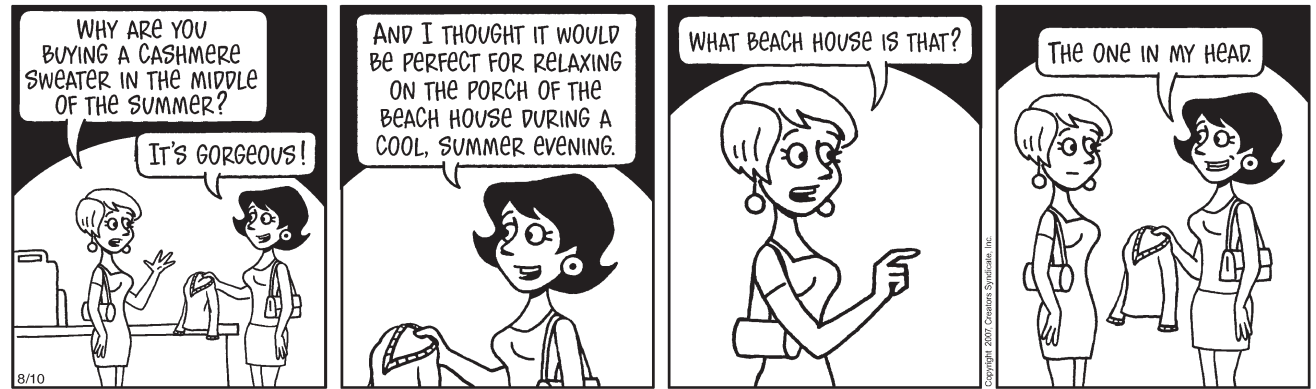
WHY ARE YOU BUYING A CASHMERE SWEATER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SUMMER?

IT'S GORGEOUS!

AND I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE PERFECT FOR RELAXING ON THE PORCH OF THE BEACH HOUSE DURING A COOL, SUMMER EVENING.

WHAT BEACH HOUSE IS THAT?

THE ONE IN MY HEAD.



By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose

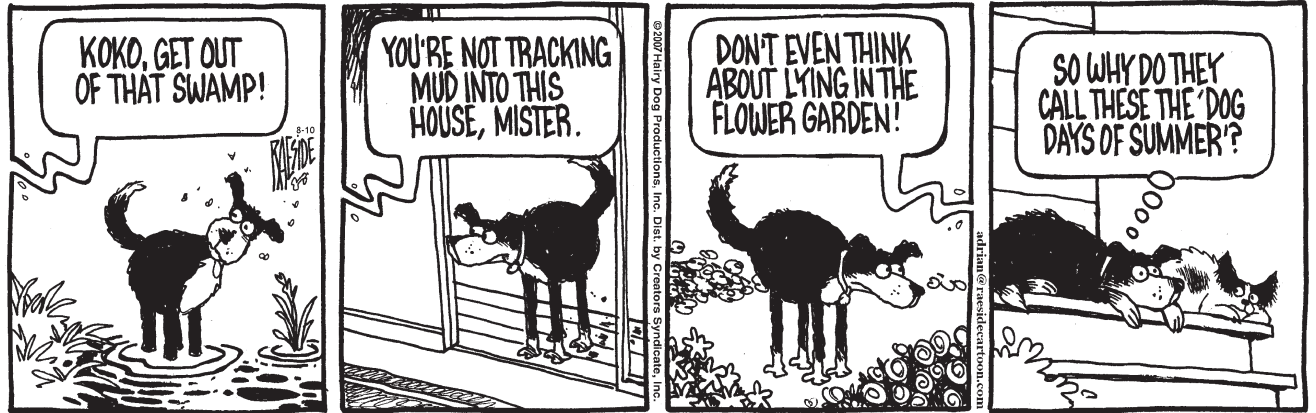
The Other Coast

KOKO, GET OUT OF THAT SWAMP!

YOU'RE NOT TRACKING MUD INTO THIS HOUSE, MISTER.

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT LYING IN THE FLOWER GARDEN!

SO WHY DO THEY CALL THESE THE 'DOG DAYS OF SUMMER'?



