



Santa Monica Daily Press

JAZZING UP CITY HALL
SEE PAGE 12

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE MOVING TARGET ISSUE

Playing games with rail line

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN LA Behind the smiles and celebration at the historic ground-breaking ceremony of the Exposition Light Rail last week, questions loomed as to whether more project funding would be made available by the state next month.

Today marks the 45th day since the beginning of the fiscal year — 45 days without a new budget whose passage once again reached an impasse on Aug. 1, when the state Senate failed to approve it 26-14.

A two-thirds vote is required to pass the budget in California, leaving the state Senate one vote shy. The state Assembly has already approved the budget — which includes diverting \$1.3 billion of transportation funding to the general fund — in July. From there, it has gone on to the Senate, where it has been mired in political infighting for over a month.

The California Transportation Commission, the state agency that allocates funds for transit construction projects, plans to wait until its September meeting to appropriate money for transit projects, including an estimated \$314 million for the Exposition Light Rail project, which is slated to reach Santa Monica once completed. The vote next month is pending adoption of the state budget, said John Barna, the executive director of the CTC.

The delay in funding puts Expo leaders and advocates in a nervous situation, awaiting word on whether they will get their millions sooner rather than later, as construction has already begun on the first phase of the project.

The first phase of the project — which will travel from Downtown Los Angeles to Culver City — is estimated to cost \$640 million, of which more than \$550 million will come from state funding. The state government has already allocated about \$250 million, bringing the total amount in the coffers to about \$300 million — enough to take construction halfway of the 8.6 miles of track in phase one, said Samantha Bricker, the chief operating officer for the Exposition Construction Authority.

Bricker said she is confident that the California Transportation Commission will make good on its promise and allocate the \$314 million when the time comes.

“We are under construction and we are a high rated project,” Bricker said. “We are

SEE EXPO PAGE 14

CITY GOVERNMENT

FICUS FIASCO CONTINUES

City Council decides the fate of downtown trees

STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 13



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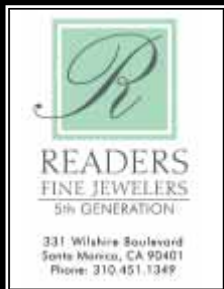


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Calendar

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2007

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Fall prevention for seniors

2317 Broadway, 8 a.m. — 7 p.m.

Balance Classes for senior citizens are available through the end of summer every Thursday at Clinicare. For more information or to make an appointment, call (310) 829-2225 or visit www.clinicaresantamonica.com.

Monthly Movie Classic: ‘Rebel Without A Cause’

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Free screening of the classic James Dean film, “Rebel Without A Cause.” Seating is first come, first served in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

‘Mindful Eating for Good Health’

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

This seminar features Marius Imfeld, Clinic Manager of Yo San University and Licensed Acupuncturist. Mr. Imfeld will discuss the best ways to eat. This program is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and on a first arrival basis in the MLK Jr. Auditorium of the Main Library. For more information, call (310) 458-8600 or visit www.smpl.org.

Green Living Workshop #79

1744 Pearl St., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Learn how to save \$200 a year on utilities, cut landfill waste by 50 percent and brush up on the latest Eco-Info in this six-week course. Suggested residential donations are \$25 for Santa Monica residents and \$50 for Los Angeles residents. For more information or to register, call the Sustainable Works office at (310) 458-8716.

Wednesday, Aug. 15, 2007

‘Grease’ sing-along screening

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 12:30 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

The Main Library presents “Grease” as a sing-along event; the lyrics will be available on the screen so everyone can sing along. Seating is first come, first served in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

‘Unspeakable Joy’

1260 18th St., 1:30 p.m. — 3 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Community Church presents “Unspeakable Joy” with the Santa Monica College Emeritus Gospel Community Chorus in concert, followed by an art exhibit and refreshments. The event is free and the public is invited, with a special invitation to neighbors living in senior retirement homes and assisted care facilities.

Green Living Workshop #80

1744 Pearl St., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

Learn how to save \$200 a year on utilities, cut landfill waste by 50 percent and brush up on the latest Eco-Info in this six-week course. Suggested residential donations are \$25 for Santa Monica residents and \$50 for Los Angeles residents. For more information or to register, call the Sustainable Works office at (310) 458-8716.

Mystery book group

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.

The Main Library’s Mystery Book Group discusses Harlan Coben’s “The Woods.” Group meets in the Community Meeting Room.

Montana Avenue Branch book club

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

The book to be discussed is Kiran Desai’s “The Inheritance of Loss.” The novel takes place in the Himalayas where a judge’s retirement is upset by the arrival of his orphaned granddaughter.

St. Joseph practices Tai Chi

400 W. Pico Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.

St. Joseph Center is holding ongoing weekly Tai Chi classes. These low-impact classes are designed to help individuals improve their overall physical fitness and increase their mobility and flexibility. Classes are free, but enrollment is limited and advance registration is required. For more information, call (310) 396-6468, ext. 307.

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.





COMPUTER CRASH

Photo courtesy of Vince Muselli

Some high-tech vandals (or vandal) took to the steps out in front of Malibu High School over the weekend, smashing a series of computer monitors near the school's entrance. A police report has been filed and suspects are being sought.

Lawmakers presented wide-ranging agenda

(Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.)

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The City Council is expected tonight to spend more than \$8.6 million, the majority of which will pay for streetscape improvements along Fourth and Second streets.

A little more than \$340,000 will be spent on a new cash management system that is expected to help staff better handle cash, check and credit card payments received daily, according to a city staff report.

The software needed to run the system is valued at \$235,000 and will be provided by The Active Network, which was selected unanimously by a committee comprised of

staff from the Finance and Information Systems divisions, Housing and Economic Development and Community and Cultural Services.

City Hall will pay Active \$22,300 a year for five years to maintain the system.

Payments to be processed in 2007-08 are estimated to be \$480 million and are currently being collected by more than 26 locations throughout the city.

The new system will improve controls by providing a reconciling function for daily payment collection and processing activity reports. Reports will be prepared daily with more accuracy, according to the staff report. Data that is currently entered manually in the general ledger system will be done electronically with the new system.

KEEPING IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION

Motorola will once again maintain and

SEE CONSENT PAGE 14

Council mulls compensation

Pending law would require landlords to pay displaced tenants

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Landlords will have to pay their tenants \$135 for each day they are unable to live in their apartments due to repairs or remodels under an ordinance the City Council is expected to approve Tuesday.

The ordinance, which has been months in the making, quantifies per diem amounts for temporary relocation benefits, a move that was deemed necessary after tenants and landlords complained about ambiguity. City officials said disputes arose over the quality of motels or hotels to which a tenant could be relocated, as well as pet accommodations and meals.

After researching prices at "modest" hotels in Santa Monica, including the Best Western, Comfort Inn, Days Inn and Travelodge, city staff came up with an average daily rate of \$135.

In addition, landlords would also be required to pay their tenants \$25 a day for meals, a figure city staff devised after looking at the average, per diem meal allowances given to city and state employees. Those allowances range between \$34 and \$45 a day. The reason why staff set the meal allowance at \$25 is because it felt the figure was reasonable given that unrellocated tenants have substantial meal expenses anyway, and the benefit is supposed to be for only partial compensation.

Tenants also would be given \$1 a day for laundry, if those relocated have their own washer and dryer or use those provided by the landlord. If a tenant goes to a laundromat to clean their clothes, they will receive no money from their landlord.

Pets are also included in the ordinance. If a tenant can't bring their pet along with them, landlords would pay \$45 a day to place dogs in a kennel, \$25 a day for cats.

City staff came up with those figures after looking at boarding rates at Santa Monica's only kennel.

If a tenant decides to leave their pet with a family member or a friend, they would not be reimbursed.

The benefits only apply to those tenants who are not responsible for their relocation. A tenant who causes damages to an apartment would have to pay their own way.

The new benefits will not sit well with landlords, said Carl Lambert, president of Action Apartment Association, which represents property owners in Santa Monica.

"I think the numbers are outrageous," Lambert said. "They will prevent responsible owners from remodeling and repairing their buildings. Additionally, owners will no longer

AS OWNERS BECOME MORE CAREFUL ABOUT WHO THEY RENT THEIR PROPERTY TO OR WITHHOLD UNITS FROM THE MARKET, THE RENTS IN SANTA MONICA WILL GO UP."

Carl Lambert
President of Action Apartment Association

allow any dogs or cats in their buildings, as they would be obligated to pay for relocation of those animals, for instance, if they had to do fumigations, which happens periodically."

Lambert said the new benefits would make owners think twice about to whom they rent and whether they want to remain in the rental market. Lambert said many would be tempted to "Ellis" their buildings, meaning landlords would evict all of their tenants, demolish the apartments and replace them with condominiums for sale.

"As owners become more careful about who they rent their property to or withhold units from the market, the rents in Santa Monica will go up," Lambert said. "The landlords were not

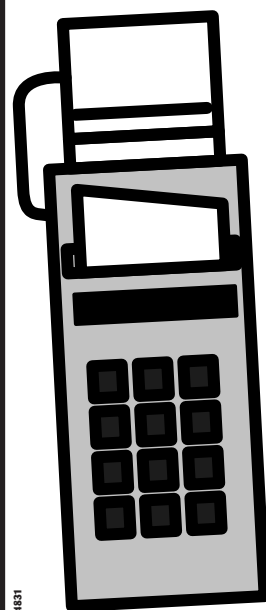
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EDITORIAL

Hug a tree while you can

Residents better speak now or forever hold their ginkos

Few subjects in recent years have ignited the type of public outcry equal to that of the city's decision to remove more than 70 mature trees – including 54 ficus and 21 palms – lining Second and Fourth streets downtown, and replace them with maintenance-friendly ginkgo bilobas.

The emotional outpouring should be reason enough for the City Council to revisit its decidedly unpopular decision and table a vote, scheduled for early this evening, to award a contract executing the plan.

Since May, the proposed revamping of the commercial corridors – whereby aging, shade-producing ficus trees will be uprooted in favor of thinner, easier-to-maintain ginkgo biloba trees – has heightened debate about what a bustling downtown Santa Monica should be. Is it a metropolitan marketplace on par with larger cities that develop their economic hubs, often to the detriment of what natural surroundings exist, or is it the communal meeting place for residents and tourists alike, where nature is incorporated as seamlessly as possible into the hustle and bustle? The jury's still out.

And let's be honest – in a town that prides itself on a progressive, cutting-edge, green mojo philosophy, the image of someone trying to hug a ginko biloba is laughable.

Rumors have swirled through the summer as to who wants to wield the proverbial axe. Business leaders deny that sign visibility is the impetus behind the council's decision. City staffers admit the trees' maintenance poses added problems, even as they allude to the retailers' desire to lighten up the streets.

Imagine, it seems no one in Santa Monica wants to take credit for chopping down trees.

Be it upkeep costs, more visible storefronts or a yearning for streetscape uniformity downtown, the move appears to strike a negative chord with a large swath of Santa Monicans.

Regardless of who's at the root of the decision, the silence of its proponents speaks volumes. If history has taught us anything, it's typically that those who sit on their hands and do nothing are often the greatest transgressors.

