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THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 240



Santa Monica Daily Press

NEW TO THE AREA?
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE NICE WORKING WITH YOU ISSUE



EWELL

SM City Manager Ewell to retire

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CITY HALL After 34 years of public service, City Manager P. Lamont Ewell — who is widely credited with improving customer service in City Hall — plans to resign from his post at the end of the year.

Ewell made the announcement Wednesday to give the City Council ample time to conduct a nationwide search for his successor.

"It is with great satisfaction that I have been able to answer in my work life what I believe to be one of the highest callings — public service," Ewell said. "I am grateful for all my years of service and especially proud

SEE EWELL PAGE 10



Brandon Wise *news@smdp.com*

SAVE THE BIRDS: **Animal rights activists rally in front of City Hall on Tuesday to protest a decision by the City Council to install nets underneath the Santa Monica Pier to keep pigeons from roosting and fouling the water under the structure, which is considered the worst in the area.**

Animal rights activists rally against pigeon net

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Animal rights activists staged a small protest before the City Council meeting Tuesday in opposition to a plan to install netting underneath the Santa Monica Pier in an effort to prevent pigeons from fouling the waters.

Their hope is to change the minds of city officials who just last month approved a $107,758 contract with Bird Busters to put up a net that will run the length and width of the pier. Doing so could be a matter of life and death, at least for the birds, opponents say.

"When you try to put a net under there to exclude pigeons from getting up in there, everything above the net, that is all the babies and the parents who won't leave the nests, are going to starve to death," Dr. Red Enright, an attorney and self-proclaimed pigeon expert, said. "Any of the pigeons that happened to be out at the time (the net is installed) are going to die of exhaustion try-

SEE NET PAGE 13

Another candidate for Expo maintenance yard emerges

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL There's a new contender emerging in the small pool of possible maintenance yard locations for the Exposition Light Rail.

That candidate is a roughly 13-acre chunk of land made up of two city blocks bounded by Colorado Avenue to the north, Olympic Boulevard to the south, Ninth Street to the west, and 11th Street to the east, all of which is currently home to approximately 27 businesses, including Jerry Bruckheimer Films.

It was included in a list of 20 properties recently evaluated by a city consultant who combed through potential sites for a work facility after Pico Neighborhood residents came out in strong opposition to a proposal by the Exposition Construction Authority to place the yard at the Verizon site, which is across the street from homes near the corner of Stewart Street and Exposition Boulevard.

While the survey concluded that the Colorado option would create safety concerns because its configuration would force

SEE EXPO PAGE 11

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



SM Pier in pictures
First United Methodist Church
1008 11th St., 9 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
The First United Methodist Church presents a beautiful, free photo exhibit by church member Allan Walker to coincide with the Santa Monica Pier's 100th anniversary. This exhibit will be open daily through Sept. 9.
For more information, call (310) 393-8258.

Laugh your socks off
Shakti's Elements
717 Broadway, 11 a.m. — noon
Join the Laughter Club for some laughter yoga led by certified laughter yoga leader Kim Selbert. This form of body-mind exercise is for all ages and fitness levels. For more information, visit www.kimselbert.com or call (310) 849-4642. Admission is $10 per person.

Friday, Aug. 14, 2009

Movies and more
WISE and Healthy Aging
1527 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Join WISE and Healthy Aging for an entertaining and thought-provoking film twice a month. A lively discussion follows each movie, led by peer counselor Bert Dragin, who has written, directed and produced three motion pictures. A $3 admission fee gets the film, popcorn and discussion.
Call (310) 394-9871 ext. 373 for more information.

Rockin' rotary
Riviera Country Club
1250 Capri Dr., time TBA
The Rotary Club of Santa Monica has long enjoyed a reputation as being the hub for Westside men and women dedicated to improving their local and worldwide communities. It is a melting pot for cultural ideas from the diverse ethnic makeup of its members. Those interested in attending their regular lunch should contact June Doy at (310) 917-3313.

Saturday, Aug. 15, 2009

A night with Red Elvises
Rusty's Surf Ranch
256 Santa Monica Pier, 9:30 p.m.
Combining elements of Russian music, klezmer, rock 'n' roll and theater, Red Elvises use their variety of global influences to create original, eclectic music with high-energy live shows that make people of all ages and cultures want to dance all night. Call (310) 393-7437 for more information and for cost.

Tour de fitness
Douglas Park
1116 Chelsea Ave., 9:30 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Tour de Fitness is a challenge that enables youth and their families to enjoy a day of activities while promoting the importance of exercise and nutrition. Last year, participants walked, ran and lunged over 8 miles while touring the streets and businesses of Santa Monica. Be part of this great event to test your fitness and promote a healthy lifestyle. All participants will get gift bags and T-shirts provided by sponsors. Register at www.o2maxfitness.com.
Call (310) 867-1560 for more information.
Admission is free for the first 100 participants.

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



Photo courtesy Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

WILD STYLE: **(Pictured) Newly collared female mountain lion P-13 was discovered in the Santa Monica Mountains recently.**

Female mountain lion collared in SM Mountains

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SM MOUNTAINS Staff with the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area are awaiting the results of DNA testing to determine whether or not a newly collared female mountain lion is the kitten of a lion recently seen in the Hidden Valley region.

The DNA testing is currently being done by UCLA to determine the relationship between the animals, dubbed P-13 and P-6. P-13 was recently discovered and tagged as part of a program that began in 2002 to study and track the movement of mountain lions to see what impacts urbanization has had on the animals.

P-6 was seen recently in the area where P-13 was radio-collared, according to remote camera photos.

Other mountain lions are also confirmed residents of the Santa Monica Mountains. Mountain lion P-1, the first one collared in this study, is now thought to be 12 or 13 years old and is most likely alive following a fight with another mountain lion. P-10 and P-12 are both 2-year-old males with functioning collars and currently inhabit the Topanga and Malibu Creek areas respectively, although male lions often roam across the entire Santa Monica Mountains. P-13 joins them as the third mountain lion with a functioning collar. She is thought to be at least 1 year old.

Mountain lions face significant challenges in the Santa Monica Mountains, primarily due to limited habitat and threats from urbanization including freeways, such as Highway 101, that obstruct travel, said Lauren Newman, policy and external affairs manager for the recreation area.

In February of 2009, P-12 successfully crossed Highway 101 at Liberty Canyon, an unprecedented event in the mountain lion study. Designated wildlife corridors within the mountains offer the lions opportunities for long distance movement and the ability to discover new mates. Mountain lions have a range up to 250 square miles, and require ample acreage to find sufficient food.

To date there haven't been any reported negative direct interactions between humans and mountain lions in the Santa Monica Mountains, Newman said. Sightings are incredibly rare, even for people who spend large amounts of time in the area.

Preservation of open space and wildlife corridors in the Santa Monica Mountains through local, state, and federal partnerships is integral to regional mountain lion survival, Newman said.

"One of the goals of the park is to create either an underpass or overpass to allow wildlife to cross the 101, potentially at Liberty Canyon, which has habitat on both sides of the freeway," Newman said. "That project is still in the concept stage as we work with partners to identify the best place to put it, and also identify possible funding sources."

news@smdp.com

Delivering music with a message

BY NATALIE JARVEY
Special to the Daily Press

SM PIER Tonight's concert for the 25th Annual Twilight Dance Series brings together two artists whose music spans different continents yet project a similar message, a celebration of multi-cultural heritage and a nation's diversity.

Hailing from Israel, Idan Raichel introduces his unique music project to the pier. Called the Idan Raichel Project, this collaborative music venture brings together more than 85 musicians from around the world to sing and perform songs written by Raichel.

"It's not a band and it's not a singer-songwriter album," Raichel said of the group's work. "Every album became like a compilation of work."

The project began seven years ago when Raichel — influenced by his family's Eastern European roots and the population of Ethiopian Jews in Israel — invited nearly 70 friends and music colleagues to his studio in his parents' basement to help him record a demo.

Raichel intentionally blends sounds from many music styles into his songs, drawing largely from Ethiopian rhythms and the varied styles of the project's collaborators.

"We're all immigrants who came during the years to Israel," Raichel said. "We're the structure of the Israeli society."

Raichel's music does not conform to the same structure as the catchy pop music that fills Israel's airwaves. Instead, it's considered part of the word music genre, something that Raichel was worried the Israeli community would not take to.

"What makes it very exciting for us is it's the first time it's the music of the minorities on the Israeli charts," he said. "It's become the music of the mainstream of Israel."

With 16 hits in Israel, Raichel has taken the project global, bringing it first to Ethiopia, where many of the artists were born, and then the rest of the world.

Not all 85 artists can travel at one time, but Raichel brings a selection of them with him on tour, arranging the stage so that no one performer becomes the focal point for the show.

"I thought it would be nice to put myself as the director or producer of the show or these albums and in this way it gives me a lot of options to have great musicians from all over singing with me or joining the band," he said.

SEE **CONCERT** PAGE 12

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

City Hall Seismic Retrofit (SP1993) &
Jail Tenant Improvement Project (SP2072)

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 Monday, August 24, 2009, 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.

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Contract Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's website at: http://www.smgov.net/finance. Contract Documents may also be examined in City Hall, at the Public Works counter. The Contractor is required to have a Class B 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.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The wrong verdict

Editor:

Dear Mr. Juarez,

Please allow me to begin by saying that I'm extremely sorry that my fellow jurors let you down and didn't deliver the justice that you and your family deserved ("Mistrial declared in Juarez murders," page 1, Aug. 5).