By Adrian Raeside

Garfield

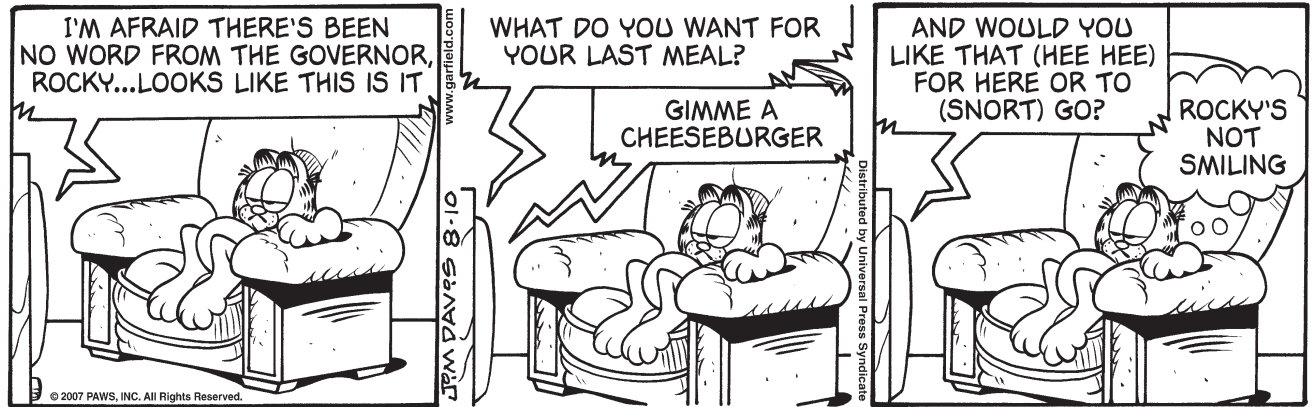
I'M AFRAID THERE'S BEEN NO WORD FROM THE GOVERNOR, ROCKY...LOOKS LIKE THIS IS IT

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR YOUR LAST MEAL?

GIMME A CHEESEBURGER

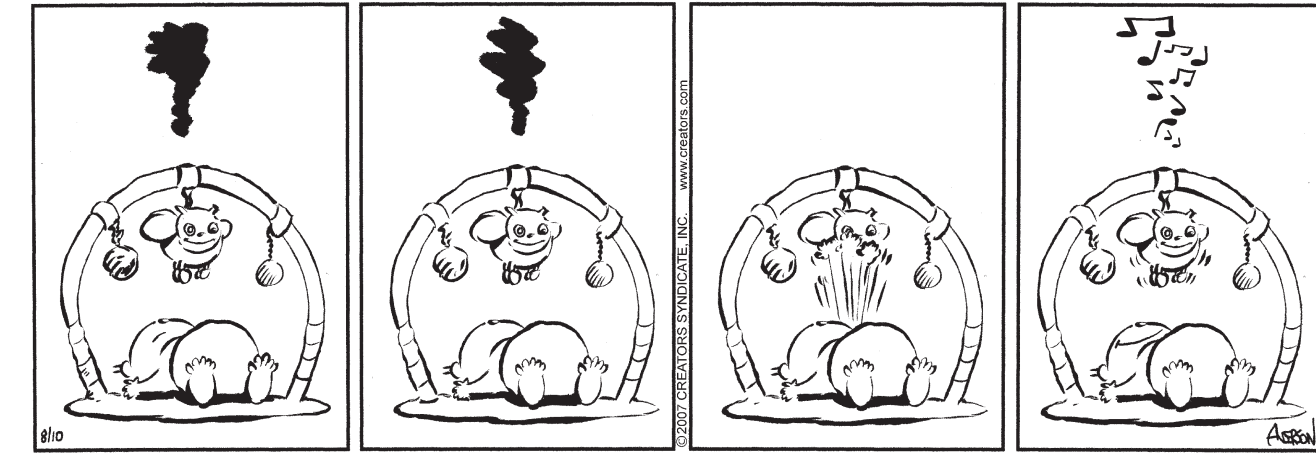
AND WOULD YOU LIKE THAT (HEE HEE) FOR HERE OR TO (SNORT) GO?

