



PICTURE PERFECT PICO
SEE PAGE 10

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE VINCE WEINICK IS STILL DEAD ISSUE

HEALTH AND SAFETY

TO KILL MOCKING BIRDS

Crows get under residents' skin in Sunset Park

STORY BY MELODY HANATANI PAGE 9



Christine Chang news@smdp.com

Complaints against cops a rarity

BY KEVIN HERRERA | Daily Press Staff Writer

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY When it comes to serving and protecting, the SMPD appears to be holding up its end of the bargain.

Crime in Santa Monica is at a 50-year low and morale is high, evident by the large turnout at last week's block party hosted by City Hall and the Santa Monica Police Department to celebrate National Night Out, "America's night out against crime."

Even more telling, however, is the relatively small number of personnel complaints filed by residents against officers and civilian employees for alleged misconduct. So when a Pico Neighborhood grandmother filed a complaint against a local police officer for allegedly being abusive during a gang sweep last month, the charge hit with a thud.

Over the last three years, members of the Santa Monica Police Department have responded to 248,641 calls for service, according to Lt. Al Venegas with Internal Affairs, the division responsible for logging and investigating complaints filed both externally and internally. During that period, only 76 complaints (or .03 percent of reported contacts with the public) have been filed, the majority of which dealt with rude behavior or remarks made by department employees.

The Los Angeles Police Department, while considerably larger than the SMPD, received 6,716 complaints in 2006, according to an annual report to the Police Commission.

"It isn't by accident that we receive so few complaints," said Lt. Alex Padilla, public information officer for the SMPD, who pointed out that calls for service do not include all interactions with the public, such as when a tourist asks an officer for directions to the beach or an ATM machine.

"It is because of the training we provide to our employees and the relationships we've built with the community," Padilla said. "Are we perfect? No, we are not, but our personnel understands that we are held to a higher standard."

"We take complaints very seriously and investigate each one thoroughly to find out the facts and move in the direction that the facts lead us."

The SMPD released figures on complaints and calls for

SEE COMPLAINTS PAGE 12



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Calendar

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Rodeo days

225 Sixth St., 10 a.m. — 6 p.m.

The Brentwood Countrymart presents rodeo-themed events through Aug. 31. Events include meeting Cowboy Bill, a mechanical bull and more. So grab those spurs and saddle up. For more information, visit www.brentwoodcountrymart.com.

Friday Family Flicks: 'Madagascar'

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.

The Main Library's Friday Family Flicks festival continues with the animated film "Madagascar." Free family fun. Seating is first come, first served in the MLK Jr. Auditorium.

Ruskin's Shakespeare

3000 Airport Ave., 8 p.m.

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

'Just Beyond Reach/New Type Windows'

1423 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, 11 a.m. — 6 p.m.

The night's opening reception presents a series of cibachrome photographic prints which are juxtaposed with Elizabeth Paige Smith's film installation of a suburban neighborhood consumed by technological hell and the resulting effort to find sanctuary within. For more information, call (310) 392-8060.

Saturday, Aug. 18, 2007

It'll be steroidific

Windward Plaza, Venice Beach, 11 a.m. — 5 p.m.

WWE will take over Venice Beach as six of their wrestlers grapple with one another. Events will include photo opportunities with WWE Divas, beach contests, photo opportunities, and prizes. WWE Legend Jimmy Hart will host.

Monthly Lit Flick: 'Pride & Prejudice'

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

The Main Library offers a free screening of the 2005 adaptation of Jane Austen's "Pride & Prejudice," starring Keira Knightley. Seating is first come, first served.

Culture of Peace lecture

606 Wilshire Blvd., 4 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.

Soka Gakkai International-USA's Culture of Peace Resource Center in Santa Monica will sponsor a lecture by UCLA Professor Peter McLaren titled "Educating Against Imperialism: Critical Pedagogy, Social Justice, and the Struggle for Peace." All lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.sgi-usa.org or contact Danny Hall at (310) 309-3209.

A royal revue

2601 Main St., 12:30 p.m. — 4 p.m.

The Ocean Park Branch Library invites folks to afternoon tea with "The Queen." A 12:30 p.m. book discussion of Tina Brown's "The Diana Chronicles" will be followed by a screening of the Oscar-nominated film starring Helen Mirren.

6th Annual Kickin' Cancer!

San Vicente Boulevard & Darlington Avenue,
Brentwood, 7 a.m. — 11 a.m.

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

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.



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CORRECTION:

In the photo caption that accompanied the article about Grateful Dead tribute band Cubensis ("Acclaimed Dead tribute returns to 14-Below," Aug. 16), the photographed man should have been identified as deceased Dead keyboardist Vince Weinick.

Sweet booze gets taxation in California

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO California regulators voted Tuesday to raise taxes on flavored malt beverages, responding to arguments that the sweetened drinks contribute to underage drinking.

The state Board of Equalization voted 3-2 to tax brands such as Mike's Hard Lemonade and Zima as distilled spirits instead of as beer, which has a lower tax rate. That will increase the tax from 20 cents per gallon to \$3.30 per gallon starting in July 2008, if the board can get the regulations in place by then.

Tax board Chair Betty Yee said she accepted the appeals from youth groups and The Marin Institute, an alcohol industry watchdog group, which argued that the so-called "alcopops" are flavored, packaged and marketed to appeal to young people.

"I think the overarching policy concern here was this is one element in dealing with underage drinking," Yee said in a telephone interview after the vote. The packaging and marketing are designed to "make it look like you're drinking something hip."

Angelinos get second quake

By The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES A small earthquake shook parts of Southern California on Thursday, the tremors of which could be felt in Santa Monica.

The 12:23 p.m. tremor had a magnitude of 3.5, according to the California Integrated Seismic Network.

The epicenter was in the northwestern San Fernando Valley, about 4 miles north of Chatsworth and 28 miles northwest of downtown, according to the preliminary information. The depth was 3.2 miles.

Residents reported feeling the quake in the Granada Hills area of the Valley and in coastal Santa Monica.

On Aug. 9, parts of Southern California were shaken by a magnitude-4.6 temblor centered 4 miles northwest of Chatsworth.



Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com

MISERY LOVES COMPANY: A line of cars travel west on Venice Boulevard on Thursday. A new plan is geared towards easing Westside traffic woes.

Plan aims to keep the coast clear

BY EMILY SKEHAN
Special to the Daily Press

COUNTYWIDE For commuters who moan about traffic flowing from LAX, or all throughout the Westside for that matter, some relief may be imminent.

The Los Angeles City Council voted on Wednesday to approve the allocation of \$3.2 million to a Coastal Traffic Improvement Project, one geared towards easing congestion from Playa del Rey to Venice.

"Our gridlock is past intolerable," said Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, sponsor of the project. "It is a real problem and calls for immediate action. We are moving in the right direction, but this is only the beginning. We must do more."

The project aims to provide traffic relief in the southern half of Rosendahl's 11th district, which includes areas spanning from LAX to the Pacific Palisades. It is part of Rosendahl's greater Westside Anti-Gridlock

Plan, with which the councilmember pledged to ease traffic burdens and promote public transport on the crowded Westside.

Planned improvements of the Coastal Traffic Improvement Project include the installation of traffic flow-controlled signal timing, 10 new left-turn phases, communication interconnect along Imperial Highway, and the replacement of outdated traffic lights with state-of-the-art controllers at 160 intersections.

"As LA residents, we're just so accustomed to traffic now," said LA resident Soha Ebneyamin on Thursday. "My favorite is how people say that it takes 20 minutes to get anywhere in LA, and yet it takes me over an hour to get to work."

Ebneyamin thinks improvements like new traffic signals and added lanes are a good first step towards solving the problem, but they aren't enough to banish Westside traffic woes.

"What we really need are more transit projects like they have in New York — underground subways and better public

transport," she said.

"Los Angeles is getting so overpopulated that the only way to fix the problem is to get less people driving."

The Coastal Traffic Improvement Project is a sister project to the West Los Angeles Traffic Improvement Project, which also won support on Wednesday. The latter provides many similar improvements to be applied in the West Los Angeles area.

Last December, Rosendahl unveiled a comprehensive anti-gridlock plan into which these projects fit. The total expenditures for the Westside total more than \$11 million and require formal LA City Council approval.

"When it comes to fighting traffic gridlock, we need a coordinated, comprehensive strategy that addresses transportation issues in specific communities," Rosendahl said.

"We can no longer have a piecemeal approach to traffic congestion."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dubious deciduous decision

Editor:
There is another interesting twist of replacing ficus trees with ginkgos (“Ficus fiasco continues,” Aug. 14) – ginkgo biloba is a deciduous tree. Although their golden color is magnificent in colder climates, it is more dull in California.

Who is going to clean the street? What about winter months when we have barren trees?
K. Neuman
Santa Monica

News brief

Editor:
For those who like their news short and simple, here in 13 words is the cause of California’s current budget crisis: Tom McClintock and his posse of Republicans have bushwacked the state budget again.
End of story!
Ron Lowe
Santa Monica

Can’t land on free parking

Editor:
Why is Friday parking impossible?
It is my belief that the Santa Monica parking authority are neither vendor nor user-friendly. I left my home with what I considered plenty of time to spare in order to attend the Edgemar Theater on Main Street on (a recent) Friday. After cruising the streets and parking lots for 20 minutes and passing dozens of empty stretches of curbs with the “Parking prohibited, except by permit” sign, I finally managed to squeeze into a \$5 spot as a driver was leaving -- and the play was just starting.
C’mon, parking people – loosen up before we take our business to Pasadena or (Rancho) Cucamonga.
Alan A. Ross
Santa Monica

Reader tracks her dreams

Editor:
In my dreams, Santa Monica Place is transformed into a state-of-the-art terminus for the Exposition Light Rail line.
Phyllis Elliott
Santa Monica





Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

‘Turd Blossom’ left dark stains

ON MONDAY, KARL ROVE — THE long-time Bush adviser and, once, one of the most powerful men in the world — announced his resignation. (Resignation or cutting and running?) Rove says he wants to spend more time with his family. I didn’t know he had one. But not to worry, Karl’s only going to be a phone call away. Like Nixon and “The Terminator,” “he’ll be back.” If Hillary Clinton wins the Democratic nomination (which I hope she doesn’t, but that’s another column), Karl will be called upon to rake muck like only he can.