The system didn't fail you, some of my fellow jurors did. I saw you and your family every day and felt your pain. It's incredible how blind some people can be to reality.

Mr. Markus and his legal team did a fantastic job of proving their case to me without a reasonable doubt. I'm sorry I couldn't give them the victory that their hard and excellent work deserved.

I now have to live with the flawed decision my fellow jurors gave. It will forever stay with me. I pray you get a retrial and win! Perhaps you and your family will find the closure that has evaded you all those horrible years.

I can't reveal myself for obvious reasons, but that doesn't mean I can't keep you and your family in my prayers on Sunday morning.

Yours truly,

Anonymous juror

This tree doesn't need saving

Editor:

Natalie Jarvey's news article about the dangerous bunya bunya tree in Douglas Park confuses me ("After protests, city officials reconsider tree removal," page 3, Aug. 11). Apparently, the Treesavers group has petitioned City Hall to save the tree despite the fact that large, heavy, very dangerous pine cones fall from it.

It seems that the Treesavers are at it again with a misguided agenda. Saving trees is a great idea, that is, unless the tree poses a danger to people and/or creates a negative impact. There are 9.5 billion acres of trees on the Earth. Removal of a selected tree in an urban environment like a city park because it is a safety hazard is sometimes necessary and will not defoliate the earth.

"We figure the city (was) making an issue over this tree because they don't want a lawsuit in case somebody gets hit with a pine cone," said Herb Silverstein, a community tree activist, in the article. Does Mr. Silverstein really think that the City Council's first concern is litigation if some child dies from getting hit with a "bowling ball-sized pine cone?" I believe that safety and people's lives take priority over the landscaping of a park in the minds of our council members, but hey, that's just me.

A suggested alternative mentioned in the article by Susan Hartley, co-founder of Treesavers, was to fence off part of the park during cone season. It's a pretty tall tree. How much of the park should be fenced off for those heavy cones to drop safely on a windy day? Think cutting down a tree has a negative impact on people? What kind of impact will closing a significant part of our park have? All so we can look at a tree that drops bowling ball-size cones where we used to play.

Douglas Park is a city park that needs to be functional and available without safety hazards, and that is a reality. The dangerous bunya bunya should be replaced with the Afghan pine City Hall has planned for that spot, and the Treesavers ought to be realistic in their quest to save trees if they are to have any credibility at all. It's a crime when a tree is destroyed for no reason, but in Douglas Park, there is a very good reason to chop this tree down. It would be great to see a community info center or a gazebo made from the lumber from that tree. Hopefully the City Council will make a sensible decision, yell "timber," and make Douglas Park safe with a new tree.

Carlos Pineiro
Santa Monica



Life Matters

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

Building the right network

AS YOU PROGRESS THROUGH YOUR JOB search you may be feeling as though there is a secret strategy you're missing out on. Well, in fact, you may be! Networking is the most effective job search strategy. So now that you're in on the secret, you're probably thinking the same thing a lot of my clients and students wonder about — what exactly is networking?

Let's start simple: networking is just developing and then maintaining the contacts and personal relationships you create. There is no complex method or magical process to networking. In fact, you're probably already networking: when you attend a professional conference, a school reunion, when you volunteer, talk to your neighbors, chat with someone while waiting in line, and even in virtual ways, like posting messages to a blog or on a discussion board. When you start simple and you think about the natural ways to interact with people you won't need to study and memorize the thousands of books out there on networking.

PROMOTIONS AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT DO NOT HAPPEN JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE GOOD AT YOUR WORK, RATHER THEY ARE LINKED TO THE PEOPLE YOU KNOW AND WHO WILL VOUCH FOR YOU. VISIBILITY IS KEY TO YOUR SUCCESS.

You can network with the various everyday things that are already part of your life. Networking does not need to be a huge, complicated process; rather it's something that can become a natural part of your life. To make use of networking however, it must start long before your job search. Maintaining a relationship is much more than just asking for favors. Keep in mind networking is about being genuine, real, and, most importantly, yourself.

Start with a few simple things that work for you. If you normally have lunch in your office or cubicle, start having lunch in the cafeteria or scheduling lunches with other people in your office or building. Not only will this time be rewarding and allow you to connect with others, but it is something you can do without adding extra hours to your already long day. You can also bridge networking with things you already enjoy. Consider joining a local athletic league or volunteer organization. You'll naturally have at least one thing in common with the people you meet.

Be smart in your networking strategy. Think of the people you already know who seem to know everyone else. These connectors are fundamental to your networking success — they are the key to opening your networking door. If you are only "networking" with friends and family that you know well, then you are limiting yourself to new information and opportunities. Extending your network will help you to connect with those who operate in different circles with different people who ultimately have access to new information and resources. With new people in your network come new opportunities that you would not otherwise know about.

While we're on the topic, let me make one thing clear. Networking is not asking for a job or making cold-calls to people you do not know. Rather it is talking to those you do have a relationship with and asking them to introduce you to others. You can build your network by helping others meet new contacts, too. Building your network is a give-and-take system; if you are hoping to be connected to new people you need to be able to offer the same to your contacts. The best advice I can offer is for you to be the one who connects others. You do not need to put together a big event. One of the easiest techniques is to introduce others over e-mail and let them do the coordinating. When your contacts or acquaintances see you as a valuable connector they will want to reciprocate the offer and your network will grow before your eyes. You need to bring something to the table otherwise you're just like that annoying acquaintance who is always asking for favors but not providing anything in return.

Just in case you need the motivation to get started, networking has a number of great benefits. From learning more about a particular career to gathering job leads, the opportunities you create through networking are endless. Even if you are not concerned with finding a new job networking can help you in your current organization as well. Promotions and career advancement do not happen just because you are good at your work, rather they are linked to the people you know and who will vouch for you. Visibility is key to your success.

KATRINA DAVY is a professional career counselor who has worked in both university and private settings. She holds degrees from Cornell and Columbia universities. Got something on your mind? Send your questions and comments to newshrink@gmail.com or visit www.newshrink.com.

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Edge of the West

Ron Scott Smith

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Healthcare protests rock, man

Editor's note: The following report was compiled at an anti-healthcare rally in Harrisburg, Pa. on Monday, Aug. 10.

GUY WALKS INTO A RALLY AGAINST healthcare. Badum-ching!

That's right, a rally against healthcare and it's me walking in and the juices are flowing again. "Hell no we won't go," I'm chanting to myself to warm up on the way in, all fired up if not just a little bit nervous because I forget what you're supposed to do at these things, but then everybody says it's like hopping back on a bicycle.

It's been quite a while, see, since we used to march on Washington and wherever all else to rail against stuff like war and racism and injustice and although you might think railing against war and racism and injustice is a bit more juicy than railing against healthcare, we all know in this pavilion here today that healthcare is every bit as juicy to rail against as war and racism and injustice.

We stand, or I should say sit, here today, some 200 strong, single-minded in our quest to get this healthcare thing to crawl back under the rock it came out from under.

We know full well now the filthy truth about healthcare or at least the part about the Obama Death Panels that will execute mentally ill children, and we come here today ready to rabble-rouse to all hell and to speak truth to power, and wow, does it ever feel good to say that thing again, let alone do it.

Yes, here we sit, me and my fellow dissidents, er, patriots, mad as hell at and united against healthcare. We're the proud ones our young mentor, Sean Hannity, would no doubt refer to as "Great Americans," and we are strong together in our noble mission to destroy healthcare, strong notwithstanding a few electric scooters. Do not underestimate what is under all this white hair you see out here today I am thinking, and maybe do not underestimate what is under all this white skin you see out here today too, because as I look around there is not a single, solitary person of color in here in this landmark City Island Pavilion in this predominantly black city of Harrisburg, Pa. That's right, there is not a single black man, woman or child to be seen. Well, as another of our bold, young gurus, Glenn Beck said, and Glenn Beck knows, "Barack Obama hates white people," and maybe in a way this rally here gives all of us "Great Americans" a chance to hate right on back if you know what I mean.

But that's like a buzz kill, man, so I quickly turn my attention back to the stage where a local morning radio guy has the veins bulging out of his neck as he shouts at the top of his lungs about how he will join some doctor in being dragged off to the Obama concentration camps, and about how all of us senior citizens would be put out to pasture to die under Obamacare, and now he is skillfully taking that murderous scenario to a beautiful crescendo of hate and fear and you can even hear the crowd go kind of wild, maybe 10 or 20 of them at least.

IT'S BEEN QUITE A WHILE, SEE, SINCE WE USED TO MARCH ON WASHINGTON AND WHEREVER ALL ELSE TO RAIL AGAINST STUFF LIKE WAR AND RACISM AND INJUSTICE ...

But then, it's kind of hard to clap your hands when you're fanning yourself on this torrid summer day with paper fans handed out by those organizers in the red T-shirts. Those organizers in the red T-shirts have a cool bus by the way that matches their T-shirts, colorful as all get-out, even if it does say "Hands Off My Healthcare," instead of having groovy psychedelic waves and stuff painted on it. But it really does kind of fit right into this fresh new counter-cultural vibe.

But back to that morning radio guy and his virtuoso crescendo of hate and fear and Hallelujah! Brothers and sisters, this is what I'm talking about. Now this is a protest rally.