ROCKY'S NOT SMILING



By Jim Davis

Dog eat Doug



By Brian Anderson

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Natural Selection By Russ Wallace



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
1 Tourney makeup
6 Emulated Louganis
11 Find charming
12 "Butterfield 8" author
13 Hot spot
14 Condo-leezza's predecessor
15 Muse quantity
17 It may be copped
18 Lot
20 Friends' pronoun
22 Music's Yoko
23 Disbelieving cry
26 Ill-suited
28 Planet circlers
29 Vientiane residents
31 Fixed charge
32 Cooking fat
33 Walk of Fame symbol
34 Runner Zatopek
36 Enjoy the bistro
38 CSA president
40 — Ark
43 Smart guy

- 44 Flynn of films
45 Like a sty
46 Piquant

- DOWN
1 Ethane, e.g.
2 Byron's daughter
3 Site east of Jerusalem
4 Comic Kovacs
5 Writer O'Casey
6 Friend of Dopey
7 Optimistic exclamation
8 Fats Domino song

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

Yesterday's answer

- 9 American lake
10 Comic Carvey
16 LAX guess
18 Offensive
19 Tolstoy heroine
21 Canticle
23 Hoosgow
24 Draft rating
25 Manipulative sort
27 Stressed type
30 Annex
33 Night sound
34 Dutch export
35 Buck or bull
37 Don Juan's mother
39 Blue hue
41 Piping —
42 Artful

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						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						44				
45						46				

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
36 41 50 55 56
Meganumber: 9
Jackpot: \$105M

Super LOTTO
6 10 11 15 21
Meganumber: 27
Jackpot: \$60M

Fantasy 5
4 11 13 25 34

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 7 3 8
EVENING: 3 5 0

DAILY DERRY
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1:47.26

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

■ New Frontiers in Science (1) Hitachi's "brain machine interface," which it showed an Associated Press reporter in June, might soon allow a user to don a hat and turn an appliance on or off by merely thinking about doing so. (Until now, such thought-controlled instructions could only be done by people with devices implanted.) (2) Scientists at Italy's La Sapienza University announced in May that they had, for apparently the first time, surgically grafted a vagina (built with stem cells) onto a woman who had been born without one due to a rare condition.

■ Questionable Judgments Probation-Happy Judges: (1) Judge Angelo DiCamillo of Camden, N.J., thought probation (and \$750 restitution) was enough for six teenagers in June, even though they had wrecked a family's home during a party (\$18,000 damages), urinated and defecated on the furniture and (except for one boy) declined to apologize. (2) Also in June, Judge Harold Kahn of San Francisco thought probation was enough for a woman who had claimed the identity of another (through stolen credit cards) and run up six months of bills and bad credit, and even though the thief was already on probation. (Bonus fact: The victim had collared the perp herself, following a chance meeting, and handed her to police.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1898 Spanish-American War: American troops enter the city of Mayagüez, Puerto Rico.

1929 Babe Ruth becomes the first baseball player to hit 500 home runs in his career with a home run at League Park in Cleveland, Ohio.

1965 Race riots (the Watts riots) begin in Watts area of Los Angeles, California.

1972 Vietnam War: The last United States ground combat unit depart South Vietnam.

1984 United States President Ronald Reagan, during a voice check for a radio broadcast remarks "My fellow Americans, I'm pleased to tell you today that I've signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes".

1992 The Mall of America, the biggest shopping mall in the country, opened in Bloomington, Minnesota.

1999 A total solar eclipse visible from Europe and Asia.

2003 NATO takes over command of the peacekeeping force in Afghanistan.

WORD UP!

diaphanous \dy-AF-uh-nuhs\, adjective: 1. Of such fine texture as to allow light to pass through; translucent or transparent. 2. Vague; insubstantial.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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DISPATCHERS NEEDED. Towing company is hiring dispatchers with previous experience. Be familiar with SM area. Please contact (310)923-8888

FIT FEMALE MODEL WANTED FOR FIGURE DRAWING BY ARTIST. No experience necessary call. (818) 501-0266

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HOUSEKEEPER FOR upscale hair salon to work Tues-Sat. 8-5 \$8.50/hr. (310)453-5497

BOLD IT! MAKE YOUR AD STAND OUT

HOUSEKEEPER
OCEAN House, an elegant assisted living community, is looking for an ideal candidate with a positive attitude to provide housekeeping services for our elderly residents. Prior hotel or senior living community experience a plus. Job duties include daily cleaning of apartments and common areas. The position is full time and benefits eligible after 90 days. Meal plan is available as well. Please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405.