Bush gave Rove his nickname years ago. Apparently in cattle country, from a cow pie a flower has been known to grow. It’s called a turd blossom. Maybe because Rove was always cleaning the smell from Bush’s many messes (DUI, jury duty, etc.), Bush thought it amusing to give Rove the quaint “Turd Blossom” nickname. It almost makes me feel sorry for Rove. Almost. Rove is “Turd Blossom,” Gonzales is “Fredo,” there was “Rummy” and “Brownie,” Vladimir Putin is “Pooty-poot” and even Enron’s Ken Lay was “Kenny-boy.” Evidently, you can take the boy out of the frat house, but you can never take the frat house out of George Bush.

The earliest recollection I have of Karl Rove was when he spoke wistfully of his first encounter with George back in Texas. Obviously, he had a huge “man crush” on W — Rove talked about how Bush looked in his jeans and boots (yuck), and how he walked with the swagger of a movie star. John Wayne had a swagger, Bush just looks bowlegged. The way he walks, he reminds me of a chimp. Listening to Rove talk about Bush that way, already I knew Karl was more than a little peculiar.

The last time I saw Rove was at the White House Correspondents’ Dinner, where he “performed” (if you can call it that) as the rapper known as M.C. Rove. Pasty and pudgy, Rove rapped and danced and proved, if nothing else, white guys should not dance in public. (Mark Madsen, former Laker, proved that once at a championship celebration at Staples Center.) Madsen looked like Fred Astair compared to Rove, who didn’t really dance as much as he hopped around like an old, weird rabbit.

Even more disturbing was when the comedian hosting the improvisational sketch asked Rove what he was going to do after the show. Karl flashed a perverse smile and said he was going to tear the heads off small animals. The comedian blanched and rephrased the question, but Rove stuck with tearing heads off. It was eerie. I pride myself on having a sense of humor, but this seemed closer to Michael Vick than Jay Leno.

There are numerous other quotes of Rove’s that I’ve tried deleting from my mind. On John Kerry and the Vietnam

war, Rove bragged, “By the time I’m done with Kerry, you won’t know which side of the war he fought for.” Bush was a draft dodger (as was Clinton) and Cheney had five deferments, while Kerry was wounded numerous times and awarded medals for his courage. And yet, Rove, using the Swift Boaters, succeeded. (Swift Boat propaganda is now thoroughly discredited, but the low-level tactic worked.) And it was Rove who said proudly of the outing of Valerie Plame, she “was fair game.” How patriotic!

“ROVE’S LEGACY IS A CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT LARGELY DISCREDITED AND DISUNITED, A PRESIDENT WITH LOWER CONSISTENT APPROVAL RATINGS THAN ANY IN MODERN HISTORY.”

But the real question is what will Rove’s legacy be? Andrew Sullivan, a leading conservative voice, said, “Rove’s legacy is a conservative movement largely discredited and disunited, a president with lower consistent approval ratings than any in modern history, a generational shift to the Democrats, a resurgent al Qaeda, an endless catastrophe in Iraq, a long hard struggle in Afghanistan, a fiscal legacy that means bankrupting America within a decade, and the poisoning of American religion with politics and vice-versa.”

Other than all that, he did OK?
For those who still admire Bush and Rove, go to YouTube and type in Cheney ‘94. Click on the photo of Cheney and see him, in 1994, asked if we should have invaded Baghdad. He said it would have created a quagmire; we’d be all alone and seen as occupiers; it would have lead to chaos and come at a cost in lives that couldn’t be justified.

Rove was called “Bush’s Brain,” the “Evil Genius” and the “architect.” Some architect. Look at what they created. Today was the deadliest day in Iraq, ever. History will not be kind to Bush and Rove.

In the meantime, the kindest thing I can say to Turd Blossom is: “Don’t let the doors hit you in the behind on your way out.”

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

PUBLISHER Ross Furukawa ross@smdp.com
EDITOR Michael Tittinger editor@smdp.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Daniel Archuleta daniela@smdp.com
STAFF WRITERS Kevin Herrera kevinh@smdp.com
Melody Hanatani melodyh@smdp.com
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com
PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN Christine Chang news@smdp.com
ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Robbie P. Piubeni rob@smdp.com
Rob Schwenker schwenker@smdp.com
Julie Martinez juliem@smdp.com
ADVERTISING ASSISTANT Cynthia Vazquez advertising@smdp.com
OPERATIONS MANAGER Connie Sommerville connies@smdp.com
PRODUCTION MANAGER Tessa Vergara tessav@smdp.com
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT Frances Casareno production@smdp.com
PRODUCTION INTERN Tessa Pelias production@smdp.com
CLASSIFIEDS SALES MANAGER Annie Kotok anniek@smdp.com
CIRCULATION Keith Wyatt Glenn Bolan glennb@smdp.com
NEWS INTERNS Gerry Shih Emily Skehan news@smdp.com

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1427 Third Street Promenade, #202
Santa Monica, CA 90401
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YOUR OPINION MATTERS! Send your letters to Santa Monica Daily Press Attn. Editor:
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That Rutherford Guy

John H. Whitehead

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Law means nothing to an 'imperial' Bush

"When the President does it, that means that it is not illegal." — Richard Nixon

SINCE 9/11, GEORGE W. BUSH HAS BEEN trampling all over the Constitution. Unfazed by public opinion, the law or Congress, Bush seems to think he can get away with anything.

His most recent attempt (that we know of, at least) to expand his powers beyond all legal justification came in July 2007. Falling conveniently under the rubric of national security, Bush issued an executive order which authorizes the government to freeze the financial assets of anyone who directly or indirectly aids someone who has committed or "poses a significant risk of committing" violent acts "threatening the peace or stability of Iraq."

Yet, as Walter Pincus pointed out in the Washington Post, the text of the order, entitled "Blocking Property of Certain Persons Who Threaten Stabilization Efforts in Iraq," if interpreted broadly, "could cast a far bigger net to include not just those who commit violent acts or pose the risk of doing so in Iraq, but also third parties — such as U.S. citizens in this country — who knowingly or unknowingly aid or encourage such people."

In fact, the language is so broad that ordinary Americans who oppose the Iraq war could find their names on the list of persons who are perceived to be undermining "efforts to promote economic reconstruction and political reform" in Iraq. With public support for the war in Iraq plummeting, this could mean almost anyone.

This executive order is just the latest example of Bush's surreptitious attempts through various presidential directives, executive orders and stealth provisions to lay claim to a host of unprecedented powers. For example, last fall, the Bush Administration engineered into a mammoth defense budget bill the insertion of two stealth provisions that authorize the president to use the military as a domestic police force in response to a natural disaster, disease outbreak, terrorist attack or any "other condition." And another "presidential directive" issued in May 2007 allows Bush to assume control of the federal government following a "catastrophic event" such as an earthquake, hurricane or another 9/11.

Undaunted by plummeting approval ratings, George Bush just keeps moving forward. And our paper tiger Congress isn't helping matters much, either. As Jonathan

Alter noted in Newsweek, right before leaving for their summer recess, Congress "sold out the Constitution to cover their political rears while keeping the rest of us mostly in the dark." Giving in to pressure from the White House, Congress passed the Protect America Act of 2007 (the title alone should be a warning that illicit motives are at work), which authorizes open-ended surveillance of Americans' overseas phone calls and e-mails without the need for a warrant or security justification. It is, as Aziz Huq writes in The Nation, "power without responsibility."

We are long past the point of concerning ourselves about the potential for abuse. This is out and out abuse — of a federal office, of governmental powers, of the oath made to the America people to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution.

President Bush is clearly not listening to the American people, and the law means next to nothing to him — unless he can bend it to his own purposes.

Which leaves us where, exactly? The groundwork has been laid, the documents signed and the powers transferred. For all intents and purposes, the Bill of Rights is as good as dead. All we await is the fall of the axe to signal that what has been plotted on paper is now a reality: The Bill of Rights will soon cease to afford us any protection from an imperial president.

And still President Bush continues to add to his list of extraordinary orders and directives, granting himself near dictatorial powers. Congress, with little spine, less integrity and too busy running for re-election, offers little attempt at oversight, enabling the president to ride roughshod over the Constitution. And the media — the perfect accomplice in this stealthy, bloodless coup — content to inundate us with the latest celebrity scandal, says virtually nothing about Bush's burgeoning powers.

All the while, most Americans continue to operate in blissful near-ignorance, unaware or uncaring that the republic is about to fall. Yet, in the end, "we the people" — not the president or the politicians — are the ones who will suffer the consequences. They may justify violating our freedoms in the name of national security and the war against terrorism, but we will always be the ones to pay the price.

JOHN W. WHITEHEAD is founder of The Rutherford Institute. He can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org.

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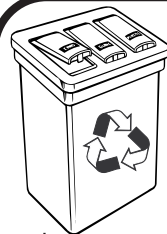
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The Q-Line

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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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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Late night stroll on beach ends ugly

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

SATURDAY, AUG. 11, AT 2 A.M.