I'm getting goose bumps, and I bet soon we might even start chanting: "Just say no, just say no," to wicked healthcare. Now if things really get going, oh man it's too much to hope for, but maybe we could do a couple "Drill baby drill, drill baby drills" just for the heck of it if time permits and if everybody's not too tired.

RON SCOTT SMITH is on an extended fact-finding mission in a far-away land. He can be reached at edgeofthewest@aol.com

The Q Line

Park it

City officials are considering raising parking rates at Downtown structures from $7 a day to $9 and the monthly rate from $82.50 to $121.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think the proposed rates are reasonable?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.


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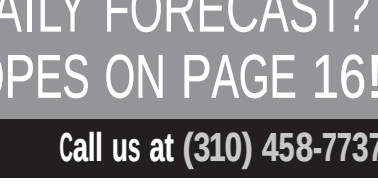
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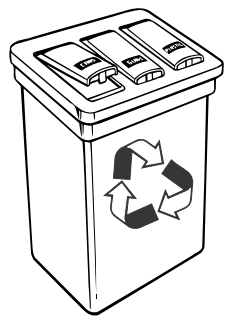
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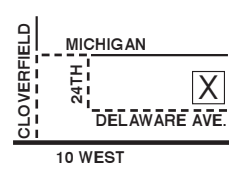



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Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No bounty in this 'Mutiny'

ALL THE UGLY RACIST CLICHÉS ABOUT African-Americans that used to be tossed around with impunity during World War II are present in Paul Leaf's new play "Mutiny at Port Chicago," now having its world premiere at Santa Monica's Ruskin Theatre. There's even a slur about a "little Jew-boy lawyer" thrown in for free.

The most unfortunate part of this highly dramatic so-called "mutiny" is that it's a true story. It took place in July 1944 at a military installation 50 miles from San Francisco, where African-American sailors had been assigned to load highly volatile ammunition into the holds of ships bound for the Pacific war zone.

Working round-the-clock, with no preliminary training, and egged on by white lieutenants who callously gambled on whose crew could load the most tonnage each day, the black sailors were well aware that they were, literally, "playing with fire." And the "fire" came on July 17, when 4,600 tons of explosives blew up, destroying two ships and their crews and the nearby town of Port Chicago, leaving 320 dead and 390 seriously injured.

The white seamen at the facility were immediately given 30 days' compassionate leave. The blacks were assigned to gathering the body parts of their friends who had been killed in the explosion.

It was ironic that African-Americans, who were not allowed to have weapons of any kind at that time, were charged with responsibility for handling thousands of tons of explosives in conditions that they themselves recognized as negligently dangerous. And so, when they were ordered back to their loading duties, they stood as one and refused the order.

Some 258 sailors were sent summarily to jail, charged with mutiny. Threatened with a firing squad, but offered leniency (which was never given), some 208 returned to work. But the 50 who refused were brought to trial, indicted for treason in time of war.

Presiding over "the biggest court martial in the history of the Navy," the Admiral's chief concern was who had put these sailors up to the "mutiny," since, as he said, "They could not do this on their own."

Seaman Edward Little (J. Teddy Garces), spoke eloquently for his comrades when he noted that "we volunteered to fight for our country, not to be stevedores," and demanded "the right to die proud."

Carl Coughlan as the bigoted Admiral and Chris D'Annunzio and Maury Sterling as the prosecuting and defense attorneys, respectively, were especially good, but the show was carried by the four seamen who represented the 50 defendants in the actual trial.

They were, in addition to Garces, Eric Bivens-Bush, Pedro Coiscou and Durant Fowler.

While the play itself is devoid of action, it does have a stirring trial, taken from the actual Navy records of that time. Given the events that have taken place since then, it is hard to believe that only 60 years ago such arbitrary bigotry was accepted, and that actions were judged in such "black and white" terms (pun intended).

Powerful but preachy, the play is directed by the playwright, and its cast of 10 moves through it with either self-righteous indignation or dignity, depending on which side they're on. Christina Silvoso's set design consists of a series of walls with patriotic phrases emblazoned on them, effective but a little intrusive.

Like all the plays presented by the Ruskin Group, this one is worth seeing. But if you're too young to remember the civil rights movement, you need a heavy "suspension of disbelief" to accept the fact that before that time the kinds of language, attitudes and behavior depicted in this play were not only routine, but taken for granted throughout this country.

"Mutiny at Port Chicago" will run Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Aug. 29 at the Ruskin Group Theatre, 3000 Airport Rd. in Santa Monica. Call (310) 397-3244 for tickets.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.

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The Re-View

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Lacking that personal touch at Vittorio's

WE RECEIVED A NICE LETTER FROM A fan of Vittorio's Ristorante in the Pacific Palisades. She raved about it so convincingly that I rushed over there with my wife Bonnie for dinner our first free night. Since I knew that the owner is from Brazil, I took my secret weapon along — our daughter Raquel speaks fluent Portuguese, and lived in Sao Paolo for two years.

Vittorio's offers an extensive menu, and reasonable prices. The space is very pleasant, and we sat at a table that was partly indoors and partly outdoors, which was very comfortable on a summer evening. There were a number of families with kids, and a lot of take out going on, but the noise level was OK. It's a nice neighborhood place to take the family.

Sure enough, they started with the garlic knots that the fan raved about, and they were plenty good, about the same as those served at C&O Italian restaurant on Washington Boulevard in Marina Del Rey. Since there were three of us, I ordered an assortment of dishes so I could report on a variety. First, the appetizers arrived: stuffed eggplant and calamari fritti.

We each took a bite of the stuffed eggplant and declared it delicious, at which time my wife put the plate in front of her and declared that this is what she was having for dinner. Raquel and I started on the calamari fritti. The squid, unfortunately, were grossly overcooked, and some pieces tasted like cardboard because of it. We ate a few pieces and gave it up.

Next came the main courses, lobster linguini (one of the most expensive items on the menu, at $19.50) and the fish soup. The fish soup was a surprise: less soup and more a tall pile of very nice mussels, clams and pieces of squid. There was plenty for two, and at the bottom was a clear broth with a touch of spice. It wasn't what I expected, but it was very good. Personally I prefer the saffron based, more viscous fish soup served at Dante's in the Palisades, which has fish in it as well as steamed mollusks.

Unfortunately, the lobster linguini was tasteless, and I don't know how the chef managed to get the flavor out of the lobster, but he did, and the sauce was uninteresting. In general the sauces lacked flavor, and above all lacked garlic, for me an important part of Italian cuisine.

I went back another night for the pizza, billed as "New York style." My personal preference is not New York style, but pizza with thin crust and a good balance of cheese and tomato flavor. But for a thick crust pizza with lots of flavor and lots of cheese, this was very good. At about $16.50 for the 14-inch size it's not a bargain, but it's mid-range in price. I ordered some crushed garlic in oil on the side to sprinkle on the pizza.

There are a number of good reviews on the Internet, and the fan letter raved about the friendly service. Maybe they were next door? Our waitress seemed aggrieved to be serving the food, and was quite unfriendly. We asked to meet the owner, and she came over and conversed a few minutes in Portuguese with Raquel, mostly about how hard it is for Brazilians to get a visa in today's world of immigration problems. But she didn't ask anything about us, or our names, and never came back to check on the food or to say goodbye. I didn't feel that anyone really cared if we liked the food or not. Our fan mentioned that they serve a number of famous people, and I don't doubt it, since a lot of famous people live in the hills above Sunset Boulevard.

When I went back for pizza I looked at the wine list (although I drank a couple of beers). There were no vintages on the list, so I couldn't evaluate the prices, and there was very little of interest on the list. No Dolcetto, for example, which is what I often prefer to drink in a neighborhood family restaurant. There was one wine produced by people we know well, the Burlotto family in Verduno, Italy, and it seemed reasonably priced, but that might be because it's a 2003 (I looked at the bottle), which was not a good vintage for the Piedmont region.

If I lived in the Marquez area of Pacific Palisades I no doubt would eat at Vittorio's from time to time, and pick up their take-out foods regularly. With a large selection of Italian foods at reasonable prices, a nice setting, and — for locals — a convenient location, it's a typical neighborhood Italian restaurant. And, if I become rich and famous, maybe they'll remember my name.

Vittorio's Ristorante
16646 Marquez Ave., Pacific Palisades, 90272
(310) 459-9316; www.vittoriosla.com
Dinner only, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Closed Mondays.
Prices: reasonable. Pizza, $15-$22, salads $7-$10.50, pasta $11.50-$21.50; entrees $14-$19. Beer & wine.

FOUND: TASTY BIRRIA IN SM

Last year I wrote about birria, the goat stew served in a number of Mexican restaurants. Most of these restaurants are in West Los Angeles, located either on Pico or near Santa Monica and Bundy. But now I've found a very good birria at Tacos Por Favor at 14th and Olympic. They have a standard menu, with a much larger breakfast menu than many similar restaurants, and the tacos are OK — with a nice salsa bar. But for me the weekend birria is the star. This is a rich goat meat soup with lots of meat (and bones) in it of different textures. I always take some flour tortillas with it and make a few soft tacos with some of the meat plus some hot sauce, and dip them into the soup. Small size $4.25, large $6.25. Mexican heaven!

Tacos Por Favor
(310) 392-5769, open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Love those hours), but birria only on weekends.