IMMEDIATE POSITIONS available in the Environmental Services Department. Looking for part time housekeepers/floor techs. Hospital Experience preferred. Call (310)829-8431 for interview.

SALES POSITIONS inside/outside sales and telemarketing, hourly plus commission. Must have car and pleasant manners. Call Bob (310)337-1500

Employment

JANITOR
Ocean House, an elegant assisted living community, is looking for an ideal candidate with a positive attitude to provide janitorial services to our elderly residents. Job duties include maintenance of common areas, carpet cleaning, window washing and light maintenance. The position is full time and benefits eligible after 90 days. Meal plan is available as well. Please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405.

LOOKING FOR A GREAT PART TIME JOB?

A leading Market Research Company is looking for Hosts/Hostesses for its Los Angeles Focus Group facilities located in Santa Monica. Must have previous experience in Hospitality, Hosting, Hotel or Wait Staff or in Market Research or related field. Interested applicants must be computer literate, responsible and flexible, well spoken and have previous experience with direct client interaction both in person and on the telephone. Job responsibilities include greeting clients, meal serving/clearing, audio & video recording as well as basic office and reception duties. Please email with "CSR Position" in subject line for consideration to mnorris@focuspointglobal.com.

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Employment

MOVE-IN COORDINATOR
Ocean House, an upscale retirement community, is looking for an ideal candidate to work part time as a Move-In Coordinator. Job duties include assisting new residents moving in with all required paperwork, making sure apartments are ready, giving tours of the community and assisting as necessary with the sales and marketing efforts. This position is part time, 3 days per week. Prior experience in an assisted living facility is a plus. If you are interested, please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave., SM, 90405 or fax a resume to (310) 314-7356.

MUSIC AIRPLAY CAMPAIGN SALES POTENTIAL \$80,000 P/T. (310)998-8305 XT 83

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Pizza Rollers

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(No calls on Thursdays.)

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT company seeking full-time maintenance with experience in painting, plumbing, and electrical repairs. Salary range \$1733.40-\$2080/month doe. Benefits include vacation, sick, health insurance and 401k. Fax 714-940-0521 or email resumes@barkermgt.com.

RECEPTIONIST
OCEAN House, an upscale retirement community, is looking for an ideal candidate to work as a receptionist at our front desk. Job duties include answering phones, greeting residents and visitors and responding to inquiries. Some light clerical work is also involved. This is a full time position and benefits eligible after 90 days. If you are interested, please come by and fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave., SM, 90405 or fax a resume to (310) 314-7356.

REI OUTREACH Position:

We are now accepting applications for an Outreach Specialist Position at the Santa Monica REI. If you have a passion for the outdoors, coordinating service projects, organizing events, teaching environmental awareness to youth, and want to work for one of the "100 Best" companies, then this job is for you!

The primary function of the Outreach Specialist is to act as the lead for building community relationships and fostering volunteerism both within the local community as well as within the store. 15-30 hrs/week. Starting Wage: \$13.25

To find out more, or to submit application and cover letter, e-mail Juan Quintero at jquinte@rei.com by Aug 16th

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DRIVERS - CDL A \$1, 000 Sign-On Bonus. New Pay Package!!! Local or Regional. Exp. Flatbed Drivers. *Home More *California Runs *Full Benefit Package *Dedicated Runs. 1 - 8 7 7 - 5 2 3 - 7 1 0 9 . www.SystemTrans.com System Transport, Inc. (Cal-SCAN)

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Studio/ 1BD/BA Carpet, Pool spa, Gated Grt loc \$975/MO
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APR 7.6%	
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Notices