Tonight, those looking to stave off the ficus trees' premature demise can speak their peace, but they'll have to arrive to the City Council meeting by 5:30 p.m. if they want to speak before a vote is taken to execute the plan.

No matter what side of the tree farm you fall on, tonight could be your last chance to voice protest or support before the proverbial axe falls.



What's the Point?

David Pissarra

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The judicial system isn't out to get you

I TAKE MANY PHONE CALLS A WEEK from people who are in the midst of some emotional turmoil. Frequently, I wonder if I am more lawyer or therapist. Generally, there is very little I can do for them. It's not that I'm unfeeling, or incompetent, it's just often there is little that can be done.

Americans like to paint lawyers as either sainted heroes fighting the good fight for the downtrodden, or as ambulance-chasing, blood-sucking bottom-feeders who would sell their mother for a good contingency case. The truth is most lawyers are trying to do the best they can for their clients, and keep a roof over their heads.

The judicial system in our country is far from perfect. Mostly because it is operated by humans and we are a highly faulty creation. We would like to believe that we can achieve justice, but the reality is that one person's justice is another person's rigged system, designed to “stick it to ____” and you can fill in the blank with men, women, children, whites, blacks, Asians, gays, straights, Catholics, Jews and Muslims, and you can increase the list infinitely.

This week has been all about a friend of mine who is facing a restraining order. His ex-girlfriend decided to pursue a restraining order, mostly, I believe, as a negotiating tactic. He never threatened her, he has no history of violent behavior, no criminal record and she has demonstrated that she doesn't really fear the guy, because she left her pre-teen daughter in his care for a day, after she filed for the TRO. Now, seriously, who leaves their child with a person that they believe is dangerous?

The problem is this, even though he's not a threat to her, and even though she clearly still trusts the guy, she started down a path that leads to the courthouse. He must defend himself in this matter, for the seriousness of a TRO can bring with it jail time and a criminal record if violated. The fact is that a TRO can have significant impact on a person's life. The subject who is restrained has their freedom impeded, and they are forced to surrender or sell their firearms, a Federal Constitutional right.

Should he inadvertently violate a restraining order, and be in the same place as his ex, if she decides to call the police on him, he goes to jail and is looking at further legal costs, and damage to his reputation.

Needless to say, this type of negotiation tactic is playing hardball, and it is frustrating for him, and frankly, it's hard for me, as both a friend and a lawyer, to have to walk through this with him. He knows it's a bunch of bunk, but it still becomes the obsessive subject of his conversation.

As a fighter on the frontlines, I've seen both sides of this. I've represented people who are seeking protection and I've worked with people who are seeking to clear their name. It's never pretty. No one ever gets out unscathed.

The judges in all this are faced with a horrendous task, of trying to determine who to believe. The mud starts flying and by the time both sides are done, neither of them

looks respectable. Which is why judges so often come down on the side of caution.

No judge wants to be the one who didn't issue a TRO when things go bad and someone ends up dead. The sad fact however, is that a TRO won't stop a crazy person from violating it.

For example, I have a client whose ex-boyfriend is currently in jail. She has a restraining order against him protecting her and her daughter. He is not allowed to have any contact, with either of them. Does this stop him from calling her and writing letters to his daughter? No.

She calls me and wants me to make him

ONE PERSON'S JUSTICE IS ANOTHER PERSON'S RIGGED SYSTEM, DESIGNED TO 'STICK IT TO ____' AND YOU CAN FILL IN THE BLANK WITH MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN, WHITES, BLACKS, ASIANS, GAYS, STRAIGHTS, CATHOLICS, JEWS AND MUSLIMS, AND YOU CAN INCREASE THE LIST INFINITELY.

stop. I've already won in court, and he's already in jail, what more can I do? Nothing really. I told her to go to the police and file a report, then the District Attorneys' Office can review it and decide if they want to pursue it, but with the murders, robberies and shootings in this city, how likely is that? I can listen. And sometimes that's all you can do, whether it be for a friend or a client, sometimes you just have to lend your ear and know that the system is not perfect, and we can't control everything.

So the next time you hear a story about some incompetent attorney, or uncaring judge, or how rigged the system is to “stick it to you,” remember that people in emotional turmoil aren't always reliable in their estimation of the facts, and that the system was designed by rational people to deal with rational people, and the only way to deal with a crazy person is with craziness; and who wants to build a system on that?

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Guest Commentary

Fred Foldvary

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Taxation! Is It theft or a pain in the butt?

IS TAXATION THEFT? TO ANSWER THIS question, we must look at a few underlying principles. Most fundamentally, I think we can all agree that morality applies equally to all human beings. The ethics of murder do not change when a person gets a government hat. If an official murders innocent persons, it is still murder. The Nuremberg Trials recognized the principle that the laws of a government can be judged by a higher moral standard. By extension, if a government official forcibly takes property that is legitimately owned by a citizen, it is just as much theft as when a gang takes property, even if most of the local residents approve of that action.

To judge the ethics of taxation, we need to distinguish taxes in form from taxes in substance. A tax in form is any required payment to government. A tax in substance is a forced payment not related to any service, benefit, or penalty that compensates for harm.

If a polluter has to pay a charge, that payment could be labeled a "pollution tax," but in substance it is a penalty for having harmed the environment, for having trespassed on others' property and causing damage. That would be a tax in form, but not in substance. When a tax is in substance, not merely in form, that is when it becomes theft.

A prime libertarian slogan has been "taxation is theft." Unfortunately, many free-market advocates have shied away from this resonating saying, considering it too radical and impractical. They fall into the trap of advocating reforms such as a flat-rate income tax or a consumption tax, both of which not only commit theft but whose benefits relative to the status quo are questionable.

A national sales tax, for example, would require greater record-keeping by sellers. They would have to record the identity of each buyer for each good. A combined federal and state sales tax of over 33 percent would create a large underground market for untaxed sales, and government would respond with an army of tax inspectors. Buyers would be required to keep proofs of purchase, which would then be forged. Sting operations by government agents would become common. Government agents might even have the authority to enter your house to compare your goods against government sales data.

Because a sales tax is hard on the poor, rebates would be given to poor households. The incentive would then be to split up households so that they would get more rebates. People would also seek to hide income to qualify as poor. Moreover, if the tax applied to all purchases, buying a house for \$300,000 at a 33 percent tax would raise the purchase price to \$400,000. And if an exemption is given for real estate, what about other high-cost items?

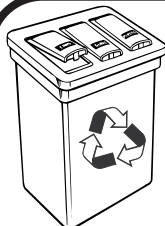
Any tax on wages, profits, sales or buildings also has a huge social cost, even aside from tax evasion and enforcement. Making goods more expensive reduces purchases, which will result in reduced production and economic growth. Economists call this a "deadweight loss," and it is estimated to be over \$1.5 trillion of wasted resources each year.

Moreover, it is unnecessary to steal the earnings of individuals or stifle their consumption in order to finance even a big government. Public revenue can be obtained without theft, such as by user fees, pollution charges, and payments for benefits received. Schools, for example, can be paid for with tuition. Pollution levies could replace today's costly environmental regulation and reduce pollution more efficiently while generating government revenue.

Public works and civic services such as streets, parks, security and fire protection could all be privatized. Private communities such as condominiums and residential association already are providing such services. The benefits are paid for from assessments on the real estate of the members. Given that government provides these services, the most equitable and efficient way to finance them is by copying what private communities do: Levy an assessment on the land value generated by these services. There would be no evasion, because people cannot hide land, and this levy would not add to prices and so it would have no deadweight loss.

Taxation in substance is an abomination incompatible with liberty. Taxation is the unnecessary root of governmental evil. Freedom seekers should demand abolition of taxes, nothing less.

FRED E. FOLDVARY teaches economics at Santa Clara University, where he is also an associate of the Civil Society Institute.



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The Q-Line

Suspense is building

Rampant growth and a full-slate of development projects in the works has the City Council considering a moratorium on building until the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) is updated.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think the City Council should enact a freeze on all building or would such a measure be overkill?

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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ABA scraps push to close public records

BY MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO The American Bar Association has scrapped a proposal that called for closing certain arrest and court records to the public.

The proposal's sponsors said ready access to court records has led to employment and housing discrimination against people who were arrested but never convicted of crimes or who have completed sentences and returned to society.

It was to have been considered at the ABA's annual meeting here, but instead was withdrawn in the face of widespread criticism from media, business and other groups, said George Washington University law professor Stephen Saltzburg, a sponsor.

"For now we threw in the towel," Saltzburg said Sunday. "People agree there's a problem. Everyone agrees there's unfairness. But we don't have a solution that gets people saying that's one we can all support."

Saltzburg, co-chairman of the ABA's Commission on Effective Criminal Sanctions, said the panel spent two years looking at ways "to improve the chances of people who have criminal records getting jobs and balancing re-entry versus safety."

The commission said in its report to the lawyers' organization that landlords and employers who have easy access to court files through records-checking services sometimes unfairly refuse to hire or rent to people who have been arrested or convicted. More than 70 million people have criminal records, the ABA said, citing Justice Department statistics.

Media organizations, leading the opposition to the proposal, said limiting public access to records would violate the First Amendment and make it harder to expose misconduct by police and prosecutors.

"We've always said that if discrimination is the problem, then directly address the problem, don't try to hide reality or hide the historical record," said Lucy Dalglish, executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

The proposal urges governments to seal files immediately in cases of people who were arrested but never convicted of crimes, or whose convictions were later set aside. The records of those convicted of misdemeanors and felonies should be closed after some undefined period of law-abiding conduct, the measure says. Violent crimes, large-scale drug trafficking and similarly grave offenses would not be included.

Departures delayed at LAX following computer failure

BY AMANDA BECK
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Passengers leaving Los Angeles International Airport on international flights experienced delays of an hour or more Sunday as carriers continued to deal with the fallout of the previous day's computer crash, which left more than 20,000 inbound travelers stranded at the airport.

At least four of the day's outbound international flights were delayed, according to the airport's Web site.

One Zurich-bound Swiss International Air Lines plane was scheduled to depart at around noon Sunday, some 14 hours after its scheduled departure time, spokeswoman Andrea Kreuzer said.

The delays came as airlines struggled to clean and refuel planes that were kept from discharging passengers for up to seven hours after landing Saturday.

"We were not able to prepare the aircraft," Kreuzer said of Swiss International's delay.

Thousands of passengers were kept on planes or in airport terminals after customs department computers containing travelers' identities and law enforcement records went down, preventing authorities from screening people arriving in the U.S.

"We just can't take a risk knowing that one bad guy can harm our country significantly," said U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman Mike Fleming.

On Sunday, international flights were arriving on time and travelers coming to the U.S. were making it smoothly through the airport's checkpoints.

"So far, it's normal operations," Fleming said.

U.S. citizens and foreign nationals alike were held in terminals Saturday, starting around 2 p.m.

By 2:30 p.m. the terminals that normally accept international travelers were full and passengers were kept on planes.

The system shutdown, which was caused by a hardware malfunction, was diagnosed and repaired by 11:45 p.m., Fleming said.