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

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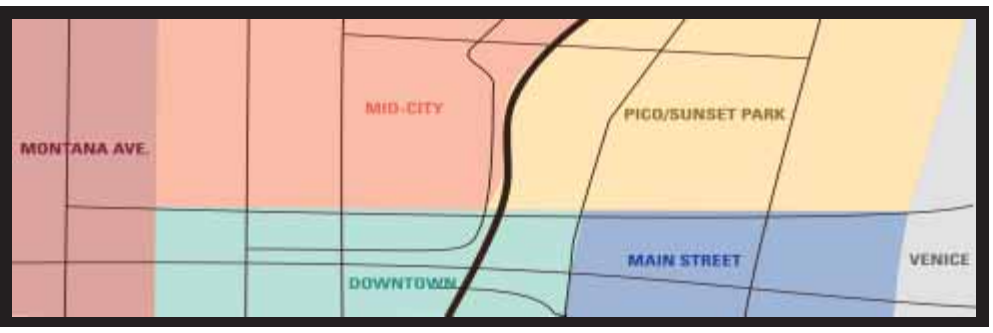


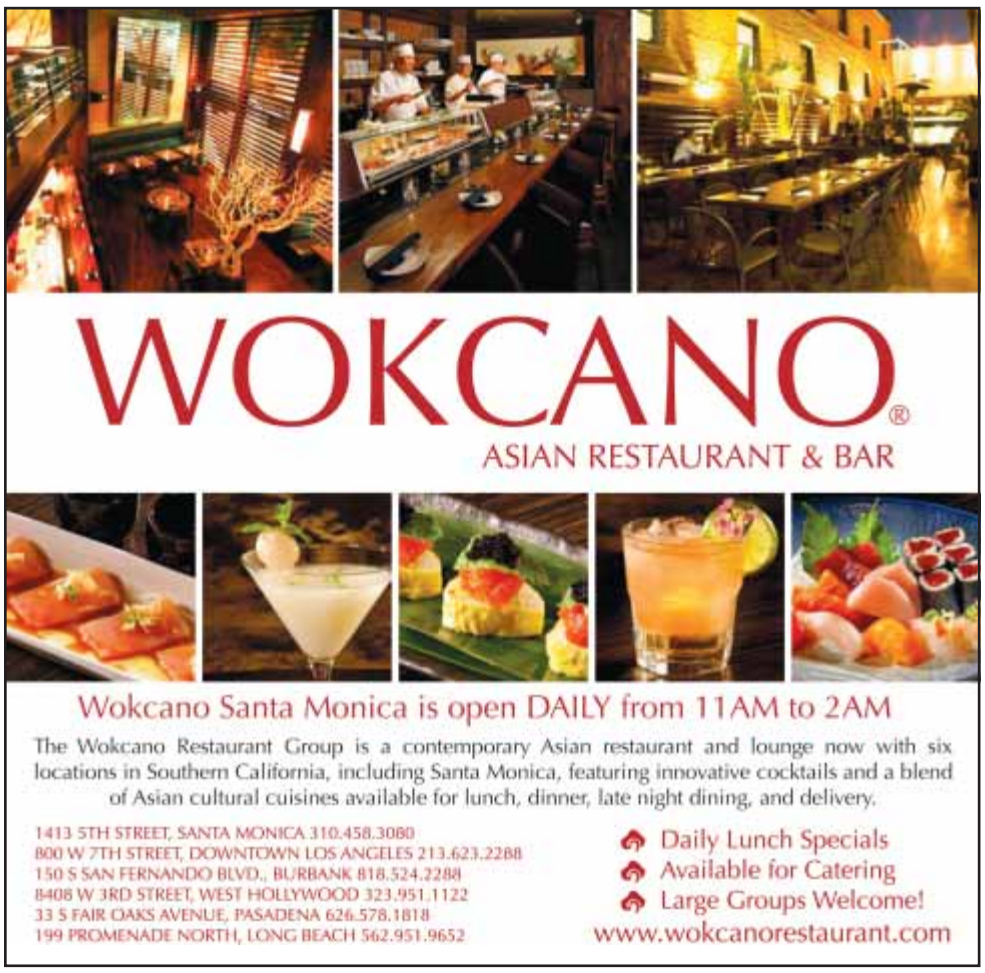
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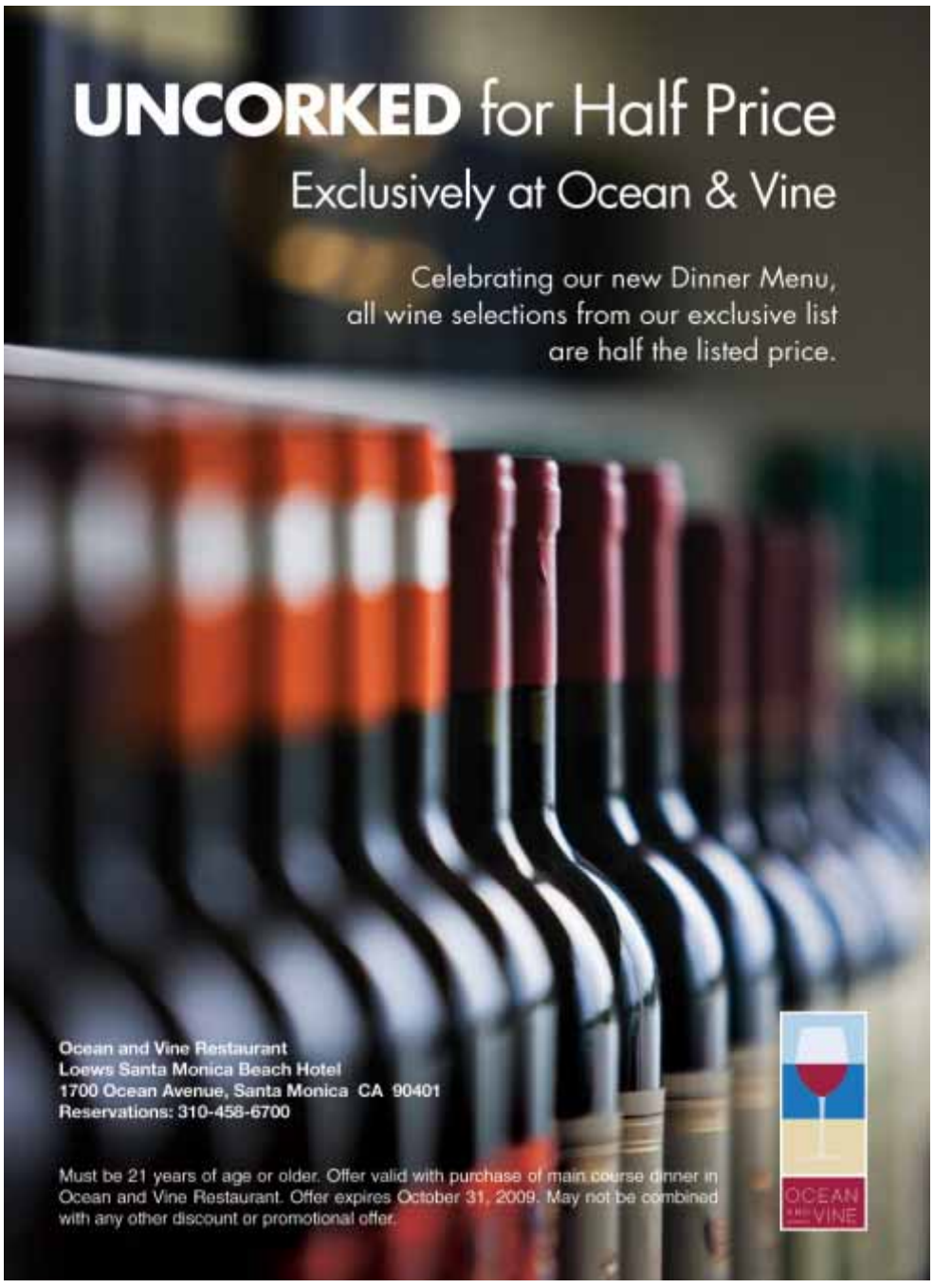
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Ewell hopes to travel

FROM EWELL PAGE 1

to end my career serving one of the greatest cities in the nation. I want to thank the community and the highly talented city workforce for our exceptional partnership."

In leaving, Ewell, 56, said he will have more time to spend with his family — wife Mary, daughter Jamila and son Justin and three young grandchildren with one more on the way. His "next adventure" will include working through a long list of travels that he and Mary have set their sights on over their 32-year marriage.

Ewell, who was hired by the City Council in January 2006 after serving as city manager for San Diego, said thoughts of retiring surfaced one Sunday morning earlier this year, when he had to make a choice between going to work or visiting family in San Diego with his wife.

"I started thinking more and more about it and what my priorities were," Ewell said. "It didn't take me long to come to a decision. This is the right thing to do and at the right time. I've worked with a lot of cities and I have had to manage through some of the worst chaos that anyone can ever imagine. Here I had the opportunity to leave without chaos. We have a strong budget plan together, our water treatment plant will be up and running by December 2010, we will have a new mall opening next summer … . We've accomplished a lot over these last four years."

Ewell, a veteran civil servant who began his career as a firefighter in Compton, is characterized by many in the community as a conscientious, compassionate and considerate leader who is always willing to collaborate, building partnerships with neighborhood groups, local merchants and longstanding institutions such as Santa Monica College and the Chamber of Commerce, helping to heal old wounds.

Several community leaders said Ewell was a "straight shooter" who followed through on his promises. When something failed, he didn't run, but instead studied why it failed and how to improve.