A man and his female acquaintance were walking along the beach when they were approached by a man who claimed to be a security officer, police said. The man produced a badge and searched the couple, saying he needed to make sure they did not have any alcohol or drugs on them. Police said the man threatened to place the couple under arrest if they did not cooperate. After searching the couple, the man with the badge then ordered them to walk to their car so he could search it. The man forced the couple into the car and jumped into the driver's seat and took off. He drove the couple to several ATMs in Los Angeles, ordering them to withdraw large sums of money before dropping them off near the West Covina Police Department. There, the couple reported the car-jacking and provided a description of the car and the suspect. The next day, Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies in the city of Industry spotted the suspect and arrested him for kidnapping, robbery and car-jacking. The suspect was identified as Desmond Maurice McGill, 28, of Glendale. His bail was set at \$1 million.

SATURDAY, AUG. 11, AT 7:50 P.M.

Santa Monica Police officers responded to the 2000 block of Pier Avenue after receiving a call regarding a suspicious person in the area. A resident told officers that they saw a man climb over a neighbor's fence with a duffelbag. Armed with a description of the suspect, officers made contact a short time later. The suspect, who was detained while sitting in a parked van, said he was in the area visiting a friend, but could not provide any more information. After further questioning, the suspect pointed to a home and said his friend lived there. One of the officers went to the home to make contact with the owner. The owner said they did not know the suspect. Officers detained the suspect and conducted a search of his vehicle. They found a small amount of marijuana, electronics and miscellaneous papers. Officers went to the home that was allegedly burglarized and noticed some of the window screens had been removed. Officers could not confirm if the suspect made entry, but there was enough evidence in the van to place him under arrest for burglary and possession of a controlled substance. The suspect was identified as Sebastian Guy Underwood II, 25, from Los Angeles. His bail was set at \$50,000.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 8, AT 11:30 A.M.

Officers on routine patrol near the corner of Lincoln Boulevard and Marine Street spotted a person riding in the back of a truck with a dog that was not tethered, in violation of the vehicle code. Officers conducted a traffic stop and recognized one of the occupants as a person wanted in connection with a warrant issued for the sale of narcotics. The warrant originated from a drug sale at the Pavilion Motel in Sunset Park. The suspect was arrested. She was identified as Melanie Ann Pump, 43, from Santa Monica. No bail was set because she was on probation, police said.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 8, AT 9:30 A.M.

Officers responded to the 1400 block of Third Street – Broadway Deli – regarding a suspect who was being held by restaurant employees for failing to pay for \$17.38 worth of food they had just eaten. When officers arrived, they spoke with the suspect, who said they did not have money to pay for the food. The suspect was arrested and charged with commercial burglary since he went into the restaurant with the intention not to pay, as he had no money. The suspect was identified as Nabil Jamali, 29, a transient. His bail was set at \$20,000.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 8, AT 7:50 P.M.

Officers responded to the 1800 block of 16th Street regarding a report of an assault with a deadly weapon. When officers arrived, they made contact with several witnesses who said that a fight broke out between relatives over the storage of jet skis. Apparently, one of the jet skis scratched the relative's car. At some point during the argument, the suspect grabbed the victim and hit him with a glass bottle. The suspect was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon. He was identified as John Anthony Martin, 27, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at \$30,000.

TUESDAY, AUG. 7, AT 2:20 P.M.

Officers responded to the 1600 block of 11th Street after receiving a report about an attempted kidnapping. When officers arrived, they made contact with the victim, who said she was walking to back to work after getting something to eat when two men grabbed her and tried to throw her in some bushes to rape her. She managed to break away from them and ran to her work, where she called police. She was able to identify the two suspects, who were still in the area. Officers arrested the suspects for kidnapping and attempted rape. They were identified as Ricardo Serrano, 43, a transient, and Phillipe Quinones, 39, a transient. Bail was set at \$1 million for both suspects.

Staff Writer KEVIN HERRERA compiled these reports.

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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Education gap could be racial

BY JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO After several years of steady progress, California students made only slight gains in English and none in math on academic achievement tests last year, according to the latest results released Wednesday by the state Department of Education.

Even more worrisome, the double-digit achievement gap between black and Hispanic students and their white and Asian counterparts persists on the annual standardized tests, and does not appear to be linked solely to socioeconomic status.

"These are not just economic achievement gaps. These are racial achievement gaps. We cannot afford to excuse them," Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said in a conference call with reporters.

THESE ARE NOT JUST ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENT GAPS. THESE ARE RACIAL ACHIEVEMENT GAPS."

Jack O'Connell
Superintendent of Public Instruction

For instance, the gap between white and black students in English language arts has remained at 31 percentage points since 2003, despite gains in that time for both

groups. In math, the gap between white and black students has stayed at 28 percentage points, and similar gaps remain between white and Hispanic students.

When scores in the Standardized Testing and Reporting Program are broken down by ethnicity and poverty levels, white students from poor families performed better than black or Hispanic students who are not poor, O'Connell noted.

The state superintendent and other leaders have called the achievement gap the most pressing problem facing California schools, but they have not made much progress in addressing it.

O'Connell said educators need to examine whether they are truly holding all students to the same expectations and whether all schools and all students have access to the funds and teachers they need.

He said it is vital for the state to close the gap, "not just for the moral imperative, but for the economic imperative. These are the sub-groups that are growing the fastest in our state."

Jim Lanich, president of California Business for Education Excellence, said state officials need to stop talking about the achievement gap and actually do something about it.

Education leaders need to "stop making excuses for poor performance and instead learn from high performing schools in high poverty neighborhoods throughout the state and systematically replicate their proven best practices that close achievement gaps," Lanich said in a statement.

His group has aggressively lobbied the state to change its school ranking system to penalize schools that do not cut performance gaps between ethnic groups.

Boxer wants to know more about state's faulty bridges

BY LAURA KURTZMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Democratic Sen. Barbara Boxer called Wednesday on state officials to provide better information about the true state of California's bridges, while the speaker of the state Assembly pressed the need for more thorough inspections.

Boxer, who chairs a U.S. Senate committee that oversees infrastructure, made the remarks after a capital briefing she convened to gather information about the state's transportation repair needs in the wake of the Aug. 1 collapse of a span in Minneapolis.

State Director of Transportation Will Kempton blamed the federal government's bridge rating system for confusion about the condition of the state's bridges. He said the system forces California to classify bridges as "structurally deficient," even when they have superficial problems like peeling paint.

California has 1,620 state bridges deemed structurally deficient, the same designation given to the span of Interstate 35W, which collapsed into the Mississippi River during the evening commute. Nine people have been confirmed dead and four are still missing.

Despite being given the same federal rating as the Minneapolis bridge, Kempton said 95 percent of California's structurally defi-

cient bridges have only minor problems — which is why he said the rating system should be changed.

But Boxer rejected the idea and told Kempton to concentrate instead on proving to the public that the bridges are really safe.

"I do not favor changing the language," said Boxer, who chairs the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. "I think that is the worst signal to send. The people will be very cynical."

Adding to the confusion, Kempton acknowledged last week that some state-owned bridges need to be repaired or replaced. But he has refused to identify which bridges are most in need of attention.

In the wake of the bridge collapse in Minneapolis, the federal government ordered all bridges built in a similar way to be inspected. As a result, Kempton's department inspected 69 California bridges and deemed them safe.

But Assembly Speaker Fabian Núñez said he was still not reassured.

"We have not done in this state, Sen. Boxer, a thorough enough job in making sure that our bridges are structurally safe," said Nunez, D-Los Angeles. "And we need to spend the time necessary in order to do that. If they're not structurally safe, then we need to be honest about that."



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Average Price of Properties Listed for Sale

	Single Family Homes	Condo & Townhomes
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North of Montana	= \$ 3,871,619	\$ 2,030,758
Between Wilshire & Montana	= \$ 3,147,455	\$ 860,658
South of Wilshire	= \$ 1,041,111	\$ 687,481
Sunset Park	= \$ 1,439,789	\$ 661,359
Ocean Park	= \$ 1,898,000	\$ 1,049,579

Statistics updated every Friday

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City of Santa Monica is pleased to announce the implementation of BidsOnline™, a fully automated web-based vendor and bid management system. This system makes doing business with the City of Santa Monica easier by providing vendors a searchable online database of current bid and proposal solicitations. Vendors interested in doing business with the City are encouraged to **register online** by proceeding as follows:



1. Go to **http://www.smgov.net**
 - Choose the "Business" tab then click on the word "Vendor" which will open up a new window to the Purchasing website.
 - Click on "Online Vendor Registration" and complete the form.

- OR -

2. **http://vendors.planetbids.com/santamonica/bidframe.cfm**
 - Select "Register" from the top menu bar (under "Financial Operations: Purchasing Section") and complete the form.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Purchasing Section at (310) 458-8281.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

**Street Lighting Assessment District - Phase 8, SP2001
(Georgina Avenue From 4th Street to 7th Street)**

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

ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE: \$230,000
CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS: 120
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: \$1,250.00 PER DAY
COMPENSABLE DELAY: \$500.00 PER DAY



Contract Documents may be obtained at the Office of the City Engineer or by mail for an additional mailing charge (check or money order payable to the City of Santa Monica). Cost of the documents shall be **\$50.00**. Additional mailing charge shall be **\$10.00**. Contract Documents may also be examined in City Hall, at the Civil Engineering and Architecture counter, phone number (310) 458-8721. Additional information may be obtained on the City's website at www.santa-monica.org/engineering. The Contractor is required to have a **Class A or C-10** license at the time of bid submission.