But it took officials until around 4 a.m. Sunday to finish processing the backlog of incoming passengers.

WE JUST CAN'T TAKE A RISK KNOWING THAT ONE BAD GUY CAN HARM OUR COUNTRY SIGNIFICANTLY."

Mike Fleming
U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman

"This is the Third World," said Irish tourist Caroline O'Rourke, who spent six hours on the tarmac after her 12-hour flight. "This is just disgraceful."

Three people were transported to local hospitals after they fell ill while waiting in the terminals, the Los Angeles Fire Department reported.

Airport officials said the stranded planes were connected to ground power and passengers had access to food, water and bathrooms during the hours it took to repair the computer system.

"We've had outages in the past, but they haven't taken nearly as long to resolve," Fleming said. "This was unprecedented in terms of impact."

End of an era

Merv Griffin, popular talk-show host, creator of 'Jeopardy!' dies

BY BOB THOMAS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Merv Griffin, who went from big-band era crooner to fabulously successful TV talk show host before making a fortune as the creator of two of television's most popular game shows and then parlaying that into a billion-dollar hotel empire, died Sunday. He was 82.

Griffin died of prostate cancer, according to a statement from his family that was released by Marcia Newberger, spokeswoman for The Griffin Group/Merv Griffin Entertainment. Griffin was recently hospitalized for a recurrence of the disease, which had been treated successfully more than 10 years ago.

Griffin, who created the "Wheel of Fortune" and "Jeopardy!" game shows, began his career as a \$100-a-week radio singer in San Francisco, quickly moving on to become the featured vocalist in Freddy Martin's band.

That led to a brief film career, in which he appeared opposite Doris Day and Kathryn Grayson, and later to a successful TV career as host of "The Merv Griffin Show," which aired for more than 20 years.

His biggest financial break, however, came from inventing and producing "Jeopardy!" and "Wheel of Fortune."

After they became the hottest game shows in television, Griffin sold the rights to them to the Columbia Pictures Television Unit for \$250 million, retaining a share of the profits. He also continued to receive royalties for the popular "Jeopardy!" theme song, which he had written.

He started spreading the sale money around in treasury bonds, stocks and other

investments, but quickly became bored.

"I said, 'I'm not going to sit around and clip coupons for the rest of my life,'" he recalled in 1989. "That's when Barron Hilton said, 'Merv, do you wanna buy the Beverly Hilton?'" I couldn't believe it."

Griffin bought the hotel, home to the Golden Globe awards, for a little more than \$100 million and spent \$25 million more refurbishing it. He sold it in 2003.

He also acquired Resorts International, which operated hotels and casinos from Atlantic City, N.J., to the Caribbean. For a time that touched off a feud with real estate tycoon Donald Trump whose own hotel-casino operations went head-to-head with Griffin's in Atlantic City.

"I SAID, 'I'M NOT GOING TO SIT AROUND AND CLIP COUPONS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.'"

Merv Griffin
During a 1989 interview

"My father was a visionary," Griffin's son, Tony Griffin, said in a statement issued Sunday. "He loved business and continued his many projects and holdings even while hospitalized."

Griffin was working on the first week of production of a new syndicated game show, "Merv Griffin's Crosswords," his son said, when he entered the hospital a month ago.

In recent years, Griffin also rated frequent mentions in the sports pages of the nation's newspapers for being a successful owner of thoroughbred racehorses. He had attended the horse races at Bay Meadows in San Mateo as a youngster and saw the legendary Seabiscuit run.

Migrant workers struggle to find housing in rich farming region

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press Writer

THERMAL Life is harsh for the 4,000 migrant workers who live in the Desert Mobile Home Park, where hundreds of dilapidated dwellings sit along dirt streets. The 110-degree air is thick with large black flies and the stench of raw sewage. Wild dogs prowl the alleys.

But conditions could get even worse if the federal government follows through on its threat to close this site on a sun-baked Indian reservation because of rampant health and safety violations.

"Where are we going to go, where are they going to put us?" asked Angelina Cisneros, 59, who lives with her family of four in a crumbling sea-green trailer. "We don't have any money."

The fertile Coachella Valley is one of the nation's richest farming regions and home to five-star tourist destinations such as Palm Springs. But the thousands of migrant workers who toil in the fields struggle to find housing. On annual wages of just \$12,000, many families can afford only squalid homes.

Desert Mobile Home Park is unusual because it's located on the Torres Martinez Indian Reservation — beyond the reach of state and local governments.

Thus far, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has not been able to provide any alternatives for residents, even as it prepares to ask a federal judge next month to order a phased closure of the park over four months.

The judge could agree or instead demand that the owner make repairs or put the park into federal receivership.

The bureau is working with county officials to find alternative housing — a daunting prospect in a region southeast of Los Angeles where demand quickly overwhelms the 200 or more affordable units that come on the market each year.

"There's no easy answer, and I wish there was," said James Fletcher, Southern California superintendent of the bureau. "Is it better for people to continue to live in those kinds of conditions? That's the balance we have to strike."

The migrant workers are essential to the farming economy, harvesting nearly \$1 billion of table grapes, dates, chili peppers and other crops.

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Finding best preschool is overrated

BY JOSH L. DICKEY
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Parents, take it from the women who run one of the city's most sought-after preschools: Don't go crazy over getting your kids into the hot ticket in your town.

"We really feel strongly that a quality early childhood experience is essential for the growth and development of young children, and can give them a wonderful start for understanding what they need in order to learn," says Nancy Schulman, director of the 92nd Street Y Nursery School in Manhattan. "But it doesn't have to be in a particular place."

Schulman and associate director Ellen Birnbaum are used to encountering real preschool anxiety.

In hyper-competitive New York, the preschool application process is fraught with worry: Limits on application numbers; play sessions that serve as school interviews; worries that somehow, whatever happens when children are just 3 or 4 years old will make or break their chances for success in life.

A spot at the 92nd Street Y, — where teachers are considered among the best in their field and tuition runs \$21,000 a year for 4- and 5-year-olds — is coveted by many, including boldface names such as Woody Allen, Michael J. Fox and some Wall Street's heaviest C-suite executives. It's sometimes called the Harvard of pre-schools.

But in their new book, "Practical Wisdom for Parents: Demystifying the Preschool Years," (Knopf), which covers both home and school life, the educators say parents need to set aside all that.

Go with your gut when choosing a preschool and don't worry much about reputation, cost or any of the scores of bewildering factors a parent weighs, they say.

Here's their best advice:

Q: So you've narrowed it down to a few places that make sense, and it's time to make that crucial first visit. What should I be looking for?



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

SCHOOL DAYS: Finding a preschool for the little ones can be a difficult process.

ing for?

A: Schulman: "Probably most parents who go to look at a preschool haven't been in one since they went to one if they did. So it becomes sort of a new experience, and there's many different styles and philosophies. Part of it has to do with your instincts as a parent -- you know your child best. ... The very first thing that will happen is you will have a gut feeling; and that will speak volumes. Does this feel like a happy place? Does this feel like a place I would feel comfortable leaving my child? You'll know that because you'll see a clean, organized place, you'll hear a buzz of children engaged in activities and teachers talking with them in a warm, direct way."

Birnbaum: "Every school has its own culture. It looks a certain way. It has a certain feel. And of course the people you meet along the way are critical to that. It could be the first person who answers the phone when you make an appointment. And that's so important now, because this is the time

when you're going to be in most contact with the people who will be with your child more than any other time in their lives."

Q: What can be done to prepare ahead of the visit?

A: Schulman: "One of the things you will not see, and you can do a little research about, is finding a little information about their philosophy. The physical space will tell you something, but you want to find out if the school is licensed, you want to find out what the experience of the teachers are; if it's a school with a lot of teacher turnover, you want to be careful about that and find out more."

Birnbaum: "The lead teacher for most classrooms in most states should have a master's degree, and be certified in early childhood education. Certainly at least one teacher in each classroom has to have that qualification. Assistants may not all have those qualifications, and that's OK. The

other thing is the ratio adults-to-children. The National Association for the Education of Young Children recommends that for 2-year-olds, one adult for every five children; for 3-year-olds, one adult for every seven children; and for 4-year-olds, one adult for every eight children."

Q: So I've narrowed it down to two; one hits all those points you mentioned and then some, but the other one just feels right to me somehow. Which to choose?

A: Schulman and Birnbaum (in unison): "Go with your gut!"

Schulman: "We always advise parents to go with your gut feeling. I think parents are often looking for a certain pedigree; and that may or may not suit your child or family. A reputation is important, but it's really much more important that you send your child to a place that you walk in and feel a sense of comfort, in the tone of the place and the people and teachers who are running it. That's the No. 1 priority."

Q: What about my child's reaction to the school? Should I be reading him?

Birnbaum: "When we have children come to visit, we know that on any given day, they may or may not be the same. So I wouldn't take the child's reaction into consideration in that way at all. But to see it from your child's perspective is important; if you go to a school and it's very busy and maybe you have a child who's easily distracted or over-stimulated, you might not want that school for your child. ... Knowing your child, and matching the environment to your child, is something you should definitely consider."

Q: Physically speaking, what are some good signs -- things I should be looking for no matter what?

A: Birnbaum: "Clean, safe, and well-equipped; a certain level of organization. Children really need and thrive on things that are neat and in order."

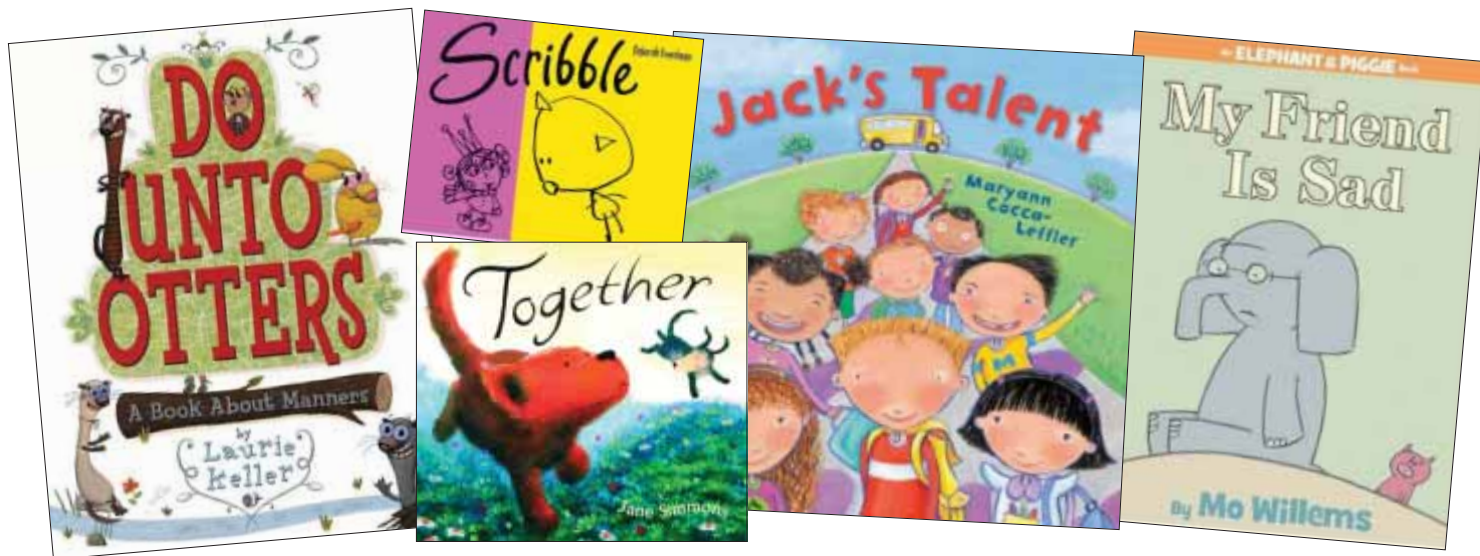
Schulman: "You really want to see that there's a sense to the day"



SUMMER PLAYGROUND

A couple of youngsters (left) bump fists during a successful boogie boarding session on Monday. A group of children (right) frolic on Santa Monica Beach, also on Monday.