"Lamont is an absolute master at consensus building and relationships," said Kathleen Rawson, the executive director of the Bayside District Corp., a public-private management company that helps City Hall promote and manage Downtown. "He has been such a positive influence in Santa Monica. … The city has gained some respect in the eyes of property owners and business owners in Downtown, due in no small part to his leadership."

During his tenure Ewell completed an extensive reorganization of City Hall and focused on improving customer service, all the while giving credit to city staff. Almost $300 million worth of redevelopment projects are now in progress to better the community and the path for the completion of the MTBE water treatment plant is firmly set and progress is being made on the California Incline and Palisades Bluff stabilization projects.

Ewell also appointed several new department heads during his tenure, ensuring stability for years to come, said Mayor Ken Genser.

"Lamont has just got that determination … that openness to hear all the concerns and try to find a solution that is respectful of all the various parties involved," said Genser, who has worked with three city managers during his time on the dais. "That is a difficult thing to do but Lamont handled it professionally and in a very respectful, humane way."

Councilman Richard Bloom felt one of Ewell's greatest accomplishments was getting everyone within City Hall "on the same page, talking the same language when it came to homelessness and sustainability."

"He never ceases to impress me," Bloom said. "No matter how small the issue or how large, he's willing to take a personal interest in it and see if it can't be resolved in a way that meets everyone's needs. It isn't always possible, but he makes the effort."

An example of that is Ewell's budget meetings held in the various neighborhoods, something he started two years ago to get a better understanding of what the community's priorities were. Mary Marlow, president of the Ocean Park Association, said she could not remember a city manager being so involved.

"He really went out of his way to work with the neighborhood associations, particularly with budget issues and resident priorities," Marlow said. "That was super and refreshing. I know he is really going to be missed. We hate to see him go but wish him the best."

Patricia Hoffman, a member of the Bayside board and co-chair of Santa Monicans for Renter's Rights, the city's leading political party, said she was disappointed to hear Ewell was leaving because he was such a positive influence in the community, always asking her about her family when they met at community events.

> **HE HAS BEEN SUCH A POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN SANTA MONICA. ... THE CITY HAS GAINED SOME RESPECT IN THE EYES OF PROPERTY OWNERS AND BUSINESS OWNERS IN DOWNTOWN, DUE IN NO SMALL PART TO HIS LEADERSHIP.**
>
> Kathleen Rawson
> the executive director of the Bayside District Corp.

"I think he is such a decent human being and a really dear man," Hoffman said. "I think he came in and helped guide the council into understanding or having a clear vision of what their role is. He will be missed, but I am so happy for him. I just hope that he is happy in his retirement and that he can relax and recreate as well as he can run a city."

Before taking the Santa Monica post, Ewell served as the city manger for the city of San Diego, where he was thrust into the middle of a financial scandal, forcing him to make difficult decisions to return the city to core services. Ewell takes pride in knowing that he is leaving Santa Monica in good financial standing, retaining its stellar bond rating.

He began his career as a firefighter in Compton and worked his way up the ranks to become Oakland's fire chief. Credited with helping to rebuild the fire-ravaged area, he was later named Oakland's assistant city manager, going from there to become the city manager of Durham, N.C., before moving on to San Diego.

Ewell plans to remain in Santa Monica until sometime late next year, at which time he will move with his wife further south to be near family. He said he looks forward to being just a resident of Santa Monica, enjoying the many amenities the city has to offer without worrying about how to better maintain those features.

"In the meantime I will just continue to do my work like I've always done," he said.

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Brandon Wise *news@smdp.com*

THE SPOT: **An area near Olympic Boulevard and Ninth Street is being considered for the yard.**

Tenants oppose new proposal

FROM **EXPO** PAGE 1

trains to make a turn into eastbound traffic, the City Council on Tuesday asked its staff and Expo officials to continue studying it for different siting possibilities.

"The cost of relocating businesses to me is infinitesimal compared to the mitigated impact on residents," Councilwoman Gleam Davis said. "Relocating businesses to me may be very expensive, but it's not going to have a negative impact on a neighborhood."

The council also directed its staff to continue working on a newly conceived hybrid plan that would involve using the Verizon site, adjacent Santa Monica College parking lot and part of the City Yards, separating the facility and the residents with a 120-foot linear buffer.

Behind the buffer will be a car wash, storage tracks, train washing facility, and traction power station. The new plan would require relocating the bike path from the Expo right-of-way.

The hybrid option replaces an alternative proposal that city staff presented last month to spread the facility over several properties, including Verizon, the SMC parking lot and city-owned property at 1800 Stewart St. The plan was opposed by residents, Bergamot Station and the Lionstone Group, which owns the lease at 1800 Stewart.

Both the Lionstone Group and Bergamot Station, which is home to art studios and galleries, backed the new proposal, but the hybrid plan brought out a new opponent — the owners of the Lantana Entertainment Media Campus, which sits immediately to the north.

"We have grown in Santa Monica because tenants can work in an environment that is conducive to their business," Maggi Kelley, the general manager of Lantana, said. "It is important to us that we are able to continue the same quality of service to all tenants as we have been supplying to them the last 20 years."

Ted Bischak, the senior vice president of asset management for Maguire Properties, which owns the Lantana campus, said the alternative proposal provided the building a significant buffer from the maintenance facility while the hybrid plan pushes those activities up to the property line.

"The buffer for pedestrians and bicycles is removed and there is no conceivable way in our opinion to fix this," he said.

Rick Thrope, the chief executive officer of the Exposition Construction Authority, said that there is a sound studio located within 10 feet of the Gold Line tracks in Pasadena and that impacts were successfully mitigated.

Residents spoke against plans to place a facility near their homes, criticizing Expo officials for waiting until the previous evening to hold its first community meeting about the maintenance facility. Expo has pledged to hold another design workshop with neighbors.

Residents also expressed discontent with the screening criteria that the consultant used in its evaluation, which included weeding out properties that were too close to parks and schools and were under the adequate parcel size.

"I'm shocked and disappointed that neighborhoods are apparently not on the same level as schools and parks, neighborhoods that are occupied 24 hours a day," Michael Storms said.

Darrell Clarke, who serves as the co-chair on Friends 4 Expo Transit and lived more than three years about half a block south of the Verizon site, said the maintenance yard will not produce the same health hazards as the I-10 Freeway or City Yards, which residents said will join the Expo facility in creating a "toxic triangle."

"This is not a freeway with that kind of noise and air pollution," he said.

Davis pointed out that the Verizon site is also currently a maintenance yard that probably produces carcinogens.

"They are refueling vehicles on that site and there are few things that create more air pollution than refueling vehicles and they are not refueling them with clean air, it's gasoline," she said. "There are things going on at that site now that are probably having a negative impact on the neighborhood."

There's some skepticism about whether the Colorado site will be financially feasible given the relocation costs of 27 businesses. City Manager Lamont Ewell said that the hybrid plan is estimated to cost about $100 to $120 million and the Colorado option would be double that figure.

Councilman Bob Holbrook said he has a gut feeling that the site will create a furor in the city.

"It'll probably be $250 million plus 27 different law firms marching in here with all the employees that work in those places and I just think … that site isn't going to make it and to go down that long dusty road is concerning," he said.

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AUGUST 31, 2009 DEADLINE
FOR BUSINESSS LICENSE RENEWAL

All businesses operating in the City, or from a Santa Monica address, as of July 1, 2009 are required to renew their business license for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Late payment penalties will be assessed if the renewals are postmarked after August 31, 2009.

Renewal forms are mailed by June 30 to all currently licensed businesses.

To renew your business license:

- Complete and return the renewal form mailed to the business
  OR
- Renew online at the City's website, www.businesslicense.smgov.net

Contact the Business License Office at business.license@smgov.net or (310)458-8745 if you need a duplicate renewal form, need assistance or have questions regarding business licensing requirements.



Photo courtesy Cumbancha

BIG SOUND: **The Idan Raichel Project will play the Twilight Dance Series tonight at the SM Pier.**

Emanuel sings in Spanish and English

FROM **CONCERT** PAGE 3

Raichel is always looking for new artists to join the group, searching in bars, villages and even deserts for talented musicians.

The last time he performed in San Francisco he even found a violinist on the street and brought him to the show.

> **WHAT MAKES IT VERY EXCITING FOR US IS IT'S THE FIRST TIME IT'S THE MUSIC OF THE MINORITIES ON THE ISRAELI CHARTS.**
>
> Idan Raichel
> founder of the Idan Raichel Project

"We just found a violin street musician and it was amazing," he said. "You know, two hours later he performed with us to 2,000 people. It was very spontaneous."

To contrast Raichel's European and African blend is the second performer of the night, Elijah Emanuel, with his Latino and reggae grooves.

A native of Panama, Emanuel sings in both English and Spanish and his music explores the mixed cultural background of many Latinos.

"Panama is unique in that you can see so clearly in its people the triumvirate cultural heritage of 'Latin America,'" he said, explaining the African, European and Indigenous cultural backgrounds. "Most so called 'Latinos and Latinas' have no idea that they spring from such a deep and multi-faceted well of culture and history."

Emanuel's newest CD is titled "Tres Sangres," or "Three Bloods," and seeks to show that people are a blend of many backgrounds.

Both Emanuel and Raichel have created music that blurs national and linguistic lines to reach a global audience.

"I'm not attached to language," Emanuel said. "It's the intention behind the words that counts."

