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THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2010
Volume 9 Issue 241



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

HE'S BACK
SEE PAGE 12

THE LOOK AT THAT SKY ISSUE



File photo

BUMMER ON MAIN STREET: **Former owner of Horizons West Surf Shop, Randy Wright.**

Dogtown surf shop victim of economy

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

MAIN STREET For the first time in more than 30 years, the birthplace of skateboarding revolutionaries the Z-Boys is just an empty shell with little to remind passersby of its historical significance in the world of extreme sports.

Horizons West Surf Shop, founded in 1977 by an original member of the Z-Boys skateboarding crew that developed an aggressive style of street skating that has come to define the sport, closed up shop last month, another victim of the Great Recession.

The skate and surf shop, owned by surfer Randy Wright, occupied a modest, one-story building at the corner of Main and Bay streets that was designated a city landmark in May of 2007 after neighbors and skateboarding enthusiasts erupted in outrage over plans to tear it down and replace it with a mixed-use development. The retail space was the original home of Zephyr and Jeff Ho Productions, whose founders, Skip Engblom and Jeff Ho, created the Zephyr Skate Team, which became known as The Z-Boys.

SEE HORIZONS PAGE 9



FOOTBALL FEVER

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

St. Monica's football team practices at Airport Park on Wednesday. The Mariners open the season on Sept. 4.

District students boost statewide test results

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Santa Monica and Malibu students showed gains in both language arts and mathematics in the most recent statewide standardized test, the California Department of Education reported this week.

The results of the 2009-2010 State Proficiency and California Standards Tests (CST) showed 70 percent of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District students who took the exam were proficient or advanced in language arts, compared with 52 percent of students statewide and 48 percent in Los Angeles County. In math, 59 percent of SMMUSD students were advanced or proficient, compared with 48 percent statewide and 45 percent in the L.A. County.

The local district's results represented small gains of 1 percent in language arts and 3 percent in math compared with the previous year.

The language arts and math test was administered to students in grades two through 11. Tests in history and science were administered to select grade levels. In those subjects, SMMUSD students also scored better than students statewide and in the county and showed modest gains compared with local scores from the 2008-09 school year.

"What stands out to me is that we made pretty significant growth in mathematics

SEE SCORES PAGE 8

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Thursday, Aug. 19, 2010

Dancing at twilight
Santa Monica Pier
7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
She may not have the name recognition of singers like Aretha Franklin or Gladys Knight — but when it comes to putting her own stamp on a song and filling it to the brim with soul, there are few who can match R&B powerhouse Bettye LaVette — the headliner at this Thursday's installment of the Santa Monica Pier's Twilight Dance Series. The Tom Nolan Band opens this free show.

Time with Keith David
Edgemar Center for the Arts
2437 Main St., 7:30 p.m.
Edgemar Center for the Arts presents An Evening with Keith David in concert with a Jazz trio. Complimentary appetizers and beverages provided. Proceeds benefit Edgemar Theatre Group's up-coming production of The Shadow Box.

Friday, Aug. 20, 2010

'Never WonderLand'
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.
Theatre, dance, music and inspired storytelling leap into the Miles Memorial Playhouse as Boomkat Dance Theatre's "Never WonderLand" takes the stage. Getting lost somewhere between London and NeverWonderLand, Peter Pan and Wonderland's Alice, brother and sister, find a fresh start in this inventive prequel for all ages to J.M Barrie and Lewis Carroll's beloved children's tales. This show also takes place on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, call (310) 202-9229.

Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010

Appreciating the ocean
Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk, 12:30 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Have you thanked the ocean lately for all it gives us? All are invited to celebrate at the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium's Ocean Appreciation Weekend. Special presentations touching on the myriad ways the ocean impacts our lives — and the effect people have on the ocean — will be the focus of the weekend, with a special emphasis on the issue of climate change. Participate in creating a sea monster made of plastic, aimed at educating visitors about the dangers of single-use and common household plastics and the threat they pose to the marine environment. This event also takes place on Sunday. For more information, call (310) 393-6149.

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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SPLASH DANCE

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Alesia Young, Jones Welsh and Chris Stanley (left to right) perform between water jets during the 'This Is Not Here' site-specific dance performance by choreographer Holly Rothschild at the Annenberg Community Beach House on Tuesday evening.

Infant skeletons found in basement

NARDINE SAAD
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Two infant skeletons wrapped in 1930s newspapers and placed in doctor's bags were found inside an unclaimed steamer trunk by a woman cleaning out the basement of a 1924 building that's being converted to condominiums, authorities said.

The skeletons, believed to be decades-old remains of fetuses or infants, were discovered late Tuesday in the 4-foot-tall green trunk inscribed with the initials JMB.

Other things found in the trunk included cigarettes, a green bowl, black and white photos, letters, a book club membership certificate inscribed Jean M. Barrie and ticket stubs from the 1932 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

The remains were found in the four-story brick building near MacArthur Park, just a few miles west of downtown Los Angeles. The larger skeleton, the size of a newborn, was wrapped in a Los Angeles Times newspaper dated 1934.

A smaller skeleton was wrapped in newspaper dated 1932, said Gloria Gomez, property manager of the co-op for the last 10 years. She and friend Yiming Xing, 35, who has lived there for six years, had to force open the trunk with a screwdriver, she said.

Coroner's officials will try to determine how the babies died, check missing children reports and try to find relatives and neighbors who might know what happened.

It was Gomez's job to clean out the basement. Everyone in the building was given until Aug. 14 to get their things out. The condo board told Gomez she could have anything that wasn't claimed.