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com



Books to help kids be nice kids

BY MELISSA RAYWORTH

Associated Press Writer

Even the most whimsical bedtime stories can teach a useful lesson or two.

Using a motley group of characters that include a grumpy duck, a nervous rabbit and the obligatory wise owl, several new children's books isolate behaviors kids will need to learn as they grow: empathy, patience, cooperation, compromise. But they still manage to have some fun at the same time.

■ "Do Unto Otters: A Book About Manners" by Laurie Keller (Henry Holt, September)

Mr. Rabbit panics upon discovering that his new neighbors, a family of otters, are animals he knows nothing about. What should he say to them and how should he act? A helpful owl teaches Rabbit to follow the Golden Rule. By imagining how he'd like his new neighbors to treat him, Rabbit realizes how to behave. "Otters" is slyly funny, with quirky illustrations and a wonderfully arch tone. Even if kids pick up only a few of the courteous behaviors mentioned in the book, parents will be glad they added it to the family library.

■ "Delicious: A Pumpkin Soup Story" by Helen Cooper (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, August)

Cooper's follow-up to "Pumpkin Soup" and "A Pipkin of Pepper" (both published in 2005) features more of her intricate and gorgeous artwork. The text crackles with rich, descriptive imagery, as the characters face a dilemma that should be easy for little listeners to understand: With no pumpkins

for their beloved pumpkin soup recipe, Cat, Squirrel and Duck are forced to work together. They try other dishes in search of one they can all enjoy, but Duck repeatedly turned up his nose (or, rather, his bill) at the fish, mushroom and beet soups his friends work hard to make. Eventually, cooperation leads to success (and encourages picky eaters to try new foods).

■ "Jack's Talent" by Maryann Cocca-Leffler (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, July)

On the first day of school, Jack discovers that everyone in his new class has a talent: Kristin can sing, Alex builds things and Olivia's a whiz at catching bugs. The list goes on and on. As the last class member to introduce himself and his talent, Jack explains to the group that he's not really good at anything. But then he recites the names of all eight of his classmates and correctly lists their particular talents. This brightly illustrated book might be especially helpful to kids who are enrolling at a new school this fall.

■ "Together" by Jane Simmons (Knopf, May)

Simmons' gentle, lovely drawings set the mood for this sweet, occasionally melancholy story of friendship between a pair of playful dogs. Mousse and Nut are the best of friends, but they don't always agree on how to spend their days. Large, lumbering Mousse loves paddling in the water, but tiny Nut can't swim. Meanwhile, Nut likes to hang out on top of a stone wall, but Mousse can't jump high enough to go there. Convinced that these differences must mean the end of their friendship, Mousse and Nut say goodbye. But being apart

makes them terribly sad, so the friends decide to compromise.

■ "Scribble" by Deborah Freedman (Knopf, May)

This wonderfully inventive book follows the adventures of Emma (who draws a lovely princess) and Lucie (who scrawls a barely recognizable kitten), as their drawings escape the page and teach them to appreciate each other's work. The book's message may go over the heads of younger audience members (one 4-year-old reader described it simply as a book about a princess and a cat who get married). But the book's unique mix of artistic styles and its color-saturated pages make this a fun choice for children at nearly any stage of development.

■ "My Friend Is Sad: An Elephant and Piggie Book" by Mo Willems (Hyperion, April)

Thoughtful Piggie tries impersonating a cowboy, juggling in a clown suit and even dressing up as a robot, all for the sake of cheering up his good friend Elephant. But the sight of a cowboy (and clown, and robot) only cheers Elephant up for a moment. He sinks back into sadness each time, mourning the fact that his pal Piggie isn't with him to enjoy these strange visitors. Little does Elephant know that each visitor was actually Piggie in disguise. Even tiny listeners may enjoy this simple story of friendship. But the uncluttered pages and minimalist drawings done by veteran children's book author Willems (of "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus" fame) make it a particularly good choice for those just learning to read.

Dear Dorie

Dorie Meek
Send comments to
editor@smdp.com

Late start to school search is tough task

Dear Dorie,

I have a 2-year-old and an infant and I'm beginning to look at preschools (I know I'm late!). Where do I start and what should I be looking for?

Late Learner

Dear Learner,

In August, you should be looking for a miracle! OK, it's not that dramatic but most preschools are fully enrolled for the fall. I would suggest that you start with the local public preschool program (if you're in Santa Monica, that's (310) 399-5865). They have a variety of programs at a variety of sites and tend to have a slightly later enrollment schedule. You might luck into a slot.

Next, check with a preschool advisory service like "Best Fit Schools" on the Web. They may be able to help you identify schools that will have last minute vacancies and flexibility with late placement. There will be no guarantees on September start dates but it's worth a try.

Finally, prepare for a late entry into the school year. Life happens and people do move, change schools, etc. It might be a little later than expected, but preschools do have openings throughout the year. Identify a few sites that interest you and keep checking in with their director. Good luck.

Dorie

DORIE MEEK is director of the Infant & Family Support Program, provided by Saint John's Health Center in partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District. Submit your questions to meek@smmusd.org.



CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

Subsurface Abatement Services Big Blue Bus Facility Expansion, SP1609.2

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 **August 28, 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.

Contract Documents are available for review by appointment at the City's Big Blue Bus construction trailer located at 6th Street and Colorado Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90401. The City recommends that prospective bidders review these pertinent documents. Please call Miriam Mulder at (310) 434-2617 for further details. Cost of documents and mailing shall be **\$20.00**. Additional information may be obtained on the City's website at www.santa-monica.org/engineering.

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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PUBLIC NOTICE OF NEW UNITED STATES COINS



■ **WORLD EXCLUSIVE:** These photos show the private unveiling ceremonies for the Official Presidential Money Gallery that exhibits the U.S. Government's new Presidential Golden Dollar Coins. The World Reserve has announced it is handing out an entire year of the new coins free to everyone who beats the deadline to cover the \$8 claim for the Presidential Money Gallery.



■ **GIVEAWAY BEGINS:** The free money giveaway begins for local readers today. The World Reserve is handing out an entire year of coins free. But don't thank the government. This massive \$13 million private hoard is under the control of the World Reserve who is making no secret about advertising its plans to hand out the coins to residents starting at 8:30 a.m. today.

Public gets Presidential coins free

Everyone who claims the newly revealed Presidential Money Gallery now being issued for just \$8 gets an entire year of the new Presidential Golden Dollar Coins Free

By DANIEL G. WOOD
UNIVERSAL MEDIA SYNDICATE

Have you heard about the free money giveaway that's sweeping the nation?

Well, listen up because here it is.

Everyone who gets in on this will be among the first to get the U.S. Government's dazzling new Presidential Golden Dollar Coins.

The World Reserve has just announced it is handing out an entire year of the valuable coins free.

These valuable coins are being

given away free to everyone who beats the deadline to cover shipping and the \$8 claim for the newly revealed Presidential Money Gallery.

So, what's the catch?

Just be absolutely sure to call in your claim before the 72 hour deadline if you want to get the entire year of coins free.

This is all happening because the World Reserve is issuing the newly revealed Presidential Money Gallery to the general public to hold all forty of the U.S. Government's first ever

Presidential Dollar Coins. Rations of these coins are uncertain because each dollar is only minted for just 93 days and all of them will be delivered according to the govt's release schedule.

"These new Presidential Coins are beyond compare because they're actually carved with edge lettering bearing the date, Mint mark, IN GOD WE TRUST and E PLURIBUS UNUM, which results in the coin's rare tactile feel," said Director Aaron T. Stryker

from the World Reserve Monetary Exchange.

"Once they're gone, they're gone and by law once the U.S. Government shuts off, they will never be minted again. That's why the World's premier private numismatic exchange is widely advertising its plans to issue the Presidential Money Gallery. We want to make absolutely sure readers of this newspaper know that there are only 3 days left on this announcement to get the entire year of Presiden-

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■ **ENTIRE YEAR FREE:** Everyone is trying to get the Presidential Golden Coins because they are actually carved with edge lettering which makes them beyond compare. Only those who call to beat the 3-day order deadline for the newly revealed Presidential Money Gallery are getting an entire year of coins free. But readers must make sure they get through to the Direct Claim Line at 1-800-761-7917.

tial Dollar Coins free, in never-circulated condition," Stryker said.

Those who get in on this free giveaway by claiming the World Reserve's exclusive Presidential Money Gallery will be able to show off the entire collection of all 40 of the U.S. Presidential Coins. That's why it's so important to beat the 72 hour deadline right now.

"At the rate we are giving these away we will be forced to hand out more than \$1 million of these valu-

able new Presidential Dollar Coins free to the general public," Stryker said.

Collectors are trying to get all they can because these are no ordinary coins. These are real U.S. Treasury first issues in never-circulated condition. Smart collectors know how valuable first issue coins can be.

U.S. Savings Bonds used to be the most popular gift to give. But now these never-circulated Presidential Dollar Coins are what

everybody wants.

And, since everyone is trying to get them, one thing is for sure. Only those lucky enough to get in on this now are certain to get an entire year's worth of coins free.

What does all this mean for you?

Well, coin values always fluctuate. But just think if you would have saved one uncirculated Eisenhower Dollar from as recently as 1973. Believe it or not, it's now worth 1200% more today. So, getting four

Presidential Coins free with the eight dollar Presidential Money Gallery is a real steal.

And remember, these are never-circulated coins. To be among the first to get these never-circulated Presidential Dollar Coins you must make sure you get through to the Direct Claim Line. That number is 1-800-761-7917. If lines are busy please be patient.

But whatever you do keep trying, because all claims will be honored before the 3-day deadline expires. ■

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE COINS

Here's the number to call:

Direct Claim Line

1-800-761-7917

Dept. CD1251

Begin calling at 8:30 a.m. today

Claim lines close in 72 hours

The World Reserve has just announced that it is giving away an entire year of the Presidential Coins free to everyone who beats the order deadline to cover the \$8 claim plus shipping for the newly revealed Presidential Money Gallery. These coins will be delivered in never-circulated condition and protected with professional display capsules that are also being issued free to protect the coins and to allow for the viewing of their special edge markings. Those who miss the deadline will be turned away and required to wait for future announcements authorized by the World Reserve in this or other publications. THE INCREASE IN COLLECTIBLE VALUE OF CERTAIN PRIOR ISSUES OF U.S. COINS AND CURRENCY DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT CURRENT ISSUES WILL ALSO INCREASE IN VALUE. THE WORLD RESERVE MONETARY EXCHANGE IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY. ALL TRANSACTIONS LESS SHIPPING ARE BACKED BY THE FULL VAULT CONTENTS OF THE WORLD RESERVE MONETARY EXCHANGE WITH A MONEY BACK GUARANTEE UP TO \$10,000.00.