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DOWNTOWN

Pulling strings for Puppetry Center

A grassroots campaign is underway to save the Santa Monica Puppetry Center, which is on the verge of closing this month, another victim of the slumping economy.

Kayla Darcy Goldrick and her family have created a Web site (www.puppetmagic.com) where fans of puppeteer Steve Meltzer and his center can donate funds to help pay the roughly $14,000 in rent that Meltzer owes his landlord. Goldrick also plans to have a booth at tonight's Twilight Dance Series concert on the Santa Monica Pier in hopes of raising funds and awareness about the center.

"Children today are being bombarded with TV, Internet, iPods and other technology," Goldrick, whose 9-year-old son takes puppetry lessons at the center, said. "We need to keep puppetry alive for future generations, after all, it is the basis for so many types of entertainment today."

The center, located on Broadway, was founded in Santa Monica more than a dozen years ago. It features some 500 puppets — marionettes, ventriloquist dummies, soft puppets, hand puppets, as well as an 8-foot puppet. Meltzer, a skilled puppeteer who worked on the cult classic "Team America: World Police," also performs with his dummy Fred Mingo a musical review called "Puppetolio!"

Schools provided a significant portion of his income. As funds for field trips dried up, Meltzer found it difficult to pay the bills. Meltzer told the Daily Press last week that he lost a considerable amount of money when he was forced to move from a location on Second Street in 2007 and make significant renovations to his new space. Meltzer said he had no choice but to move because the landlord wanted to raise his rent by 60 percent.

"Steve Meltzer's love for the art of puppetry, its history and teaching the art of puppetry shines through everything he does," Goldrick said. "There is simply no place like it in Los Angeles."

Meltzer's last performance is scheduled for Aug. 16. He will be adding extra shows until then with hopes that he can pay down his debt and say goodbye to old friends, and make new ones.

DAILY PRESS

Activists suggest birth control, not net to ease bird issues

FROM NET PAGE 1

ing to get back to the only place they know to roost and where their young ones are and their nests are."

About a half dozen pigeon supporters and members of Santa Monica-based Voice for the Animals Foundation gathered at City Hall where they handed out fliers detailing what they call the "facts and fictions" about the human disease risk from pigeon droppings.

City officials said they believe that installing the net and thereby reducing the roosting sites will keep bacteria levels below requirements set by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. The water beneath the Santa Monica Pier has long been considered one of the worst in the state, annually ranked as being among the dirtiest in Heal the Bay's annual Beach Report Card.

"There is so much beach underneath that pier that it sits there and the waves come and grabs all of that and takes it back out," Joan Akins the director of community maintenance for City Hall, said. "It's a part of why Santa Monica Bay continues to get that low grade."

But animal rights activists disagree, saying that there has never been a single confirmed case of human disease being traced to a pigeon or its droppings anywhere in the county.

"They have no record of anyone catching this from pigeons or droppings," Enright said. "The pest control industry, they keeping telling you there's all these diseases."

City officials are currently negotiating a work schedule with Bird Busters for the project, which is estimated to take about three months to complete.

Akins said that no birds will be trapped in the process.

"There are two nests now and we are going to watch them to see if anything is going on in them and we don't believe we will have to move them," she said. "We will do the utmost not to harm any birds,"

She said that no birds will be left trapped by the net.

Melya Kaplan, the founder of Voice of the Animals Foundation, said she hopes the council will reverse its decision, hinting that a lawsuit might be possible otherwise.

"If an individual starts killing pigeons for any reason, that would be a criminal offense," she said. "It's animal cruelty. Why does the City Council think they are above the law?"

A Redondo Beach resident, Enright has been rescuing birds for the past 30 years. Enright brought his most recent rescue to the protest, wrapping it in a red towel.

He found the bird, along with its sister, named Chihuahua, in a box in front of a pet store in Torrance.

"They just love to be held and get their attention," Enright said as he lovingly pet the bird. "This one right here, she just can't get her pigeon kisses often enough."

Enright said the preferred option to control the pigeons would be to administer a birth control called Ovocontrol, which has been used in other areas like Hollywood. The result would be a drop in the pigeon population by about 50 percent, he said.

He said the fate the pigeons might face if trapped by the net would be a painful way to go.

"That I think would spell the end of the political careers for the people who voted to have that done," he said.

melodyh@smdp.com

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NFL

Not so super rematch

ALAN ROBINSON
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH You can't call this Tampa II.

Six months after meeting in the Super Bowl, the Arizona Cardinals and Pittsburgh Steelers begin the preseason the way they ended last season by playing each other.

Just don't refer to it as a rematch of the Super Bowl in Tampa, not when Ben Roethlisberger and Santonio Holmes, Larry Fitzgerald and Kurt Warner will be on the bench Thursday night for at least three quarters and maybe longer.

"Most of the guys that played a lot in that game probably won't play much at all in this game," Warner said. "That's more for league hype than it is anything else. It doesn't really matter until the real season kicks off."

No, exhibition games are for trying out the rookies, testing new offensive and defensive alignments and sorting out the roster, not for renewing any grudges.

As Steelers cornerback Deshea Townsend said, the Super Bowl was played an eon ago by NFL standards, given the constant player turnover.

"It's just another game," Townsend said of one of only several NFL preseason games in which one team will fly nearly cross-country to play another. "The Super Bowl is gone and we won it, so we really don't care about the rematch."

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin didn't bother to get out the Super Bowl tapes for review, saying what happened on Feb. 1 has no effect on shaping a team for the new season.

"The big thing is to come out and play with tempo and speed," he said. "You run some core stuff you know they're familiar with. ... We'll put some base football in all three phases, something guys are capable of executing because that's what we want to see them do. We want to see them execute at a high level."

The other games Thursday night are New England at Philadelphia, with Tom Brady expected to quarterback the Patriots for the first time since the 2008 opener in which he injured his knee; Washington at Baltimore; and Dallas at Oakland.

Tomlin and Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt plan to play their starters only a couple series, which means backups will be all over the field by the end of the first quarter. Both teams have full rosters, and coaches normally try to play nearly everyone who's healthy.

"That's a different team that won the Super Bowl and we're a different team. I think there's going to be a lot of excitement from being there and playing in that stadium, but other than 'Revenge of the Super Bowl,' I don't think so," Whisenhunt said. "Now if we could go back to the Super Bowl and play them again, I would say, yeah, that's definitely the case."

The Steelers are relatively thin along the offensive line due to injuries to center Justin Hartwig (toe) and right guard Darnell Stapleton (knee surgery), the backup center. Former rookie free agent Doug Legursky is expected to start, and former Cardinals center Alan Stepanovich may play despite signing only this week.

Cardinals first-round pick Beanie Wells, the former Ohio State running back, isn't expected to play after missing more than a week of camp with a sprained right ankle.

For Whisenhunt and several of his assistants, including former Steelers assistant head coach Russ Grimm, and players such as cornerback Bryant McFadden and linebacker Clark Haggans, this is their first visit to Heinz Field since leaving the Steelers. McFadden played in the Super Bowl for Pittsburgh before signing with Arizona.

"I was there so long, I used to say, 'I wonder how it would be in the visitors' locker room,' " said Haggans, who played for Pittsburgh from 2000-07. "So I guess I'm going to get my taste this time around. ... It becomes monotonous hitting on your teammates all the time. You just want to go crack some heads on the other team."

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SPORTS BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Trojans QB Corp to miss practice time

Southern California quarterback Aaron Corp has a small crack in his bruised left knee and will be out about two weeks.

An MRI taken Wednesday revealed the crack on the head of Corp's left fibula. The red-shirt sophomore was rolled onto by a lineman during Monday's practice.

Doctors found Corp has no ligament damage and won't need surgery.

Corp was chosen by Carroll as the Trojans' first-string quarterback coming out of spring practice.

Freshman Matt Barkley will take all the first-team reps during Corp's absence. Veteran backup Mitch Mustain is also in the mix.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON

Texans LB Cushing injured, won't play against KC

Houston's top draft pick, linebacker Brian Cushing, won't play in Saturday's preseason opener against Kansas City and could miss the second preseason game as well because of a sprained left knee.

Cushing did not practice Wednesday and instead watched both workouts with a brace on his knee. Coach Gary Kubiak said no one is sure when he was injured, but the knee started bothering Cushing on Tuesday night and he was taken for an MRI.

"It's no big deal," Cushing said. "It's a knee sprain. We'll move forward and I'll keep getting the mental notes and I'll be healthy soon."

Cushing, the 15th overall pick in the draft, is expected to start at outside linebacker. The four-year starter at Southern California led the nation's second-ranked defense with 101 tackles for losses last year.

Kubiak said Cushing will wear a brace for two to four days to reduce swelling and that he'll begin rehabilitation after that. He probably won't be healthy in time to participate in Houston's second preseason game against New Orleans next weekend, but Kubiak doesn't expect him to sit out past that game.

"We feel very, very positive that Brian's going to be ready to go for this season," Kubiak said. "We don't have any doubt right there. Right now it's just a matter of settling it down and getting going with the rehab process."

Houston shuffled its healthy outside linebackers on Wednesday to deal with Cushing's absence. Kubiak moved Zac Diles from the weak side to take over Cushing's spot on the strong side.

"We rose to the occasion this morning and it's about opportunity, as I always tell you," Kubiak said.