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

THIS CONTRACT WILL BE ADMINISTERED PURSUANT TO DIVISION 7 OF THE CALIFORNIA STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE, COMMONLY CITED AS THE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1911. PLEASE REFER TO THE INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS, ATTACHMENTS 1 THROUGH 4, FOR INFORMATION REGARDING PAYMENT TO CONTRACTOR AND ASSIGNMENT OF CONTRACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

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Suicidal soldiers

Army recruits taking their own lives at an all-time high pace

BY PAULINE JELINEK

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Ninety-nine U.S. soldiers killed themselves last year, the highest rate of suicide in the Army in 26 years of record keeping, a new report says.

Nearly a third of soldiers who committed suicide did so while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, according to a report released Thursday. Iraq accounted for the overwhelming number — with 27 of the suicides coming from that conflict and three from Afghanistan. Also, there were 948 attempted suicides, officials said, adding that they didn't have a comparison for previous years.

The report said the 99 confirmed suicides among active duty soldiers compares with 88 in 2005 and was the highest raw number since 102 suicides were reported in 1991, the year of the Persian Gulf War, when there were more soldiers on active duty.

Investigations are still pending on two other deaths and if they are confirmed as suicides, the number for last year would rise to 101.

In a half million-person Army, last year's suicide toll translates to a rate of 17.3 per 100,000, the highest since the Army started counting in 1980, officials said. The rate has fluctuated over those years, with the low being 9.1 per 100,000 in 2001.

Failed personal relationships, legal and financial problems and the stress of their jobs were factors motivating the soldiers to commit suicide, according to the report. It also found a significant relationship between

suicide attempts and the number of days deployed in Iraq, Afghanistan or nearby countries where troops were participating in the war effort.

There was "limited evidence" to back the suspicion that repeated deployments are putting more people at risk for suicide, the report said. With the Army stretched thin by years of fighting the two wars, the Pentagon has had to extend normal tours of duty this year to 15 months from 12 and has sent some troops back to the wars several times.

Officials found no direct link between suicide and deployments or exposure to combat except in how they affect a soldier's marriage or other close relationships, Col. Elspeth Ritchie, psychiatry consultant to the Army surgeon general, said in a Pentagon press conference.

"Unfortunately, suicide is very often a compulsive act," she said, and the fact that soldiers are armed can make it harder to prevent.

"Very often a young soldier gets a 'Dear John' or 'Dear Jane' letter and then takes his weapon and shoots himself," she said.

Preliminary numbers for the first half of 2007 indicate the number of suicides could decline across the service but increase among troops serving in the wars, officials said.

Some troop surveys in Iraq have shown that 20 percent of Army soldiers have signs and symptoms of post-traumatic stress, which can cause flashbacks of traumatic combat experiences and other severe reactions. About 35 percent of soldiers are seeking some kind of mental health treatment a year after returning home under a program that screens returning troops for physical and mental health problems, officials have said.

The Army has sent medical teams annually to the battlefield in Iraq to survey troops, health care providers and chaplains about health, morale and other issues.

Farmers fear fiscal impacts of new immigration policy

BY JULIANA BARBASSA

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO With fruit rotting in fields, un milked cows suffering in barns and shuttered farmhouses, growers are painting a bleak picture of their industry under new federal immigration policies.

Following the Bush administration announcement that employers who knowingly keep undocumented workers will be held liable under a new enforcement push, many growers said their businesses would be hardest hit.

Particularly vulnerable would be fruit operations that are now hiring thousands of seasonal workers in preparation for the peak harvest months of July through September. The measure is to take effect in mid-September.

Andy Casado Jr. is a California farm labor contractor with nearly 800 workers who also grows and packs fruit himself.

"I'm guessing 80, 90 percent of the ag work force is illegal," he said. "Implementing this rule will be catastrophic."

While it's long been illegal to hire anyone not authorized to work in the United States, farmers take their chances that documents presented by the 1.6 million farmworkers around the country are valid, said Howard Rosenberg, a farm labor at the University of California.

Think tanks that oppose illegal immigra-

tion praised the move, hoping it will turn off the job magnet has attracted new immigrants.

To farm workers, though, it's just another effort by the government to look good at the expense of the people who hold down the hardest and lowest paid jobs in the country.

THERE'S ALWAYS MORE PRESSURE ON THE IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY."

Gerardo Reyes, farm worker

"There's always more pressure on the immigrant community," said farm worker Gerardo Reyes of Immokalee, Fla. "We're making sure food gets to everyone's tables."

Farmers and farmworkers agreed raising the stakes could hurt everyone.

"We're going to face firing employees whether the documents are wrong or right with no one to fill those positions," said J. Allen Carnes, president of Winter Garden Produce in Uvalde, Texas.

Carnes said he's already suffered worker shortages during the last few years because of tightened border security.

Crows caw crazy in Sunset Park

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK A war is brewing between Tom Beaulieu and more than 100 crows.

The Santa Monican is fighting for the rights to a good night's rest and a yard devoid of bird droppings.

The black birds have been the bane of Beaulieu's existence since he moved into his Pine Street home five years ago; a half decade of putting up with the incessant cawing and crows taking a dump all over his house and yard, frightening his visitors.

"The whole roof of my garage is covered with poop, the furniture is covered with poop and I have to wash the walk down because it's covered with poop," Beaulieu said. "It's disgusting."

There's a few new faces in the tree-laden Sunset Park district, but residents aren't rushing to throw their new feathery neighbors a welcome party, complaining instead of some un-neighborly behavior that includes defecating on walkways and disturbing the peace.

Sunset Park residents have noted a population boom of the corvid birds in their neighborhood, hundreds of crows lining power lines and resting in trees, cawing and annoying many of those who live nearby.

The Friends of Sunset Park was flooded with about 100 e-mails within the past week regarding crows, more than 80 of which were complaints.

"They ranged from being awoken at 4 a.m. by loud cawing, excessive feathers, damage to roofs from pecking birds, damage to car paint, plants and patio furniture ... and concern about health issues from the droppings and from dead birds," said Zina Josephs, the president of the neighborhood organization.

At least five residents have reportedly discovered dead crows in their neck of the woods, heightening fears of West Nile Virus, a disease transmitted via mosquitos.

Cheri Bickinson has found several dead crows in her neighborhood over the past two years and avoids walking her dog in a heavily bird dung-infested area of 22nd Street.

The crows don't look like they died from physical harm, Bickinson said. They simply looked as though they just dropped dead.

She most recently found one lying dead on a lawn in April.

"I don't let my dog walk there because I'm thinking about the bird flu," Bickinson said. "West Nile Virus freaks me out, thinking about my dogs laying out there at night and being bitten by mosquitos."

There have been no cases of crows testing positive for West Nile Virus in Santa Monica in the past two years, said Don Umber, the manager of Animal Control.

WEST NILE HITS HOME

West Nile Virus is transmitted to a human through an infected mosquito, which can become infected by biting a diseased bird, according to the county Department of Public Health. The virus cannot be spread from bird to human or between humans.

Symptoms of the virus include high fever, headaches, neck stiffness and convulsions, according to the Center for Disease Control.

Last week, health officials confirmed the county's first case of a human contracting the virus in 2007. A middle-aged man from



Christine Chang news@smdp.com

CAW CAW: Sunset Park residents bemoan the increased presence of crows in the neighborhood.

the San Fernando Valley was hospitalized in July for West Nile meningitis and is now recovering at home.

The virus has been detected in nine birds and 14 mosquito pools in the county this year, most of which were discovered in the San Fernando Valley. There have been 80 cases of human infections statewide in 2007, resulting in five deaths.

Still, the infection is found most commonly in crows, said Dr. Jonathan Fielding, the director of the Department of Public Health.

Umber said he has not noticed an unusual pattern of crow deaths in Sunset Park, adding that an area attractive to large flocks of crows like Sunset Park, with its power lines and trees, are bound to turn up dead birds every now and then.

"Birds die for various reasons," Umber said. "When crows die, they tend to be more visible because of their size."

Though there have been no cases in Santa Monica, residents should still take precautions to avoid contracting West Nile Virus, patching up holes in screen doors and drying up still pools of water that are attractive to mosquitos.

LOUNGING AROUND IN SUNSET PARK

Over the past few years, Beaulieu has become well-versed in the mannerisms and behavior of his enemy, when they're in town and for how long.

The crows come every morning at sunrise and every evening at sunset, almost five days a week. Depending on the force of the wind, there are anywhere from 100 to 150 crows perched in his neighbor's tree, which Beaulieu adds, just happens to be one of the tallest trees in the neighborhood.

The birds flail around in the tree, knocking off leaves and berries, which fall onto the roof of Beaulieu's home office.

"I tell (people) this is their afternoon meeting and they decide where to go tomorrow," he said. "And when they come tomorrow morning and they decide where to go for the day."

SEE CROW PAGE 10



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Big black crows accused of killing residents' spirits

FROM CROW PAGE 9

Crows, by nature, travel in large groups because of their social behavior and are attracted to areas with tall trees and power lines that enable them to remain in large numbers, Umber said.

The birds don't typically stick to any one spot for a lengthy period of time and eventually move on, he added.

Many residents annoyed with the presence of crows complain of the birds damaging their roofs, keeping them up at night, defecating and killing flowers and even attacking smaller birds.

One resident has even complained that the birds start cawing in front of their window at 4 a.m.

Bickinson, who lives in the eastern part of Sunset Park, sees hundreds of crows sitting on the power lines outside her home, occasionally flying over her house and pecking on the roof.