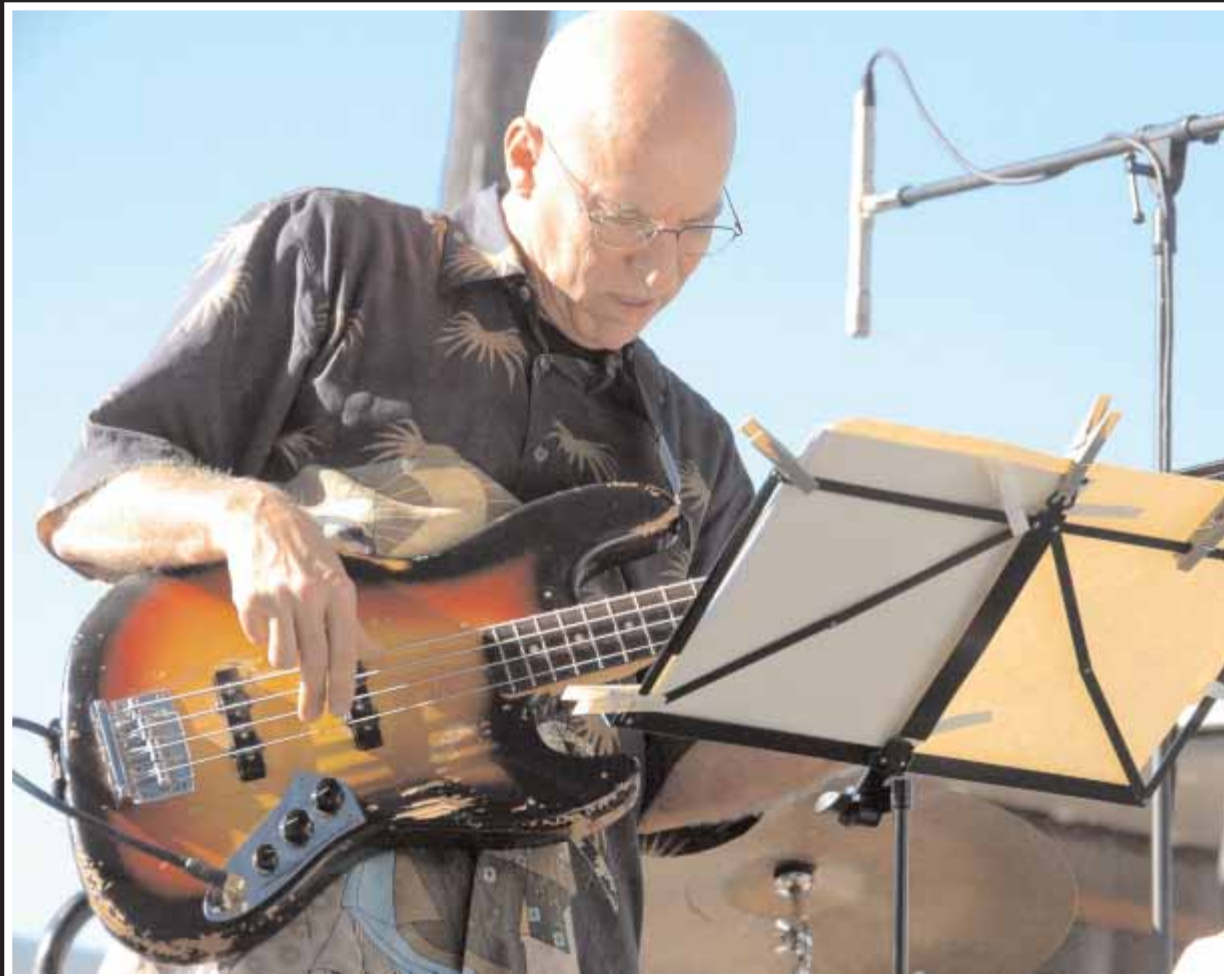


■ **HAND MADE:** This is the Presidential Money Gallery now being issued to the public for just \$8.

JAZZY SUNDAY

The ongoing Jazz on the Lawn series filled the air around City Hall with the sounds of easy-going musical melodies Sunday afternoon. The headliners of the concert (bottom right) were members of the Jazz Tap Ensemble, one of the genre's most acclaimed acts. The free concerts will continue throughout the summer. All shows are to be held on the lawn of City Hall.

Photos by Fabian Lewkowicz
fabianl@smdp.com



Displaced tenants in line to receive cash

FROM TENANTS PAGE 3

invited to the bargaining table. This is something the City Council intends to ram down our throats like other failed programs."

Deputy City Attorney Adam Radinsky said the Housing Department was responsible for researching costs associated with relocation and he is confident the figures are fair for both landlords and their tenants.

"Obviously, this is not an exact science," Radinsky said. "I think the figures being proposed are seen as a middle ground based on the evidence that was available."

If approved Tuesday, the ordinance would take effect in 30 days.

kevinh@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Bridges are A-OK

"None of our county bridges are unsafe," said Don Wolfe, Director of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

Ten county bridges are on the Federal list of Bridges that are structurally deficient, according to Wolfe, stressing that the designation means the bridges are a priority for rehabilitation or replacement, not that they are unsafe.

The greatest threat to county bridges remains the impact of a major earthquake. An extensive effort has been underway for a number of years to strengthen the bridges in the state against earthquakes. There are approximately 71 bridges left to be seismically retrofitted or upgraded in the county; 16 in the city of Los Angeles.

For more information about the Department of Public Works, go to: <http://dpw.lacounty.gov>.

EMILY SKEHAN

SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Planetarium promises stellar shows

The John Drescher Planetarium will present two special showings of "Autumn Deep Sky Gems," featuring the astronomical "celebrities" that grace the late evening sky in the fall. The two showings will fall on Aug. 31 and Sept. 7, at 8 p.m.

The planetarium's show will provide a look at the best autumn objects beyond our solar system and will describe how astronomers' understanding of these objects continues to evolve.

"Autumn Deep Sky Gems" will be preceded by "The Night Sky Show," which re-creates the night sky and provides the latest information on space exploration.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$9 for the "double bill," with discounts for children and senior citizens. For information, call (310) 434-4223 or (310) 434-3000.

GERRY SHIH

Council to tackle trees

If approved, workers would remove more than 70 trees downtown

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Normally mild and mundane, generating little public chatter, the first hour of the City Council meeting tonight could take a more animated turn.

The City Council is expected to award an approximately \$7.6 million contract for a project to improve both Second and Fourth streets in downtown, a project that includes the controversial element of removing more than 70 mature trees and replacing them with new, young ginkgo bilobas.

The high-profile project is slated to be approved in the beginning of the meeting — around 5:45 p.m. — in one fell swoop, along with nine other items in the consent calendar, before the City Council heads into closed session.

The proposal to remove 54 of the ficus trees lining Second and Fourth streets has mustered quite a bit of public dissent over the past few years, but especially in recent months, after City Hall went out for bids to find a contractor to execute the project. City staff has in the past cited maintenance and business sign blockage as some of the reasons for the removal of the shade-heavy ficus trees, looking to lighten up the streets.

"I've received some correspondence from some people who were unhappy about the fact that we're removing some of the trees and replacing them with young trees," said Mayor Richard Bloom on Monday.

Of the 54 ficus trees set to bid downtown good-bye, 31 will be replanted elsewhere, perhaps the Santa Monica Airport and Palisades Park, city staff stated in May. The remaining 23 ficus trees have been identified as diseased and will be converted to compost.

The tree removal is only one piece of the overall streetscape improvement project, which covers eight blocks between Wilshire Boulevard and Colorado Avenue. The project also calls for the enlargement of tree wells, upgrading electrical service, installation of new light fixtures and decorative



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

ON THE WAY OUT: Trees on Second and Fourth streets in the downtown area are slated to be removed if the council approves the project. There has been considerable debate on the subject.

lighting on the remaining ficus trees.

Council member Kevin McKeown, who originally voted against the schematic design for the project in October 2005, said he plans to present an amendment tonight that would eliminate the tree removal element of the proposal.

If the council does approve the amendment, it would jeopardize City Hall's ability to secure grant funding. If the final project design, which was already approved by Caltrans, is modified, the grant funds will be forfeited, the city staff report states.

Approximately \$1.8 million of the project is funded by the Federal Transportation Enhancement Activities fund, which must be awarded by Aug. 30.

"I feel backed into a corner," McKeown said on Monday.

Because of previous funding delays, Bloom believes the council should act now rather than later, adding the current proposal is a compromise from the original proposal which would've eliminated all the trees in the project area.

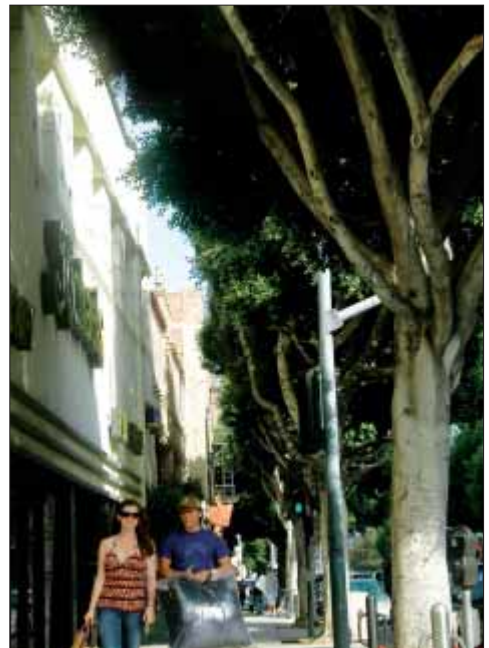
"I think it's important that, unless there's been some sort of change in circumstance, that we stick with the plan," Bloom said.

If approved, the contract will be awarded to the Griffith Company.

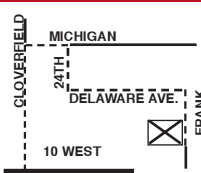
melodyh@smdp.com

✉ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com



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320 SANTA MONICA BLVD. OFF 3RD STREET PROMENADE IN BAY CITIES BEAUTY SUPPLY



Map courtesy of Exposition Construction Authority

PROJECTED ROUTE: The Exposition Light Rail project has just held a groundbreaking ceremony for construction of the project's first phase. The light rail line will eventually reach Santa Monica.

Budget impasse stalls funding

FROM EXPO PAGE 1

also working hard to make sure that they know it's important they give us that allocation."

Delays in getting state funding secured for Expo could only further delay the extension of rail line from Culver City to Santa Monica, which is phase two of the project. Phase two is currently undergoing an environmental impact assessment, which will be made available to the public next winter.