AP



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 68°

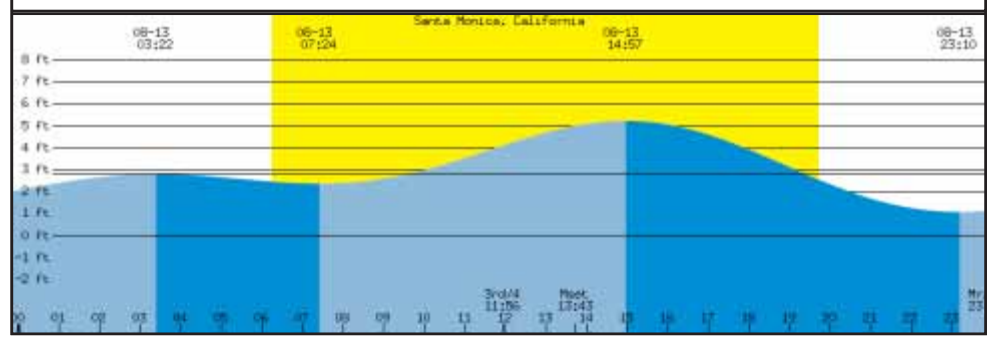
Swell Forecast

Today we should see some minor southern hemi come up from 180 degrees with 14-second periods, bringing waist high waves to most south facing breaks. Winds should be light and variable in the AM, and then onshore in the afternoon to 15 mph.

Long Range Synopsis

This weekend we could see an increase in NW wind swell, perhaps waist to chest for west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **July 28, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 44 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 3 / ns

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Rominer Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blacker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	A+	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

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

LEGEND

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

Double Feature: Dragonslaver 1hr 49min & Legend 1hr 29min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Aliens in the Attic (PG) 1hr 26min
12:15, 2:30, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40

A Perfect Getaway (R) 1hr 38min
11:30 a.m., 2:15, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15

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

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 2hrs 33min
11:20 a.m., 2:45, 6:15, 9:45

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

Julie and Julia (PG-13) 2hrs 3min
11:30 a.m., 1:00, 2:15, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:50, 10:40

Funny People (R) 2hrs 16min
12:30, 3:50, 7:15

Funny People (with closed captions and descriptive video) (R) 2hrs 16min
11:45 a.m., 3:00, 6:30, 10:10

G-Force: In Disney Digital 3-D (PG) 1hr 28min
12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:20, 9:45

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
11:20 a.m., 2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 10:20

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 2hrs 33min
11:35 a.m., 3:10, 7:10, 10:30

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

(500) Days of Summer (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

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

Whatever Works (PG-13) 1hr 47min
1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30

Adam (PG-13) 1hr 55min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

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

G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (PG-13) 1hr 58min
11:30 a.m., 1:00, 2:30, 3:50, 5:30, 7:00, 8:30, 10:00

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

The Ugly Truth (R) 1hr 36min
12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40

Bruno (R) 1hr 21min
3:00, 7:40

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs 3D (PG) 1hr 27min
11:40 a.m., 2:00, 4:20, 6:50, 9:10

The Collector (R) 1hr 25min
12:50, 5:20, 9:50

District 9 (Digital Projection) (R) 1hr 53min
12:01 a.m.

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

All smiles, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Dealing with finances and others' sensitivities takes poise and interest. Your energy remains high. As a result, you might be tempted to take on too much! A meeting could reveal even more options. Knowing when your plate is too full is important. Tonight: Your treat.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You are all smiles. Allow your creativity and high energy out. Use care with spending, even though you can justify what you are doing. Be more in touch with your community and career needs. You might not be aware of how many people look up to you. Tonight: All smiles.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Slow down. Many ideas are coming forward, causing a change of direction. You certainly have a sense of direction and energy, but time is your ally. Information or another's perception could be off, which could impact a situation or project. Tonight: Avoid too much excitement, and call it an early night.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Meetings, groups and networking move up as priorities. You are able to make an enormous difference. Your ability to move past problems is marked by an ability to understand others and make their goals a high priority and possible. More often than not, someone will defer to you. Tonight: Start the weekend early.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Understand that you have what it takes. Whether you step up to the plate and take action depends on you. Recognize that what others want might not be as important as what will work. A partner acts in a very strange manner. Just step back. Tonight: A must appearance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Seek out family with an eye to the future. How you handle someone could make a big difference. Your ability to move in a new direction will come from backing off your present course, as well as looking at other possibilities. Tonight: Let your imagination choose.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Observe what is happening behind the scenes. Realize that news needs to be forthcoming. Your imagination bubbles with possibilities, making it difficult to stay anchored on a project. A partner could cause a lot of upheaval if he or she does not feel your support. Tonight: Start thinking "weekend."

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Though you might not be in agreement, the end results will be OK. Dealing with someone in a more direct manner becomes easier, as this person also becomes more forthright. Disagreements are just that. Do not demand more from someone than he or she can give. Tonight: Survey suggestions first.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You can accomplish a lot more than many people. You don't hesitate to ask for help and feedback. Outside events might get you off track. Whether you realize it or not, your plate is full. For now, don't take on anything else. Tonight: Easy works.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ The stable Goat often can be a source of some very unusual creative ideas. Introduce that dimension into the work and emotional arenas. Others want to express stronger feelings than they have in a while. Tonight: Let your hair down.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Stress comes out where you least anticipate it. If you can work from home, do. Understanding evolves from a discussion with a very exacting person. He or she sees things with a different perspective. Celebrate your differences. Tonight: Mosey on home, though a slight detour is OK.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Discussions go full circle, returning to the very premise of the discussion. A partner expresses strong feelings. Do you feel restricted by this person? Return calls and schedule meetings. Tonight: Swap war stories with a pal.

Happy birthday

This year, doors open up through a greater commitment to organizations, groups and key causes. Often, you could become entangled in personal situations. Let go of those needs to look at a more universal commitment. Frequently, people push to be part of your life. Establish stronger boundaries. As you are a figure who is seen often, many want to meet you. Opportunities for a relationship vary according to your needs. If you are attached, making a greater commitment to a cause or hobby will draw you closer as a couple. TAURUS enjoys seeing you on center stage.

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

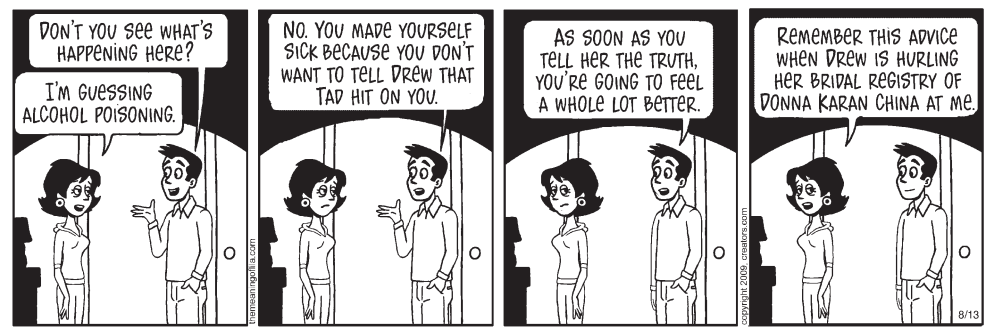
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



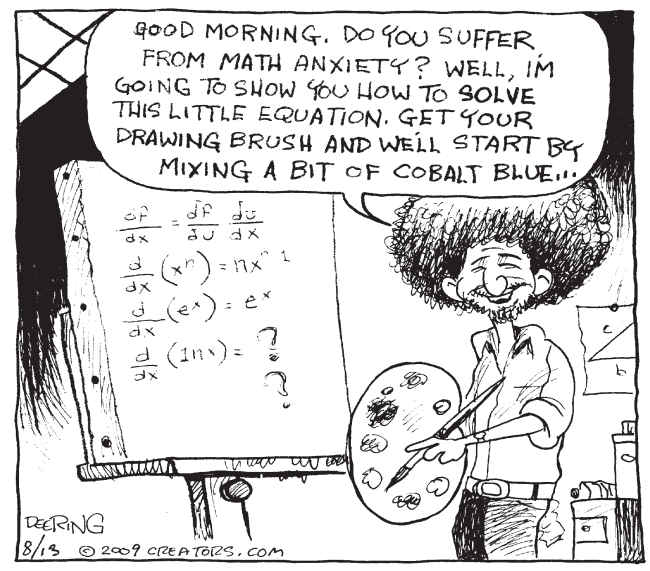
Garfield

By Jim Davis



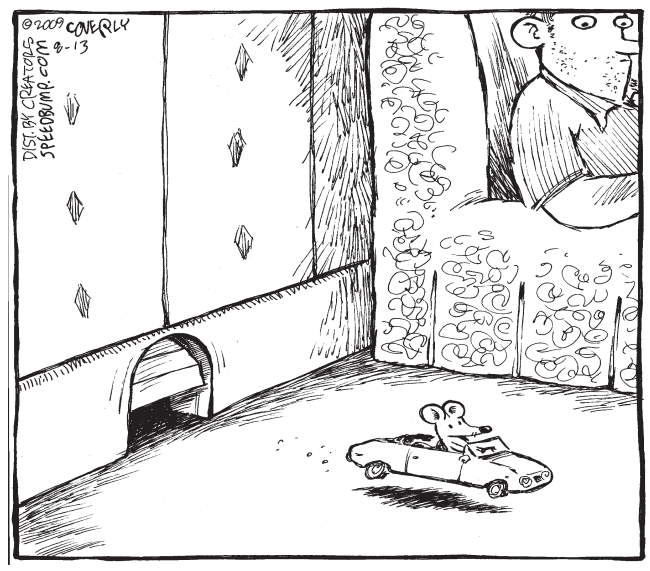
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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GETTING STARTED