"They are somewhat of a nuisance," she said.

If you discover a dead crow, call the Animal Control at 310-458-8594.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD REGULAR MEETING

DATE/TIME: August 20, 2007, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

- ARB 06-349, 1400 Third Street Promenade: Commercial
- ARB 07-008, 818 Lincoln Boulevard: Multi-Residential
- ARB 07-097, 2005 Nineteenth Street: Multi-Residential
- ARB 07-124, 401 Broadway: Mixed-Use
- ARB 07-166, 2117 Dewey Street: Single-Family
- ARB 07-213, 2635 Santa Monica Boulevard: Commercial
- ARB 07-230, 1707 Cloverfield Boulevard: Self Storage
- ARB 07-241, 1505 Wilshire Boulevard: Commercial
- ARB 07-282, 159 Fraser Avenue: Single-Family
- ARB 07-298, 1544 Seventh Street: Multi-Residential

More information is available on-line at <http://santa-monica.org/planning/planningcomm/arbagenda.htm> or at 310/458-8341 en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail planning@santa-monica.org, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). Call 310-458-8341 or TTY 310-450-8896 for disability accommodation requests. Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 7 & 8 serve City Hall.

A DAY IN THE

P I C O N E I G H B O R H O O D



Photos and text by Christine Chang

SUNNY DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN: (Clockwise, from above) Bloomed pink roses sit in front of a grave at Woodlawn Cemetery, blistering in the hot summer weather; Tai Haug walks home from the park with her two children and three neighbors on Delaware Avenue; Art Institute student Sintia Ascencio takes a study break from working at Yummy.com and crams for an evening final for her 'Intro to Psychology' class; Tommy Storm indulges in a water fountain, getting a mouthful as he cools off at Virginia Avenue Park's Splash Pad, a water play zone for children; Alyssa Perez blows bubbles to entertain Jeremy Guerrero while Maria Hernandez looks on along 16th Street in the summer heat. It was 86 degrees that day, the hottest day so far this week.



fe

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2007



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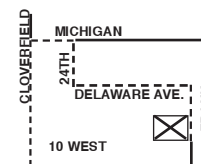
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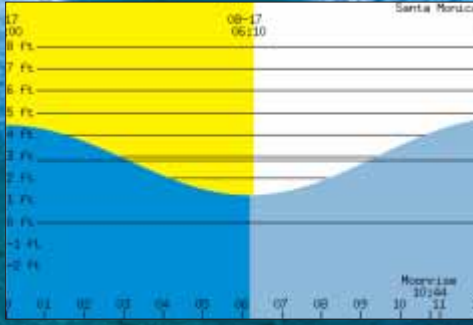
SWELL FORECAST (2-4 FT)
Today the wind swell should persist with similar size as today: waist high for west facing breaks, south facing breaks knee to waist from the wrap. Note that no significant SW is due, so the NW is the only game in town. Winds will likely transition on Friday with the AM seeing NNE breezes, then somewhat southerly by noon and then light westerly onshores in the afternoon from 8-12 mph.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

HURRICANE SURF POTENTIAL DIMINISHED

WATER TEMP: 67°

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD



NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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

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

QUICK STATS

(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 3

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 42 / 15

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 15

The Beach Report Card is made possible by a grant from



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

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Cerritos Beach, at Arroyo Sequit 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 Tennessee Canyon drain	A	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauque)	A+	ns
Bread 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 at Wilshire Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	F	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Venice storm drain	A	ns
Escandido Creek, just east of Escandido State Beach	A	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A+	ns
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	ns
Selkirk Canyon at Oak Bluffs County Beach	A+	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	C	ns
Panero State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Panero Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	C	ns
Surfider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	F	ns
Surfider 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 - Wrigley 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 (paint zero)	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 15048 PCH stairs	A+	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunos 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
Tongva State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns	Dockweiler Beach - opposite Hypanion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns			

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A - F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken



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

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Fabian Lewkowicz fabianl@smdp.com
STOP YOUR WHINING: Complaints against Santa Monica police officers are seldom filed.

Fear factor cited

FROM COMPLAINTS PAGE 1

service at the request of the Daily Press. The request was made after Pico resident Charlene Gowers filed a complaint against an SMPD officer for allegedly being abusive when she was arrested for child endangerment and assault on a police officer.

Gowers, 50, said she was walking with her 3-year-old grandson and some neighborhood children on 1900 block of 17th Street the evening of July 28 when she found herself in the middle of a multi-agency raid on a suspected gang member's home.

THE COMMUNITY EXPECTS ONLY THE BEST FROM US, AND RIGHTFULLY SO."

SMPD Lt. Alex Padilla
spokesman for the SMPD

Gowers said several undercover officers from Los Angeles, Culver City and Santa Monica jumped out of a van with their guns drawn and began cursing at her, the children and her adult son, who had met the mid-block, for failing to stay clear of the raid.

Gowers claims there were no signs or barricades that would have led her to believe an investigation was in progress, just a standard police car parked with its lights flashing.

Before she knew it, Gowers said she and her son were being handcuffed, with police officers yelling in her face, "The kid is gone. You will never see him again," referring to her grandson, who was taken from Gowers by a representative from the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services and later released to his mother.

While she was more upset with officers from Los Angeles and Culver City, Gowers said she filed the complaint against the Santa Monica officer because he should have better blocked off the area to protect the public from potential danger.

Gowers has since withdrawn her complaint, Venegas said. In a telephone interview Thursday, Gowers said her attorney advised her to no longer comment on the incident or the complaint. In a previous interview conducted three days after the incident, Gowers said she planned to file complaints against Culver City and Los Angeles police and was contemplating suing all agencies involved.

Venegas said Internal Affairs was prepared to investigate Gowers' complaint and called her to conduct an interview, but she refused.

When investigating a complaint, Venegas said Internal Affairs approaches it with the same vigor as any other investigation involving a homicide or a robbery.

"We take complaints very seriously," Venegas said.

Investigators conduct field interviews, take pictures, gather witnesses and submit findings to the chief of police, who then determines what type of discipline to dish out. Punishment could include everything from a written reprimand to outright dismissal.

Officers have the right to appeal. Padilla and Venegas said they could not remember when a SMPD officer was last fired for misconduct on the job, but do recall a couple of officers being released for improper conduct when out of uniform.

Of the nine complaints filed by Pico Neighborhood residents, some of whom have been the department's biggest critics, one was sustained, or found to be true, Venegas said. In that incident, the officer in question misplaced the complainant's personal property. Three complaints are still under investigation.

Critics contend the number of complaints does not tell the whole story. Many people are afraid to file out of fear of retaliation, or may be intimidated by the process. Also, there is a law on the books that makes it a misdemeanor to knowingly file a false complaint, and that could have caused some to remain silent.

Venegas said that law is no longer enforced after the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that making false complaints is a form of protected speech.

Supporters of law enforcement continually point out that complaints are more often filed out of spite and contain false accusations as a way to retaliate against officers. If enough complaints are filed against a particular officer, that may force commanders to transfer that cop to another beat or assign them to a desk.

To make it easier to file, the SMPD has added a link on its Web site where people can make complaints electronically. Complaints can also be called in over the telephone, mailed in a detailed letter to Internal Affairs or filed in person, Venegas said.

"We take complaints no matter how they come," he said.

kevinh@smdp.com

Not so Foxy

Hot-headed hip-hop artist charged for hurling phone

FOXY BROWN's temper seems to have gotten her in trouble again.

The 27-year-old rapper, who is on probation for attacking two manicurists at a nail salon in 2004, has been charged with assault and possession of a weapon, her cell phone, for allegedly hitting a neighbor with her BlackBerry.

Earlier this year, she was threatened with jail in

a hair salon incident in Florida. Police said Brown threw hair glue at a beauty shop employee.

The latest arrest could lead to her probation being revoked.

"We have filed a violation of probation with the court," said Jack Ryan, a spokesman for the city Department of Probation.

Brown was arrested Tuesday for allegedly assaulting Arlene

Raymond, 25, who lives near the rapper in the Prospect Heights section of Brooklyn, on July 30. Police said the two women got into a fight over Brown blasting her car stereo.

Raymond alleged that a few days later, they passed each other on the street and Brown hurled her BlackBerry at her, cutting her lip and knocking a tooth loose.

Brown, whose real name

is Inga Marchand, was released on \$50,000 bail after her arraignment Tuesday on charges of felony assault, misdemeanor assault and criminal possession of a weapon. Her manager, Chaz Williams, said the charges were false.

Brown's lawyer, state Sen. John Sampson, didn't immediately respond to requests Thursday for comment.

The rapper was accused of violating probation in the incident at the Florida hair salon. She was threatened with jail, but was restored to probation in good standing in June by a Manhattan judge, who said Brown had kept appointments with her probation officer, passed drug tests and attended required anger management classes.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TIME FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

A photographer convicted of assaulting **HEATHER MILLS** was sentenced Thursday to 140 hours of community service.

Jay Kaycappa, 32, was one of a group of photographers who pursued Mills, the estranged wife of former Beatle Paul McCartney, as she cycled through Brighton, in southern England, in July 2006.

Mills testified that Kaycappa cornered her and grabbed her shoulder to swing her around and take her picture.

AP

No doubt about it: Gwen wants more kids

GWEN STEFANI says she wants more children, but not while she's on tour and not until she's done another No Doubt record.

Her 1-year-old son, Kingston, has been traveling with the 37-year-old singer on her "The Sweet Escape" tour.

"I go from the tour bus to the hotel room to the concert venue, all while carrying my baby," Stefani tells InStyle in its September issue, on newsstands Friday.