Phase one is scheduled to open in 2010 and phase two in 2015.

WHOSE HOLDING THINGS UP?

In the blame game of who is holding up the budget, senate Democratic leaders accuse their Republican counterparts of holding up adoption of the budget, pointing to the Republicans who have yet to come on board in moving the state's fiscal matters along. The Republicans on the other hand have insisted that their goal is to balance the budget, erasing the ongoing deficit to zero, which they believe the current proposal does anything but.

Only one Republican — Abel Maldonado of Santa Maria — has joined in supporting

the current budget proposal.

The senate Republicans introduced a revised budget on Aug. 1 that detailed further cuts. The proposal was subsequently rejected by the Democrats.

Among the state senators that have continued to withhold their vote for adoption is Republican Sen. George Runner, whose dis-



WE'RE ALSO AWAITING THE STATE BUDGET OUTCOME BEFORE WE MAKE A COMMITMENT FOR PROJECTS TO FUND."

Pam O'Connor, Chair, MTA

trict includes the Antelope Valley and portions of San Bernardino County.

"It's because the budget is not balanced and he believes that this state, just like families, ought to not spend more than it takes in," said Will Smith, Runner's chief of staff.

Sen. Sheila Kuehl, an Expo advocate whose district includes Santa Monica, was among the senators that voted to approve the budget with the \$1.3 billion in transit

cuts, though she didn't do it happily, said Laurie Newman, Kuehl's senior deputy.

"We were only able to get one Republican vote for the budget," Newman said. "There's no movement right now."

Pam O'Connor, the chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, noted that the political games up in

already begun for Expo.

"We are working very hard to make sure that the CTC are able to allocate the \$314 million that is shipped to the contracts that need to be issued," he said.

Long-time Expo advocates, including the Friends 4 Expo Transit, have been flooding state officials in Sacramento with letters and phone calls, but acknowledge there is only so much they could do at the grassroots level.

"Here we are, grassroots advocates, we can write the governor and hope he pays a little attention and hope that he has some clout with Republicans in the State Senate who are so far saying no," said Darrell Clarke of Friends 4 Expo Transit.

With all the work that's gone into Expo over the years and growing congestion in Los Angeles, Clarke said he found the politics in Sacramento to be frustrating.

"Transportation is horrible and it's only getting worse and to have these political games going on," Clarke said.

melodyh@smdp.com

☒ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Consent agenda items run the gamut

FROM CONSENT PAGE 3

repair police and fire radio communications under a one-year contract that is expected to be approved by the council.

Motorola, a manufacturer of communication devices such as radio equipment, base stations, mobile data computers and data network controllers used within the fire and police departments, has provided maintenance and repair for the city since the 1980s.

The contract is valued at \$123,915. The contract includes three additional one-year renewals.

TAKE THAT

City Hall will receive \$440,538 dollars from the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security as part of a no-match grant program to enhance the capability of local agencies to prevent and respond to threats or incidents of terrorism.

The Urban Area Security Initiative provides funds for costs associated with updating and implementing each state's Homeland Security Strategy.

Since 2001, Santa Monica has received \$3.2 million in grant funding, which has been used to purchase new equipment and pay for additional training and supplies. With the money, the fire department purchased impact, shatter-resistant glass for areas of the Public Safety Facility, traffic barricades and hand washing stations for the Environmental and Public Works Management Division, a hazardous materials vehicle, urban search and

rescue tools and a satellite phone for the Emergency Operations Center.

The funds to be received Tuesday will be used to purchase chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive self containing breathing devices. The money will also pay for training to sustain Hazardous Materials Response and Urban Search and Rescue teams and to provide weapons of mass destruction response training, according to a city staff report.

kevinh@smdp.com

☒ **WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

■ Send letters to editor@smdp.com

Community supported farms output is unusual

BY MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press Writer

DELMAR, N.Y. Dewey heads of lettuce are being delivered to shareholders of community supported farms this summer, along with fresh tomatoes for sauces, squash for sauteing and mizuna for ... ummm, what's that for?

Such is the quandary of community supported agriculture programs: The weekly deliveries of food received by members is dependent on harvests. They can be heavy on corn one week, kohlrabi the next.

With community supported farms becoming increasingly popular, more people face the creative challenges of serving up non-mainstream vegetables like bok choy, or less popular ones like okra.

"It's fun. From week to week, you never know what you're going to get," said Marcy O'Hare, as she picked up a delivery in this Albany suburb.

Lined up on a table in a church kitchen were cardboard boxes of lettuce, Swiss chard, squash, tomatoes, cabbage, garlic, cucumbers and beets. A marker board instructs shareholders how much of each item they can take.

O'Hare belongs to a community supported program operated by Fox Creek Farm, which offers 20 weekly deliveries starting in June for \$440 a share (\$22 per week).

O'Hare likes the fresh, healthy food and supporting local business. Farmers get guaranteed prices for their crops and can sell directly to consumers.

The beneficial arrangements are sprouting up across the nation as the related buy-local and eat-healthy trends pick up steam. The buy-local Web site LocalHarvest lists more than 1,500 community supported farms nationwide.

There are some trade-offs, however. Bumper crops bring overflowing delivery baskets, while bad harvests mean smaller deliveries. Farmers plant a multitude of crops, in part to

mitigate that risk.

But in any given year, such farms tie shareholders to the natural rhythms of local agriculture. In the Northeast, members might get peaches in July, corn in August, late-season spinach in September and pumpkins in October.

Fox Creek member Shana Lewis likes the fact that unusual bounties force her to try new food. She would never have gone to the supermarket to buy kohlrabi, but when she received it, she made up a delicious kohlrabi salad with onions and carrots.

Still, there are limits. Lewis said the last such farm she belonged to she got lots and lots of turnips: "I mean mad amounts of turnips," she said.

For offbeat offerings, community supported farms like Fox Creek include recipes in their newsletters. Other farms post recipes online.

Debbie Palmer, the community coordinator for Live Earth Farm south of San Jose, Calif., has collected close to 2,000 recipes online in the past decade. It's searchable by ingredient, from apples to zucchini.

"I think there's kind of an infinite supply out there," she said.

Take mizuna, for example. Leanne Abe of San Diego asked on the CHOW Web site what she should do with the leafy green vegetable after receiving a delivery.

She received suggestions to stir-fry it, slip it in a panini and sear it with sesame oil but eventually opted to saute the mizuna with bacon and shallots.

"It tasted pretty good," she said. "Mizuna is a pretty bitter green, you can't really hide it."

ON THE NET

- Local Harvest
www.localharvest.org
- Debbie's recipes
www.writerguy.com/deb/recipes/keyingred.html

Yellowstone entrance remains closed

By the Associated Press

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. The park's east entrance remained closed on Monday, a park spokesman said, after a wind-driven wildfire forced the closure Sunday.

About 25 miles of the road was closed Sunday afternoon to a point near Fishing Bridge on the north side of Yellowstone Lake, park spokesman Al Nash said.

Until the east gate is reopened, travelers from Cody must detour 29 miles through Montana to enter the park.

The fire, which was started by lightning last Thursday, grew from an estimated 2,500 acres on Saturday to an estimated 12,000 acres, or about 18 square miles, on Sunday.

Nash said Monday the east entrance would remain closed temporarily through the day.

"As of this morning, the fire is near the East Entrance Road. It has not yet crossed it," Nash said. "But it is too close, and the forecast calls for extremely active fire behavior today. So due to the threat of the fire to the road, it will remain temporarily closed."

Nash said the head of the fire is about three miles west of the park's east entrance.

"The structures closest to the head of the fire would be our East Entrance Station, and our facilities that support that east entrance," he said.

Nash said the Park Service had prepared its staff for possible evacuation from the East Entrance.



Photo courtesy National Parks Service

SHUT DOWN: The east entrance to Yellowstone National Park remained closed Monday due to fire.

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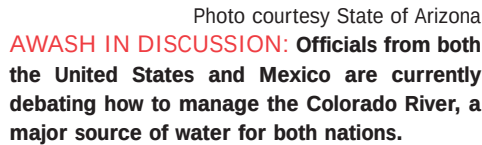
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By the Associated Press

The treaty is administered by the International Boundary and Water Commission, and the joint statement said the discussions about the river would be held within the framework of the commission.



“The issues facing the Colorado River basin are complex, and increasing our dialogue with Mexico will make the path to resolving them much easier,” Kempthorne said in a written release.

AP White House Correspondent

he was never charged with any crime. In a more recent controversy, Rove, citing executive privilege, has refused to testify before Congress about the firing of U.S. attorneys. Bush was expected to make a statement

Rove became one of Washington's most influential figures during Bush's presidency. He is known as a ruthless political warrior who has an encyclopedic command of political minutiae and a wonkish love of policy. Rove met Bush in the early 1970s, when both men were in their 20s.



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SURF REPORT



SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 68°

SWELL FORECAST (2-3 FT)

Today looks similar to yesterday, small surf most everywhere with the best chance for something even longboardable around south facing breaks. Winds should remain light in the AM, but afternoon onshores could get a bit brisk in some areas. Tide will also be extremely low for early AM sessions.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

WIND SWELL DURING SECOND HALF OF THE WEEK...
TRACKING POTENTIAL SSE FOR 20TH...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



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 / ns

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Canillo Beach, at Arroyo Sepul Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Luchessa and Los Aliso 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 (Chautauqui)	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pica/Koster storm drain	A	ns
Escandinava Creek, just east of Escandinava State Beach	A	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	ns
Larigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	ns
Selena Canyon at Van Buren County Beach	A+	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	C	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	C	ns
Surf Rider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	F	ns
Surf Rider Beach (beach location)- daily	A	ns	Venice Beach- projection of Topsoil 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
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (joint zero)	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hypalon 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 17280 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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True story

Clooney's production company is developing film about CIA mission

GEORGE CLOONEY'S production company is writing a script for a movie based on the true story of a CIA fake-identity expert who smuggled six Americans out of Iran while dozens of others were being held

hostage there. "Escape From Tehran" is in development but hasn't been approved for production, Stan Rosenfield, a spokesman for Smoke House productions, told The (Hagerstown) Herald-

Mail for a story published Monday. The trade journal Variety has reported that the script will be a "dramedy" – a humorous drama – and that Clooney could direct and star.

The script would be based on a Wired magazine article published in April about the rescue engineered by retired CIA agent Antonio Mendez of Knoxville. Mendez told The Herald-Mail he agreed to

be interviewed by Wired in exchange for sharing movie rights with the magazine writer. Six of the Americans who escaped hid in the homes of diplomats.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GARRETT GETS PHYSICAL

BRAD GARRETT is the latest celebrity to tangle with photographers. Garrett, who stars in the Fox sitcom "Til Death," is shown slapping away a camera in a video posted online Monday.

The camera belonged to a photographer working for TMZ.com, which posted the video, TMZ Managing Editor Harvey Levin said Monday.

The 47-year-old actor was leaving a restaurant Sunday night, according to TMZ, when he was surrounded by paparazzi. He's seen chatting amiably with them as he walks to his car, when one begins shouting insults.