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE T.S. No. HC-106929-C Loan No. 7441914116 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 8/8/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by the duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to satisfy the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. TRUSTOR:MICHELLE LYNN SANTOS, A SINGLE WOMAN Recorded 8/17/2006 as Instrument No. 06-1834345 in Book , page of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, Date of Sale:8/31/2007 at 10:30 AM Place of Sale: At the west side of the Los Angeles County Courthouse, directly facing Norwalk Blvd., 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, California Property Address is purported to be: 1247 25th Street-Santa Monica, CA 90404 APN #: 4276-020-020 The total amount secured by said instrument as of the time of initial publication of this notice is \$946,553.53, which includes the total amount of the unpaid balance (including accrued and unpaid interest) and reasonable estimated costs, expenses, and advances at the time of initial publication of this notice. Date: 8/6/2007 EXECUTIVE TRUSTEE SERVICES, LLC15455 S.F. Mission Blvd., #208 Mission Hills, California 91345 Sale Line: 714-259-7850 Ileana Petersen, TRUSTEE SALE OFFICER ASAP# 884723 08/10/2007, 08/17/2007, 08/24/2007

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: ROBERT LAWRENCE GLOCK-ENMEIER CASE NO. SP007199

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of ROB-

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Notices

ERT LAWRENCE GLOCKENMEIER. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by ERIC GLOCKENMEIER in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that PAUL GLOCKENMEIER be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests the decedent's WILL and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The WILL and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on 08/24/07 at 9:15AM in Dept. R located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner STEVEN G. GROSSMANN, ESQ. LAW OFFICES OF STEVEN G. GROSSMANN 455 E. THOUSAND OAKS BLVD., #101 THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360 8/9, 8/10, 8/16/07 **CNS-1178287#** **SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS**

DBAS

Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name Document Record # 20071591548 Current File No. 05 1534299 State of California, County of Los Angeles The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious Business name: PALOMA'S FRENCH TOUCH located at 500 S. HOBART BL. LOS ANGELES, CA. 90020 The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 06/29/05 In the county of LOS ANGELES. MARIE EVELYNE AUGUSTINE, 500 S. HOBART BL. L.A. CA. 90020 This business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL /S/ MARIE EVELYNE AUGUSTINE This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/03/2007. Published: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 8/3/2007. 8/10/2007, 8/17/2007, 8/24/2007.

Vehicles for sale

Petitioner In Pro Per ERIC GLOCKENMEIER 5700 BALTIMORE DR., #191 LA MESA, CA 91942 8/3, 8/6, 8/10/07 **CNS-1176138#** **SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS**

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: LAI KUEN LUI CHEUNG CASE NO. SP007088

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of LAI KUEN LUI CHEUNG. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by WENDY CHEUNG in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that MARGARET CHEUNG be appointed as Special Administrator to administer the estate of the decedent. THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act with limited authority. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on 08/31/07 at 9:15AM in Dept. R located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the

Notices

court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code Section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for Petitioner STEVEN G. GROSSMANN, ESQ. LAW OFFICES OF STEVEN G. GROSSMANN 455 E. THOUSAND OAKS BLVD., #101 THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360 8/9, 8/10, 8/16/07 **CNS-1178287#** **SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS**

DBAS

Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name Document Record # 20071591548 Current File No. 05 1534299 State of California, County of Los Angeles The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious Business name: PALOMA'S FRENCH TOUCH located at 500 S. HOBART BL. LOS ANGELES, CA. 90020 The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 06/29/05 In the county of LOS ANGELES. MARIE EVELYNE AUGUSTINE, 500 S. HOBART BL. L.A. CA. 90020 This business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL /S/ MARIE EVELYNE AUGUSTINE This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 07/03/2007. Published: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 8/3/2007. 8/10/2007, 8/17/2007, 8/24/2007.

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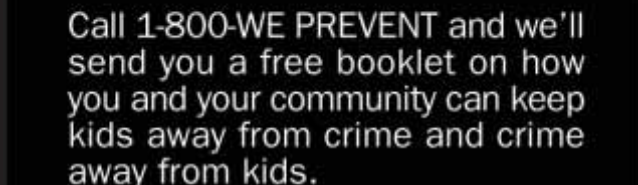
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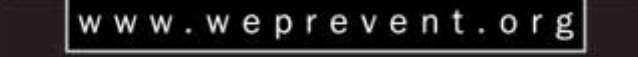
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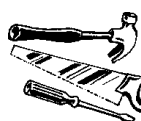
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