"He's just getting into music. He does the whole

head-bouncing thing," she says.

"I love him so much. He's the best thing that has ever happened to me."

Kingston is the first child for Stefani and her rocker husband, Gavin Rossdale, 39, who were married in 2002.

"Obviously I'm in a race to have another, but I don't want to do it while on tour," Stefani says. "And I want to do another No Doubt record."

"But I can't wait to get pregnant again," she tells the magazine.

AP



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

Celebrate this weekend, Leo

Happy Birthday!

New beginnings become possible through communication. Many of you might opt for new computers, cars and different forms of self-expression. Signing up for a workshop in communication is not far-fetched. You care and want others to know how you feel. If you are single, your jovial, upbeat style draws admirers. If you are attached, spending more time alone, just the two of you, adds to the warmth of your bond. LIBRA loves to engage in conversation with you.



Born Today

Actor Sean Penn (1960)
Actor Robert De Niro (1943)

Actress Mae West (1893)
Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at <http://www.jacquelinebigar.com>
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ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ Others seem unusually clear or dynamic. Notice the power of two rather than one. If you team up with someone, you'll make waves. Tonight: Enjoy someone trying to persuade you to join his or her camp.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Your easygoing way helps others relax. You easily get your work done too. Consider a property investment more carefully. A family member enjoys your attention. Tonight: Find a favorite spot to relax.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Your creativity emerges and finds solutions with ease. If you have a tendency to be flirtatious, you might be shocked by your own wildness. Be sensitive to others and their limits. Some people are working on a different track. Tonight: Lead others into a romp.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Stay anchored, knowing your limits. How you treat someone might change once you get a sense of where this person is coming from. Discuss your budget with someone who understands spending. Tonight: Treat yourself!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ You have a way of saying what you feel and making an impact on the many people in your life. Roll with a situation, knowing your limits exactly. A smile can loosen up a situation far better than a discussion. Tonight: Join friends as you celebrate the weekend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Your instincts may encourage spending right now. How wrong can they be? Perhaps you simply want to let someone know just how much you care, but be careful about letting your checkbook become totally liquid. Tonight: Treating doesn't have to cost.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You know when you are on a roll, and right now others do too. Whether you are aware of it, you have many supporters and friends. Suddenly you understand what someone has been trying to tell you. Tonight: Whatever knocks your socks off.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Step back. Though you might have some strong opinions, you might not be in the right place to express them. A partner or associate takes a strong stand. Your creativity surges, but don't skip over a vital detail. Tonight: Not to be found!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Aim high. A meeting might be provocative on some level. Understand what someone is saying. You might do a reversal. Don't close yourself off from new ideas. Tonight: Find your friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Responsibilities fall on your shoulders. Others are pleased to see how well you handle yourself and what your natural choices are. You might want to revise your thinking, but certainly not your investments. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Forge new ground, and you will be comfortable while many are not. If your mind is convinced this direction is the correct one, you'll know no risk and little anxiety. A partner admires your strength. Tonight: Be bold in your choices.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Work with one other person. Know what you want, which could involve a partnership. This person might be more amenable than you think. You discover what a delightful surprise you have ahead of you. Tonight: Avoid over-imagining. No mountains out of molehills for you.

MOVIEGUIDE

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Rope & lifeboat (NR)
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
Daddy Day Camp (PG)
11:55am, 2:15, 4:35
The Last Legion (PG-13)
11:50am, 2:25, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10
Simpsons Movie, The (PG-13)
12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15
Transformers (PG-13)
7:00, 10:05

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

The Bourne Ultimatum (PG)
10:50am, 1:40, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
Hairspray (PG)
10:55am, 1:45, 4:40, 7:35, 10:20
I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry (PG-13)
7:50, 10:25
No Reservations (PG)
11:35am, 2:00, 4:35, 7:25, 10:00
Ratatouille (G)
11:30am, 2:10, 4:45, 7:10, 9:50
The Simpson Movie (PG-13)
11:25am, 1:55, 4:25, 7:05, 9:30
Stardust (PG-13)
11:00am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:35
Underdog (PG)
11:05am, 1:15, 3:25, 5:35

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8223

Death at a Funeral (R)
2:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Talk to Me (R)
1:00, 7:00
This Is England (NR)
4:00, 9:45

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
Delirious (NR)
1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50
La Vie en Rose (La Mome) (PG-13)
1:20, 4:45, 8:10

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

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG-13)
12:10, 3:10, 6:30, 9:50
The Invasion (PG-13)
11:10am, 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00am
Rush Hour 3 (PG-13)
11:40am, 12:20, 2:10, 2:50, 4:40, 5:20, 7:10, 7:50, 9:20, 10:00, 11:40
Superbad (R)
11:00am, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 4:30, 5:30, 7:30, 8:30, 10:30, 11:30

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

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

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GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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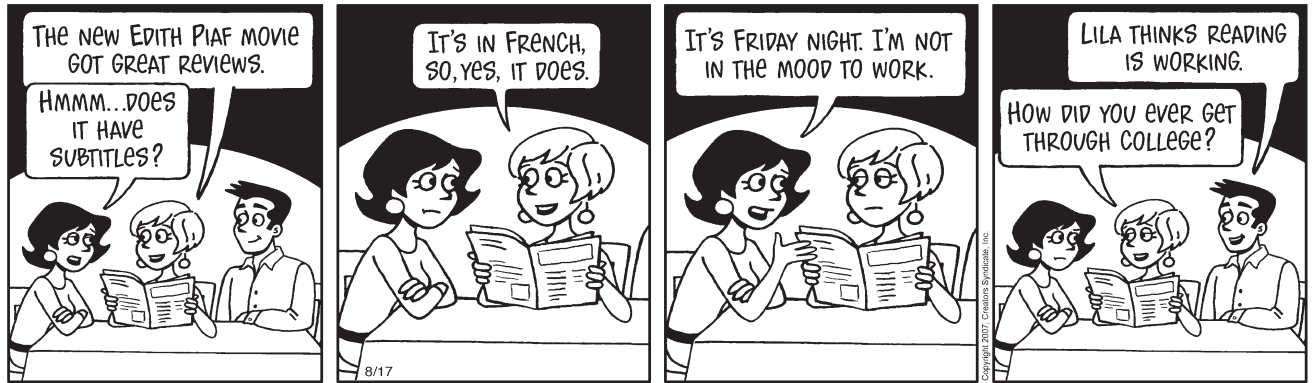
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



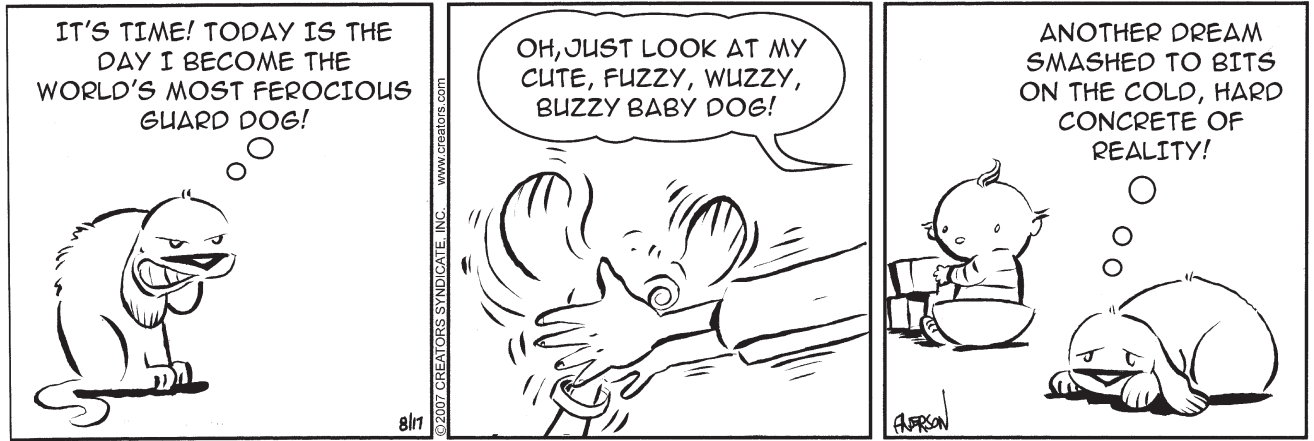
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson

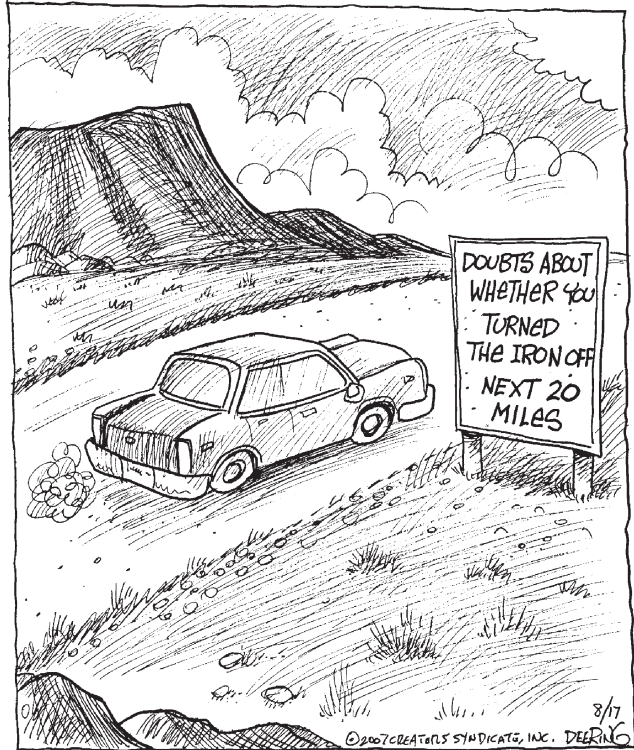


The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



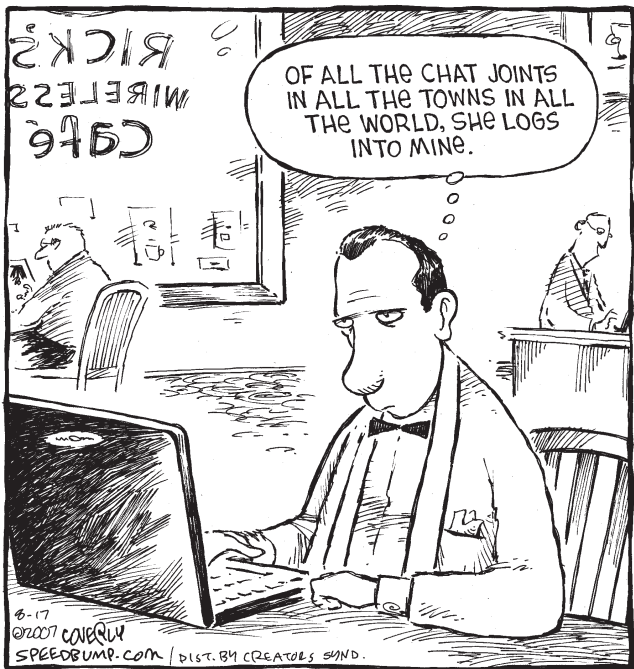
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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 41 Surround-

1 Jimmy of "NYPD Blue"

6 Cheese choice

11 Prison-based

12 Serving girl

13 Overture

14 Cartoon dog

15 Fan call

16 Big cat

18 Trick taker, at times

19 Print measures

20 Farm female

21 Minus

23 "Uncle Tom's Cabin" character

25 Dadaist Jean

27 Gun org.

28 Love, Italian-style

30 Epps of "House"

33 Glimpse
34 Brain wave chart, for short

36 Longoria of TV

37 Satellite

39 Sister of Jo

40 "Lorna —"

ed by

43 Lessen

44 Worth

45 Attack

46 Cut off

DOWN

1 Nautilus shape

2 Threat

3 Sharing a predicament

4 Pitch

5 Incline

6 "Sunset Boulevard" star

7 Sunset site

8 Closely similar

9 Odd

10 Wave setting

17 Aardvark snack

22 Hit

show abbr.

24 Golf-course worker

26 Sixth-grader, e.g.

28 Oxygen-

depen-
dent bac-
terium

29 Shoebox letters

31 Broad way

32 Unkempt

33 Fizzy drinks

35 Somber

38 Wild about

42 Fellow

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

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
15					16	17				
18					19				20	
21				22		23		24		
			25		26		27			
		28				29		30		31
32										
33					34		35		36	
37				38					39	
40							41	42		
43							44			
45							46			

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
5 8 9 24 34
Meganumber: 17
Jackpot: \$148M

Super LOTTO
1 18 24 25 37
Meganumber: 4
Jackpot: \$70M

Fantasy 5
1 10 13 27 39

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

DAILY DERRY
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 007 Eureka
RACE TIME: 1:49.18

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

■ Unclear on the Concept: (1) Jenny Brown, 62, entered her sponge cake in a contest sponsored by an organization in Wimbleton, England, in July, was informed by judges that she had won "second place," and was only later told that she was the only entrant (but was also told that she could not have first place). (2) According to U.S. government figures, Afghanistan's opium crop produces more than 90 percent of the world's heroin, but in July the country's council of ministers began a crackdown on smoking tobacco in government buildings.

■ Ethnic Clashes: (1) The registrar of Nigeria's university entrance exams reported in May that almost 2,000 of the students had been caught in cheating scams. (2) Arab researchers writing in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition reported in June, not surprisingly, that Middle Eastern women who dress covering all or nearly all their skin may have significant vitamin D deficiency due to lack of sunlight.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1807 Robert Fulton's first American steamboat leaves New York City for Albany, New York on the Hudson River, inaugurating the first commercial steamboat service in the world.

1918 Bolshevik revolutionary leader Moisei Uritsky is assassinated.

1943 World War II: First Québec Conference of Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and William Lyon Mackenzie King begins.

1953 First meeting of Narcotics Anonymous in Southern California.

1962 East German border guards kill 18-year-old Peter Fechter as he attempts to cross the Berlin Wall into West Berlin becoming the first victim of the wall.

1970 Venera Program: Venera 7 launched. It will later become the first spacecraft to successfully transmit data from the surface of another planet (Venus).

1980 Azaria Chamberlain disappears, likely taken by a dingo, leading to what was then the most publicised trial in Australian history.

1991 Wade Frankum starts his killing spree in Strathfield, Australia, an event that was later dubbed the Strathfield Massacre.

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

WORD UP!

tattoo /ta-TOO/, *noun*: 1. A rapid, rhythmic drumming or rapping. 2. A beat of a drum, or sound of a trumpet or bugle, giving notice to soldiers to go to their quarters at night. 3. A display of military exercises given as evening entertainment.

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Color Treatments
Nail Services**

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The Fitness Center

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Equipment**

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Private Pilates Training
Group Exercise Classes
Spinning™, Yoga, Pilates Mat
Water Aerobics, Core Conditioning**

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Santa Monica Daily Press

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

Miscellaneous

AFFORDABLE HOUSE CLEANING \$40

by day, honest reliable, own transportation, references, L.I./L.O. nanny housekeepers. Low fees, been in business since 1988, open 7 days. Call, ask for Adeline (818)705-0295 or fax (818)705-0297

LOSE WEIGHT Now; Ask Me How! Herbalife Distributor! 10% Discount! Call Julian 310-451-1421. <http://herbal-nutrition.net/jkaeli>

Adoption

CONSIDERING ADOPTION? We match Birthmothers with Families nationwide. Living Expenses Paid. Toll Free 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 1-866-459-3369. (Cal-SCAN)

Employment

BUSY, BRIGHT Pilates Studio needs part-time (M, T, W, F) Office Manager. Must be organized, have front desk, phone, banking and some computer experience. Call (310)582-8820

CASHIER / RETAIL SALES Seeking energetic individuals. F/T including Sat. Some experience, a plus. Bldg Materials location. Will train. Apply in person: Bourget Bros. 1636 11th St. Santa Monica, CA 90404

SECURITY OFFICERS

Make a change for the better NOW! Lantz Security has great jobs in the beach area, all shifts. Guard card preferred. Apply online www.lantzsecurity.com or call (800) 870-4357

CO-OPPORTUNITY NOW HIRING!

Janitorial Assistant
Go to www.coopportunity.com for more info or stop by the store at 1525 Broadway for an application.

DANIEL'S PLUMBING now hiring plumbers. Must have clean Drivers license & background check. Please call (310)954 7709



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

FAST FOOD deli person needed Mon-Fri SM area. (310)925-0777 or (310)449-1896

FULL TIME operator/office assistant. Mon-Fri 8am-5pm. Reliable and friendly. \$10/hr. + benefits. Call Susan (310)998-2200.

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

Employment

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

JANITOR

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

LIGHT OFFICE Work; P/T A.M.'s 10-15 hrs/wk. fax info 310-319-1335 or colin@drpaolotti.com.

LOOKING FOR A GREAT PART TIME JOB?

A leading Market Research Company is looking for Hosts/Hostesses for its Los Angeles Focus Group facilities located in Santa Monica. Must have previous experience in Hospitality, Hosting, Hotel or Wait Staff or in Market Research or related field. Interested applicants must be computer literate, responsible and flexible, well spoken and have previous experience with direct client interaction both in person and on the telephone.

Job responsibilities include greeting clients, meal serving/clearing, audio & video recording as well as basic office and reception duties. Please email with "CSR Position" in subject line for consideration to mnorris@focuspointglobal.com.

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.

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

PERRY'S BEACH Club – Now Hiring! Work at the beach and get paid. Hiring: Bike Rental Attendants

Employment

Bike Mechanics
Café Cashiers
Café Line Cooks
Pizza Rollers

Apply at Perry's, 2400 Ocean Front Walk and call Mary at (310)722-5853. (No calls on Thursdays.)

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

PUZZLE ZOO has offered it's customers a unique variety of toys as well as classic toys and collectibles since 1993 in Santa Monica, in the heart of the Third St. Promenade. We are inviting enthusiastic, positive, and self-motivated individuals to join our team. Retail associates are responsible for providing stellar service to our guests, ringing up sales, and merchandising toys. If you are up for a challenge and ready to have some fun in a fast paced environment, please forward your resume to: Puzzle Zoo, 1413 Third St. Promenade, Santa Monica, Ca. 90401 or fax (310)393-9891 or email lindatsukamoto2000@yahoo.com



RECEPTIONIST

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

SUCCESSFUL SALES CANDIDATES

Needs to be: Creative, hard working, and possess a can-do attitude with problem solving skills. Must have: Two years sales related food experience, Strong organizational/computer skills, excellent verbal/written communications. Must be sales/relationship driven and meet aggressive sales targets. Work independently and as part of a team! Commission plus salary. Some fun travel involved. Patty@pattypizza.com

TECH SUPPORT

Diagnose, test repair, phone programming & software updates. Provide high level technical customer service support. B.S. Electronics & Communications Engineering, 40 hrs/week. Send ad & resume to: Wireless Experts Inc. 721 S. Glasgow Ave. Unit B. Inglewood, Ca. 90301.