AP

Mary-Louise Parker says snake is no fake in photo

Posing naked for a publicity photo for her offbeat Showtime comedy series "Weeds" was no big deal for **MARY-LOUISE PARKER**. It was the snake that bothered her.

"I didn't think I was going to do it actually," the 43-year-old actress told AP Radio News in a recent interview. "But then, they were there and the snake was there, and I didn't want the snake to win, so I put the snake on."

"And actually, I grew to really love the snake – by the end of the day."

Parker is shown with the snake over her shoulder and down her back. In one Showtime ad, David Duchovny, who stars in the new series "Californication," is shown with the snake coming over his back, its head on his bare shoulder. He's tossing an apple, with a big bite taken out of it, into the air.

"I've been naked quite a bit, actually," Parker said of posing for the photo. "You Google me, you'll see it all."

The third season of "Weeds," which also stars Kevin Nealon, Elizabeth Perkins and newcomer Matthew Modine, was to premiere Monday night, followed by the series premiere of "Californication."

Parker stars as a widowed suburban mother who starts selling marijuana to support her family in "Weeds."

The actress won an Emmy Award for "Angels in America." She's won two Golden Globe Awards, one for "Angels in America," the other for "Weeds," and had a recurring role on NBC's "The West Wing." Her screen credits include "Fried Green Tomatoes," "Boys on the Side" and "The Client."

AP



Curb your temper, Aquarius

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

Happy Birthday!

You often juggle your needs while others observe and have strong opinions. Remember, you only need to satisfy yourself. Communication and determination are instrumental in making what you want happen. Don't push others so much. A difficult situation could evolve, which will turn out to be even harder to resolve if many people are involved. If you are single, you might be upset when alone. However, you can't always have it all, especially when dealing with people. If you are attached, you move to a new dimension of caring.



Born Today

Cartoonist Gary Larson (1950)

Actress Halle Berry (1966)
Actor Steve Martin (1945)

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

★★★★ Executing a project could be a touch more costly than you thought. You face some important choices here. Sit back and consider if the end result justifies the risk. Tonight: Get to the gym or get some form of exercise.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ You could be distracted and enjoy every moment of this side event. Be sure you can take care of your errands and other responsibilities. Blending responsibility with pleasure could develop into an art form. Tonight: Spice up the moment.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ If possible, stay close to home. You might opt to work from home. Otherwise, maintain a low profile and enjoy what comes down. You might not have all the answers, but you certainly have some. Tonight: Build up on rest.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You have a tendency to be picky, overwhelming and highly energized. The combination proves to be interesting to an observer. Don't personalize a discussion. Tonight: Even if just playing bingo, someone might be a tad deceptive!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ A desire to take a risk could be tempered when you see the potentially negative results. Certainly you are not always right, but you still could be happier if you step away. A hidden element comes to light, if not immediately then soon. Tonight: Pay bills first.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Clearly you call the shots. How you work with someone and the decisions you make vary with each situation. Realize what you want and expect from someone close. Surprises head in when dealing with others. Tonight: Juggle all your different interests.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Explaining and justifying might not be the ticket right now. Accept what is going on rather than buck the current trend. Observation helps you learn. If you're feeling at loose ends, go off and get some exercise. Tonight: Early bedtime.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might have a plan of attack, but you'll discover that if you're seated in rigidity, you need to head in a new direction or adapt to the circumstances. You can and will adjust if you let go of a need to control everything. Tonight: Hang with friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ You certainly have an opportunity to show what you are capable of. The unexpected plays a twisted role in events. Confirm appointments. Make sure you understand where others are coming from. Tonight: In charge wherever you are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Work with someone and be ready to make a difference. Plans change, and misunderstandings might happen. Knowing this, refuse to become upset when facing chaos. Enjoy the excitement and diversity. Tonight: The best-laid plans fall apart.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ A partner wants and demands to be in control. Though you actually might have a better idea or sense of direction, you will need to back off. This person needs to know what you expect and what will happen with his or her idea. Tonight: Curb your temper.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Your actions display a different response than what you say or think. Stop, back off and understand where you might be coming from. Your unexpected behavior could easily incur another's wrath. Tonight: The highest form of control is no control.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Superbad (R)
7:30

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

Bourne Ultimatum, The (PG-13) 1:15, 4:05, 6:55, 9:50
BRATZ (PG) 1:35, 4:20
Daddy Day Camp (PG) 1:20, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
Simpsons Movie, The (PG-13) 1:00, 3:25, 5:55, 8:15, 10:25
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, 7:40, 10:35
Hairspray (PG) 11:20am, 2:10, 4:55, 7:45, 10:30
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, 10:40
The Simpson Movie (PG-13) 11:35am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:10, 9:40
Stardust (PG-13) 11:05am, 2:00, 5:00, 7:55, 10:45
Underdog (PG) 11:10am, 1:20, 3:35, 5:50, 8:00, 10:15

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) 11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 10:10
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 Now Pronounce You
Chuck & Larry (PG-13) 11:10am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:20, 10:20
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

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

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

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

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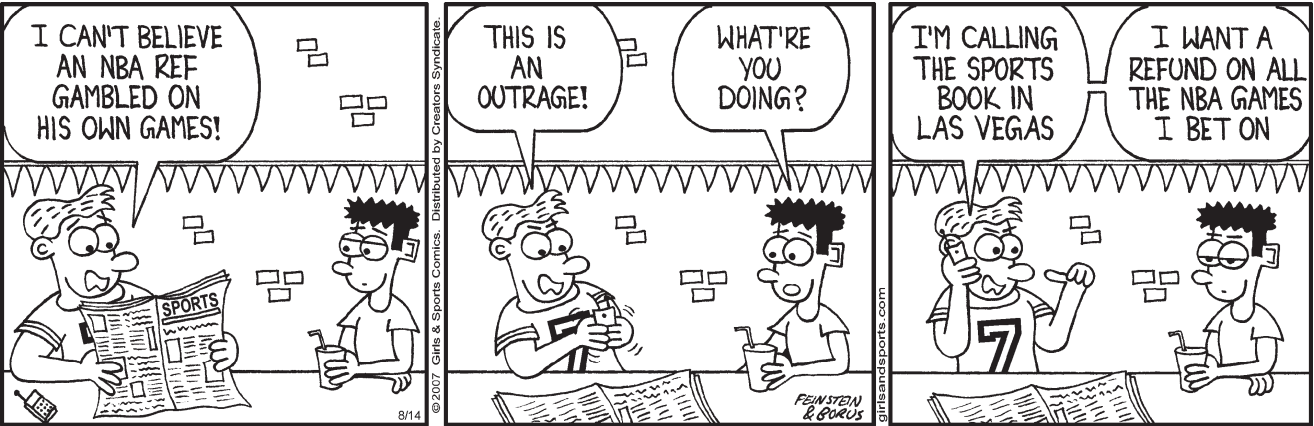
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We all know we should be prepared, but is your family or business really ready if an earthquake hit today?

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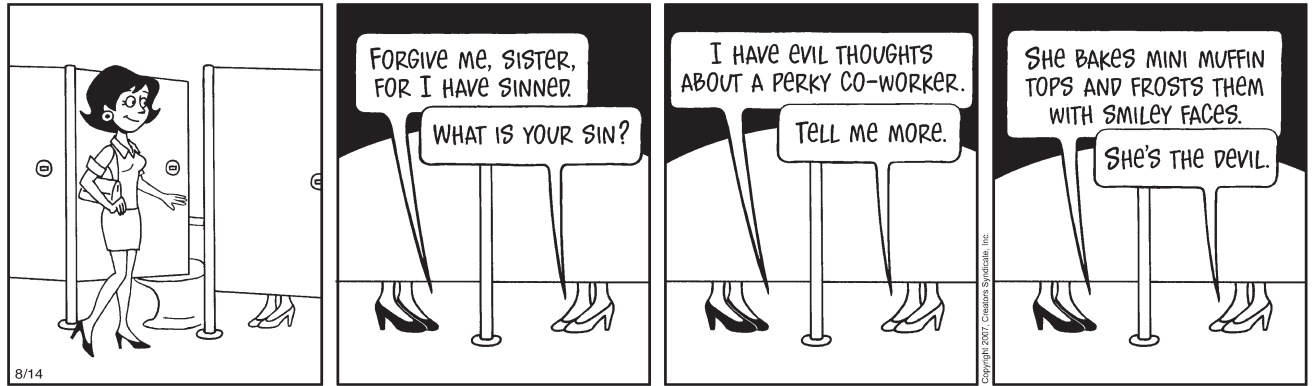
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



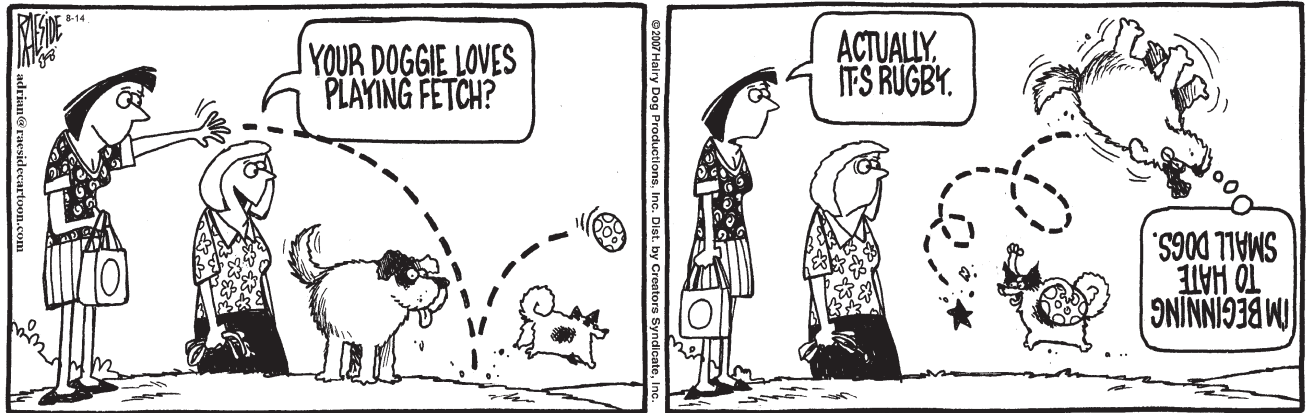
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



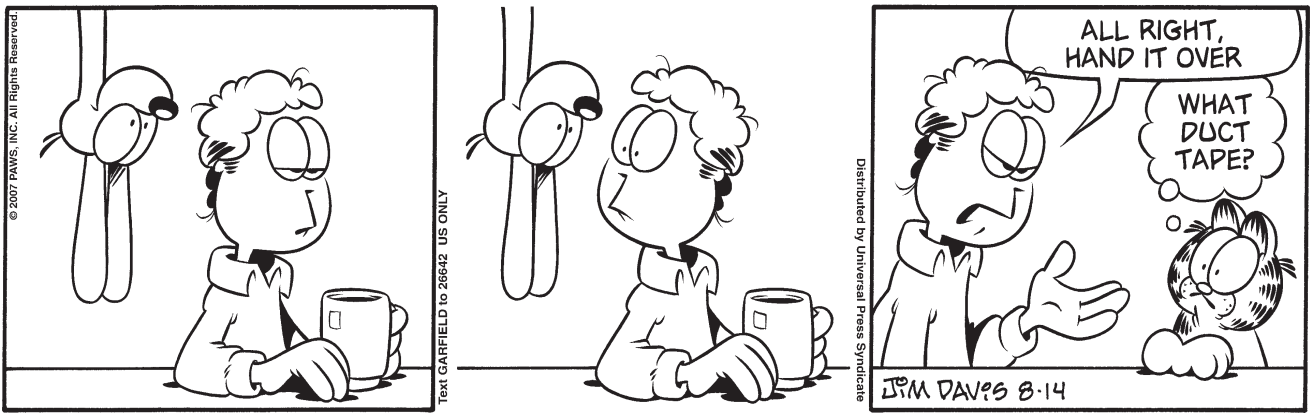
The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