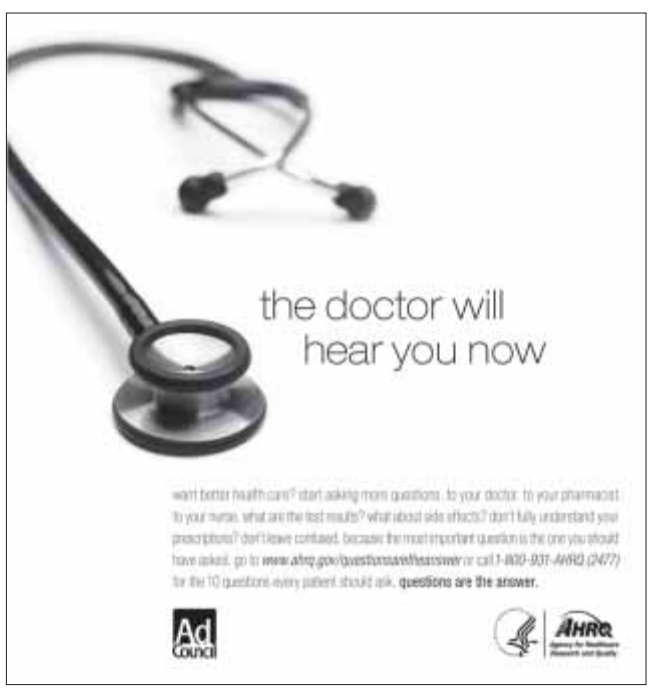
There are many strategies to solving Sudoku. One way to begin is to examine each 3x3 grid and figure out which numbers are missing. Then, based on the other numbers in the row and column of each blank cell, find which of the missing numbers will work. Eliminating numbers will eventually lead you to the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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Maya Sugarman *news@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Toneless
5 Test for purity
10 Floor cover, for short
11 Look up to
12 From the U.S.
13 Sawyer and Ladd
14 "Oh, that explains it!"
16 Dead-end sign words
20 Swiss state
23 Clumsy guy
24 Starry hunter
25 Calendar items
27 Easter find
28 Gets up
29 Pitching feat
32 "Don't worry about it"
36 Beach tent
39 Arm bone
40 Plain wrong
41 Hen home
42 Oasis find
43 Hardens

DOWN

1 Custard dessert
2 Fancy auto
3 Freshly
4 Raptors' home
5 Farewell
6 Stylish
7 Immoral act
8 Have life
9 Agreeable answer
11 Annex
15 Lunch hour
17 Back muscles
18 Fencing weapon
19 Hardy heroine
20 "Fargo" director
21 Jason's ship
22 Close
25 Zwei follower
26 Some pistols
28 Ready to swing
30 Quite impressed
31 Copier need
33 Merriment
34 Acad.'s kin
35 Puts away
36 Cornfield cry
37 Copying
38 Diner sandwich

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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

8-13

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 6 12 15 32 42 Meganumber: 40 Jackpot: $146M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 23 31 40 44 46 Meganumber: 10 Jackpot: $9M

Fantasy 5: 5 14 23 24 36

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 4 6 0 EVENING: 4 5 6

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 09 Winning Spirit 2nd: 08 Gorgeous George 3rd: 05 California Classic RACE TIME: 1:40.79

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

■ In the American version (which actually happened at least once, in Bucks County, Pa., in the 1980s), cynical cops use a photocopier "connected" by a crude wire to the suspect, and a sheet of "He's Lying" paper in the output tray, as a "lie detector" test. In July, the Tel Aviv, Israel, Police Department used a "memory machine" to change the mind of a murder suspect who swore he could not remember anything about the night of the crime. Hooked up to an electrocardiogram machine, the perp was "informed" that certain squiggles on the paper proved that he did indeed remember and must be hiding details. Andrei Polokhin, 47, then confessed and was charged with fatally stabbing his neighbor.

■ David Shayler, 43, used to be a British MI5 intelligence officer, but apparently went downhill after a controversy with superiors and today lives as Delores Kent, in full female dress, and believes "in (his) heart" that he is the Messiah who will save mankind from its upcoming 2012 doomsday by turning billions of people on to the virtues of hemp, which is "perfectly balanced ... full of omega-3, -6, and -9 to help muscles grow and repair." Shayler/Kent also believes that Americans staged Sept. 11 and that Jesus Christ was, like him, a transvestite.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1521 Spanish conqueror Hernando Cortez captured Tenochtitlan, present-day Mexico City, from the Aztecs.

1624 King Louis XIII of France appointed Cardinal Richelieu his first minister.

1704 The Battle of Blenheim was fought during the War of the Spanish Succession, resulting in a victory for English-led forces over French and Bavarian soldiers.

1846 The American flag was raised for the first time in Los Angeles.

1910 Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, died in London at age 90.

1932 Adolf Hitler rejected the post of vice chancellor of Germany, saying he was prepared to hold out "for all or nothing."

WORD UP!

luminary \LOO-muh-nair-ee\ , noun: 1. Any body that gives light, especially one of the heavenly bodies.

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I Will Provide You With This Information At The Beginning of Each Month...Hope You Find It Helpful!

First Seven Months of 2008 compared to First Seven Months of 2009

Santa Monica Single Family Homes

Santa Monica Canyon

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 7-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 7-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	6	11	83%
Average Days on the Market	107	51	-52%
Lowest Price	$1,487,000	$875,000	-41%
Median Price	$2,200,000	$1,579,000	-28%
Highest Price	$4,200,000	$3,683,000	-12%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$864	$859	-1%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	96%	93%	-3%

North of Montana

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 7-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 7-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	38	23	-39%
Average Days on the Market	52	83	60%
Lowest Price	$1,575,000	$1,400,000	-11%
Median Price	$2,897,500	$2,500,000	-14%
Highest Price	$4,475,000	$4,500,000	1%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$944	$828	-12%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	97.00%	92.00%	-5%

Between Wilshire and Montana

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 7-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 7-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	11	13	18%
Average Days on the Market	66	94	42%
Lowest Price	$1,508,000	$1,027,125	-32%
Median Price	$2,011,000	$1,880,000	-7%
Highest Price	$3,000,000	$2,800,000	-7%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$932	$682	-27%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	98.00%	94.00%	-4%

South of Wilshire

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 7-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 7-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	4	1	-75%
Average Days on the Market	19	18	-5%
Lowest Price	$816,000	$659,500	-19%
Median Price	$987,500	$659,500	-33%
Highest Price	$980,000	$659,500	-33%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$653	$859	32%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	98%	102%	4%

Sunset Park

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 7-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 7-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	32	21	-34%
Average Days on the Market	62	61	-2%
Lowest Price	$780,000	$610,000	-22%
Median Price	$1,074,000	$1,050,000	-2%
Highest Price	$2,520,000	$1,875,000	-26%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$664	$564	-15%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	95%	94%	-1%

Ocean Park

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 7-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 7-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	12	8	-33%
Average Days on the Market	166	48	-71%
Lowest Price	$615,000	$850,000	38%
Median Price	$1,025,000	$1,212,500	18%
Highest Price	$2,225,000	$2,775,000	25%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$892	$742	-17%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	93%	97%	4%

Santa Monica Condo's & Townhomes

Santa Monica Canyon

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 7-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 7-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	0	2	n/a
Average Days on the Market	0	63	n/a
Lowest Price	$0	$1,475,000	n/a
Median Price	$0	$3,287,500	n/a
Highest Price	$0	$5,100,000	n/a
Average Price Per Square Foot	$0	$1,486	n/a
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	0%	92%	n/a

North of Montana

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 7-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 7-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	22	11	-50%
Average Days on the Market	69	92	33%
Lowest Price	$465,000	$575,000	24%
Median Price	$1,360,000	$1,225,000	-10%
Highest Price	$5,800,000	$3,175,000	-45%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$949	$882	-7%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	90%	92%	2%

Between Wilshire and Montana

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 7-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 7-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	64	80	25%
Average Days on the Market	58	53	-9%
Lowest Price	$394,000	$385,000	-2%
Median Price	$729,500	$711,125	-3%
Highest Price	$4,170,000	$1,799,000	-57%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$657	$575	-12%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	97%	97%	0%

South of Wilshire

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 7-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 7-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	49	48	-2%
Average Days on the Market	87	81	-7%
Lowest Price	$330,000	$156,126	-53%
Median Price	$620,000	$542,500	-13%
Highest Price	$1,040,000	$945,000	-9%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$508	$445	-12%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	96%	95%	-1%

Sunset Park

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 7-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 7-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	18	9	-50%
Average Days on the Market	55	62	13%
Lowest Price	$345,000	$445,000	29%
Median Price	$777,500	$573,000	-26%
Highest Price	$1,199,000	$975,000	-19%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$486	$387	-20%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	97%	98%	1%

Ocean Park

	previous period 1-1-08 thru 7-31-08	current period 1-1-09 thru 7-31-09	% change
Number of Sales	28	34	21%
Average Days on the Market	118	52	-56%
Lowest Price	$375,000	$280,000	-25%
Median Price	$610,000	$770,500	26%
Highest Price	$1,750,000	$1,200,000	-31%
Average Price Per Square Foot	$696	$611	-12%
Average Sale Price / Average List Price	96%	96%	0%

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