TOW TRUCK drivers needed. Towing company is hiring drivers, will train. Must be able to pass drug and alcohol

Employment

test with clean driving records. 2200 Centinela, Los Angeles, Cross st. Olympic. Please contact (310)923-8888

WE ARE looking for an experienced bookseller with excellent social skills, who likes to bring their mind to work, and would enjoy working in a small high-quality independent bookstore in Malibu. Please bring resume to Diesel, A Bookstore, 3890 Cross Creek Road, Malibu

WLA DENTAL office Looking for self-motivated, excellent communication, and people skills. B/f office. Will train. Fax resume to (310)474-7944

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YUMMY CUPCAKES is now looking for energetic, smart, responsible, fun, hard workers to join our team. If you love people and love cupcakes this is the place for you! Please reply to enjoy@yummycupcakes.com

Help Wanted

DRIVER - CDL Training: \$0 down, financing by Central Refrigerated. Drive for Central, earn up to \$40k+ 1st year! 1-800-587-0029 x4779. www.CentralDrivingJobs.net (Cal-SCAN)

DRIVER: DON'T Just Start Your Career, Start it Right! Company Sponsored CDL training in 3 weeks. Must be 21. Have CDL? Tuition Reimbursement! www.JoinCRST.com 1-800-781-2778. (Cal-SCAN)

DRIVER: THE respect that you deserve. . . Get it at Swift! Swift offers excellent miles, compensation, regional and dedicated runs. No experience necessary! Training available. 1-866-476-6828. www.SwiftTrucking-Jobs.com. EOE (Cal-SCAN)

DRIVERS- CALL TODAY! Great Bonus Opportunity! 36 to 43cpm/\$1.20pm. \$0 Lease New Trucks. CDL-A + 3 months OTR. 1-800-635-8669. (Cal-SCAN)

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OUR TOP DRIVER made \$57,902 in 2006 running our Western region! Home weekly! 2006 trucks! No east coast! 95% no touch freight! 401K! Great Miles! We're raising pay in the Western

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For Sale

FOR SALE

Mattress, box spring, mahogany bed frame and IKEA chest of drawers *

Full size, double-sided pillow-top, Sterns & Fosters mattress with box spring. The mattress is 14" thick and the box spring is 4.5" thick. The mattress is in excellent condition but is dirty on one side from being moved out of storage. The mattress and the box spring are being sold together for \$200.00.

Full size antique, mahogany bed frame. This bed frame is incredibly easy to assemble and has wheels on the ends of the legs for easy moving. The frame is being sold alone for \$50.00.

IKEA chest of drawers is in good condition. It is the IKEA Robin style, white with three drawers. The measurements are: height at 32.5", width at 35.1" and depth is 16". Sale price is \$10.00.

If you are interested in any of these items please contact Audrey at 323-422-1980.

SAWMILLS FROM ONLY \$2,990 -Convert your Logs to Valuable Lumber with your own Norwood portable band sawmill. Log skidders also available. www.NorwoodIndustries.com -Free Information: 1-800-578-1363 x500-A. (Cal-SCAN)

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My name is Chance.
I love outdoor activities. House dog, patient, stoic, adjusts to change, kind, full of love. Chance.
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TIMESHARE!!! PAYING TOO MUCH 4 maintenance fees and taxes? Sell/rent your timeshare for cash. No Commissions/Broker Fees. 1-877-868-1931. www.VPResales.com (Cal-SCAN)

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BRENTWOOD \$900+
Studio/1Ba, no pets, ref pool, quiet, utilities \$900/MO
1BD/BA Lower, blinds, PKG, balcony, carpets, parking \$1095/MO
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We have others From \$650.00
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PLEASE Visit our website for complete listings at:
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Studios wit kitchen include. Stove, ref, micro, air cond. & new carpet. Gated & coined laundry rm. Utilities included, no pets, no smoking. Corner of Burlington Ave & 12th Street near Staples Center, USC Loyola Law. Call Bret. 213-590-1388 or 213-252-1924

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Studio/1Ba, Carpet, Fan, F/P, D/W, Gym Pool, \$1250/Mo
1BD/BA Carpet, Fan, F/P, D/W, Gym, Pool, Cat ok \$1350 /MO
2bd/2Ba Carpet, Fan, F/P, D/W, Gym, Pool, Cat ok \$11850/Mo
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SANTA MONICA \$800+
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1bd/Ba upper, no pets, ref stove, new paint SMC, PKG \$1100/Mo
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SANTA MONICA \$2400/mo 12th St. near Colorado, 3bdrm, 1.5 baths townhouse. Spacious, ample closets, balcony. Stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, attractive garden courtyard property, laundry, 2-car garage, no pets 310-828-4481 days or 310-993-0414 cell

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WESTWOOD \$895+
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Studio/ 1BD/BA Carpet, Pool spa, Gated Grt loc \$975/MO
2bd/2Ba Carpet, Fan, F/P, D/W, Gym , Pool, Cat ok \$1650/Mo
We have others From \$650.00
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For Rent

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MARINA DEL REY, shared furnished, equipped office with reception services. Access to two board rooms, one overlooking Marina. Available daily, evenings, weekends. Hourly, daily, monthly rates. Contact Sharon at stateishi@vzavenuue.net.

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7 YEAR/1 ARM	6.25%
APR 7.155%	
5 YEAR/1 ARM	6.25%**
APR 7.5%	
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APR 7.525%	
1 YEAR/1 ARM	5.75%
APR 7.6%	
6 MO./6 MO. ARM	5.5%
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APR 8.5%	

*Rates subject to change
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Notices

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

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS No. 07-19877 Doc ID #0001146149452005N Title Order No. 07-8-070106 Investor/Insurer No. 1700434220 APN No. 4284-026-026 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 10/27/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER." Notice is hereby given that RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A., as duly appointed trustee pursuant to the Deed of Trust executed by CATALINA PERINISCO, AND VITTORIO VIOTTI, WIFE AND HUSBAND AS JOINT TENANTS, dated 10/27/2005 and recorded 11/03/05, as Instrument No. 05 2662849, in Book , Page), of Official Records in the office of the County Recorder of Los Angeles County, State of California, will sell on 09/06/2007 at 10:30AM, AT THE WEST SIDE OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COURTHOUSE, DIRECTLY FACING NORWALK BLVD., 12720 NORWALK BLVD., NORWALK, CA at public auction, to the highest bidder for cash or check as described below, payable in full at time of sale, all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust, in the property situated in said County and State and as more fully described in the above referenced Deed of Trust. The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 2525 14TH ST APT 3, SANTA MONICA, CA, 904052636. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. The total amount of the unpaid balance with interest thereon of the obligation secured by the property to be sold plus reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is \$366,650.08. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept cashier's checks drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state. Said sale will be made, in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, to satisfy the indebtedness secured by said Deed of Trust, advances thereunder, with interest as provided, and the unpaid principal of the Note secured by said Deed of Trust with interest thereon as provided in said Note, plus fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. DATED: 08/17/2007 RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. 1757 TAPO CANYON ROAD, SVW-88 SIMI VALLEY, CA 93063 Phone: (800) 281 8219, Sale Information (805) 578-6618 RECONTRUST COMPANY, N.A. is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. ASAP# 884882 08/17/2007, 08/24/2007, 08/31/2007

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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF KARL HEINZ KREUTER aka KARL H. KREUTER

Case No. SP007231

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of KARL HEINZ KREUTER aka KARL H. KREUTER

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Marjorie Fields (formerly known as Marjorie Esther Nashner) in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Marjorie Fields (formerly known as Marjorie Esther Nashner) be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on Sept. 14, 2007 at 9:15 AM in Dept. No. R located at 1725 Main St., Santa Monica, CA 90401.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner: SBN 90192
MICHAEL A GUTENPLAN ESQ
12121 WILSHIRE BLVD
STE 600
LOS ANGELES CA 90025-1164
Santa Monica Daily Press
CN778711 KREUTER Aug 17,18,24,
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Notices

COUNTY OF Los Angeles Department of Public Health (DPH) Request for Initiatives: Opportunity to promote changes to the built environment (i.e. streets, parks, transportation, etc.) that help people to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives. This RFI solicits proposals from cities, non-profits, schools, and for-profit organizations in Los Angeles County.

On August 17, 2007, the County of LA DPH will release a RFI entitled RFI PLACE 2007-01. Grantees will develop and maintain interdisciplinary partnerships that will pursue policy changes and physical projects to improve the built environment and increase levels of physical activity among community residents. DPH will fund up to five Applicants at approximately \$100,000 per year for three years and five months beginning on or about February 1, 2008. Letters of Intent are due by October 5, 2007. Full proposals are due by November 13, 2007.

Once released, the RFI and corresponding documents may be downloaded on the website below or picked up between August 18th and September 4th 2007. For further information please call (213) 351-7308 or visit <http://lapublichealth.org/place>.

Santa Monica Daily Press
CN782695 P18512-06001 Aug 16,17, 2007

DBAS

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

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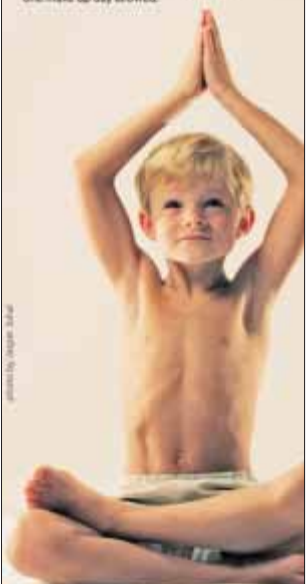
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