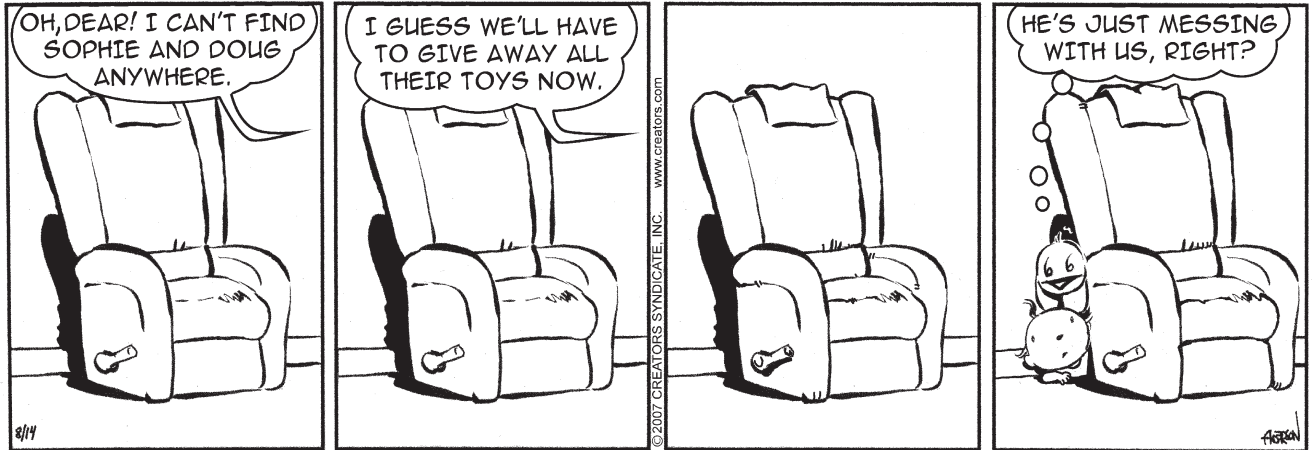
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



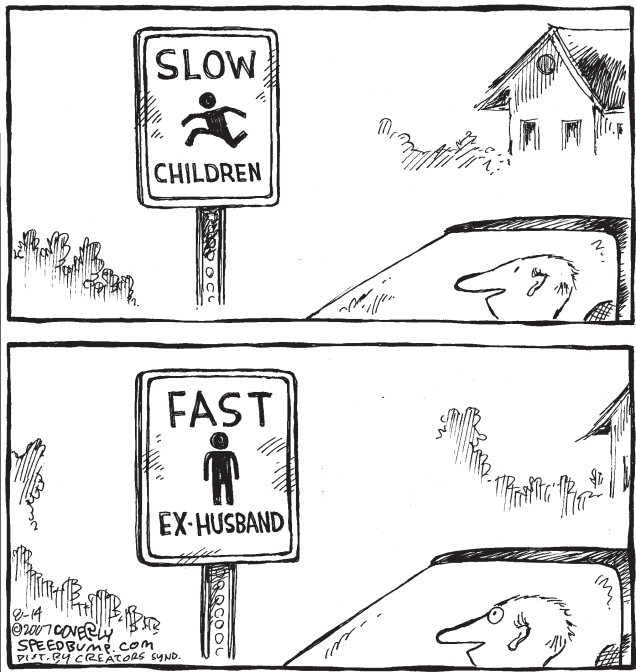
The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew By John Deering



Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



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MYSTERY PHOTO

Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@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 Canine-related
 - 7 Noted surrealist
 - 11 White rat, e.g.
 - 12 Composer Satie
 - 13 Morning pick-me-up
 - 15 Oscar winner for "A Fish Called Wanda"
 - 16 Merriment
 - 18 Lofty
 - 21 Ring match
 - 22 Cookout spots
 - 24 List-end-ing abbr.
 - 25 Beat walker
 - 26 Cave flier
 - 27 Calm
 - 29 Base group
 - 30 Pleasant
 - 31 Overcast
 - 32 One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"
 - 34 It features grim humor
 - 40 Bakery buy
 - 41 Estevez of "Young Guns"
 - 42 Fit
 - 43 Quit
- DOWN**
- 1 Wee dollop
 - 2 Pipe angle
 - 3 Court org.
 - 4 Speeder's reward
 - 5 Sock spot
 - 6 Places
 - 7 Conquer
 - 8 Pound sound
 - 9 Tell tales
 - 10 Likable candidate
 - 14 Like bar beer
 - 16 Boarded
 - 17 TV's Susan
 - 19 Stellar scales
 - 20 Like rich soil

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

Yesterday's answer

- 21 Sleep spot
- 22 "The Raven" writer
- 23 Hog home
- 25 Store worker
- 28 Eaves dropper
- 29 Friend of Porthos
- 31 Ageless dwarf
- 33 Bakery worker
- 34 Lingerie buy
- 35 High hit, in tennis
- 36 The whole amount
- 37 Yale student
- 38 Excavate
- 39 Over there

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					

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
10 20 32 33 54
Meganumber: 39
Jackpot: \$122M

Super LOTTO
2 8 16 23 42
Meganumber: 7
Jackpot: \$65M

Fantasy 5 3 8 16 23 42

DAILY 3 MIDDAY: 9 6 3
EVENING: 8 6 4

DAILY DERRY
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:41.70

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A New Delhi, India, glaciologist said in June that global warming in the Himalayas is at least partly responsible for the melting of the stalagmite in the Amarnath cave in Kashmir, which is one of Hindus' holiest pilgrimage sites because the giant icicle is said to symbolize Lord Shiva (the god of destruction and regeneration), who is typically represented by phalluses. A caretaker of the site told Reuters that the stalagmite is melting rapidly, though it has varied in size from year to year, with the lean years thought to represent Lord Shiva's displeasure about something.

■ Sweden's English-language news outlet reported in June that the government's employment service had granted Roger Tullgren, 42, supplemental income benefits based on his illness of addiction to heavy-metal music. Tullgren (with long, black hair, tattoos and skull-and-crossbones jewelry and who said he attended nearly 300 concerts last year) said he had been addicted for 10 years but finally got three psychologists to sign off on calling his condition a disability. His employer now permits Tullgren to play his music at his dishwashing job.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1183 Taira no Munemori and the Taira clan take the young Emperor Antoku and the three sacred treasures and flee to western Japan to escape pursuit by the Minamoto clan.

1791 Ceremony at Bois Caiman, Haiti; Haitian Revolution begins.

1900 A joint European-Japanese-United States force (Eight-Nation Alliance) occupies Beijing, in a campaign to end the bloody Boxer Rebellion in China.

1908 First beauty contest held in Folkestone, England.

1935 United States Social Security Act passes, creating a government pension system for the retired.

1941 World War II - Winston Churchill and Franklin D. Roosevelt sign the Atlantic Charter of war stating postwar aims.

1967 UK Marine Broadcasting Offences Act declares participation in off-shore pirate radio illegal.

1994 Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, the terrorist known as "Carlos the Jackal", is captured.

2003 Widescale power blackout in the north-east United States and Canada.

2006 The 2006 Lebanon War cease fire goes into effect.

WORD UP!

bellicose \BEL-ih-kohs\, adjective: Inclined to or favoring war or strife; warlike; pugnacious.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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LA PR Firm seeks Admin to answer phones, detailed oriented, internet research, proficient w/MAC, \$11hr call 310-453-4289 or see barringtonstaffing.com

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
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Lantz Security has great jobs in the beach area, all shifts. Guard card preferred. Apply online www.lantzsecurity.com or call (800) 870-4357

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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.

MAGELLAN'S HAS been making travel safer, more comfortable and rewarding since 1989 by offering innovative, quality travel products and clothing. Voted the #1 travel store in Santa Barbara again in 2007, we're looking for individuals to join our team of travel gear experts. We are currently recruiting for the following positions:

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Retail associates are responsible for providing exceptional service to our customers, ringing up sales and participating in visual merchandising, inventory, and all special store events. Weekend availability is required. Benefits for 30+ hrs/wk.

Magellan's offers a fun and challenging work environment as well as competitive compensation, medical, dental & vision insurance and a 401K with employer match. Please forward your resume to: Magellan's, 1006 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90401; Fax 805-564-8014; E-mail: HR@magellans.com



MALIBU ELDER caregiver/live-in 2+days. English speaking, (310)457-7997

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.

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Employment

PERRY'S BEACH Club – Now Hiring!

Work at the beach and get paid.

Hiring: Bike Rental Attendants

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Pizza Rollers

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Employment

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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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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: RONALD NORMAN MILLER CASE NO. BP105908

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the WILL or estate, or both of RONALD NORMAN MILLER. A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by AURORA R. MILLER in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES. THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that LISA MILLER HACKETT AND ANGEL STRATFORD be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. 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

Notices

why the court should not grant the authority. A HEARING on the petition will be held on 09/05/07 at 8:30AM in Dept. 5 located at 111 N. HILL ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 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 MARSHAL A. OLDMAN OLDMAN, COOLEY, SALLUS, GOLD ET AL. LLP 16133 VENTURA BLVD., PENT. A ENCINO, CA 91436-2447 8/7, 8/8, 8/14/07 CNS-1177433# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NUMBER: (Numero del Caso) SC093914 NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): DIANA H. FEINSTEIN, AN INDIVIDUAL, DIANA H. FEINSTEIN, TRUSTEE OF THE MALICKI FAMILY TRUST DATED MARCH 29, 1978, DIANA H. FEINSTEIN, TRUSTEE OF THE DIANA H. FEINSTEIN TRUST DATED MARCH 29, 1978; DOES 1 TO 10, INCLUSIVE YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE): J.S.E.E. LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money and property may be taken without further warning from the court. There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y

Notices

bienes sin mas advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, pueda llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/) o poniendose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es): Superior Court of California, 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401, West District The name, address and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Eric Meller (BN 54123), Meller & Floyd, 2001 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 510. Santa Monica, CA 90403-5675, Telephone: 310-829-0945, 310-829-0469 Date (Fecha): May 15, 2007 JOHN A. CLARKE, Clerk (Secretario), by D MC KINNEY, Deputy (Adjunto) SEAL 8/14, 8/21, 8/28, 9/4/07 CNS-1182195# SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS

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