On Tuesday night, Gomez and Xing checked two unclaimed trunks and they were empty. They tried several keys on the last one, but finally had to pry it open. They found the drawers full and pulled out several antiques, the bowl, a toilet figurine, books, photos and documents.

Then they found the two black leather doctor bags.

Xing opened the first soft bundle. They found what looked like a piece of brown, dry, very old looking wood, Gomez said, and Xing said it appeared to be an embryo. They called 911 and waited.

When the coroner arrived, investigators unwrapped the second bundle to find the larger skeleton. This one was more child-

SEE **BODIES** PAGE 9

L.A. salon accused of cheating celebrities

GREG RISLING
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The owner of a Beverly Hills beauty salon was charged with fraud Wednesday for using credit card information from clients such as Liv Tyler to ring up hundreds of thousands of dollars in bogus charges, authorities said.

Maria Gabriella Perez, 51, was arrested by Secret Service agents at her business, Chez Gabriela Studio. She faces two counts of fraud that carries a maximum prison sentence of 25 years if she is convicted.

Perez was expected to appear in federal

SEE **CHARGES** PAGE 8

L.A. City Council agrees to lease parking garages

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles City Council has approved a plan to lease 10 city-owned parking structures to help reduce a $485 million budget deficit.

A spokesman for Council President Eric Garcetti said the council voted 9-3 on Wednesday to solicit bids from private companies willing to lease and operate the garages for 50 years. The city would get a payment up front and a share in the operator's annual revenue.

City administrators estimate that the deal would generate $53.2 million in the next fiscal year and help avoid layoffs and cuts to city programs.

Up for leasing would be garages at the Hollywood and Highland shopping and entertainment complex, Downtown's Pershing Square and the Arclight Cinerama Dome.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Unify, not divide

Editor:

I am sure we in California have passed legislation that the people of Arizona dislike ("AZ boycott could disrupt $3M mobile-home deal," June 12). I don't hear them protesting or boycotting. This is ridiculous. Don't you remember the pledge of allegiance to the flag? "One nation under God!"

Sometimes I wonder about "We the People" and our elected officials. Sometimes I wonder who is our enemy? Who needs terrorists when we seem to dislike each other enough to destroy each other? Individual by individual, state by state?

Certainly we can protest some other way without destroying each other. Try a little harder to halt the knee-jerk reaction and make a concerted effort to solve a problem in a manner that will unify and not divide us.

Gordon Potik
Santa Monica

New mall too pricey

Editor:

I miss you Henshey's, JCPenny, Broadway, May Co., Robinsons-May, Macy's, Toys-R-Us and sorry that the city would not let Target come to Santa Monica and thank you Sears for being there.

I waited over two years for my Santa Monica Place to reopen and reopen it did. When I visited Santa Monica Place last weekend I could not find a book store, a record/DVD store, a card store, a donut shop, a Dairy Queen, a hot dog stand, a place that sells pretzels, a good sandwich shop or a Panda Express. I did love the Disney Store and even bought something for my granddaughter. I did buy a "small" Danish at the court snack shop for $3 and finished it in two bites. I love the "out of towners" coming to my town, but how about the Santa Monica folks? We are not all "upscale" folks. I would not shop at Nordstrom or Bloomingdale's or any fancy shoe or men's store, etc.

Your paper said Santa Monica Place is now 75 percent occupied. I hope the remaining 25 percent will include a book store, a record/DVD store, a card store, a donut shop, an economical ice cream store and sandwich shop. And, thank you, Sears. After I toured Santa Monica Place, I went to Sears and bought a reasonably-priced bed quilt.

Mike De Mendoza
Santa Monica





Life Matters

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

Overcoming the end of vacation blues

DEAR NEW SHRINK,

My company restricts the number of vacation days one can accrue so this summer I finally planned a month-long getaway to use up vacation time that I was about to lose. While on vacation I had a chance to do things that I really enjoy and it has made the transition back to the office harder than ever. I have never experienced this before and am worried that it will impact my attitude around the office. What do you suggest I do to deal with my post vacation feelings?

Signed,
Returning to work

DEAR RETURNING,

Taking time away from the office is very important. While it may seem frustrating, it may actually be a blessing that some companies put limits on the amount of vacation you can accrue, thereby forcing you to take some time out of the office. Anytime we alter our environment, schedule, or activities we leave ourselves open to the possibility of change. What you are experiencing is not uncommon, but I believe it is also something very real and significant. I am glad that you are acknowledging what's going on for you and the feelings you're experiencing.

Vacations give us time to reflect on what we are doing with out lives. The freedom of making your own schedule and only having to respond to your needs and wants can be a welcome relief from the stress of today's work world. Begin considering whether you're feelings stem from the freedom you felt from your daily grind. Give yourself a few days to ease back into your schedule. One mistake we often make is planning our vacation so we get the most time away and we find ourselves rushing right back to the office. It is important to take at least one day at home before returning to the office. This can help you ease back into your routine by unpacking, organizing your home, and getting your mind and body ready for reality. In general, the longer the vacation the longer it takes to acclimate back to a normal schedule. Keep in mind that it may take time to readjust completely.

Taking time to step back and changing your daily routine can be the perfect shock to your system to get you thinking about who you are and what you want out of life. Are there ways you can integrate the best parts of your vacation into your everyday life? For instance, if this break provided you with a chance to read for pleasure, find ways to commit yourself to distraction-free reading. Set up a vacation zone at home that is intended to give you peace from daily stresses and keep that place sacred. You will be surprised how minor changes can make a major impact.

If your feelings last longer than just a few weeks, you may need a bigger shift to get the results you're looking for. Is there something specific that you would like to be doing or just a nagging sense that you are not where you would like to be? Considering what your goals are and identifying what's missing are the first steps to taking action and making a change. If it's a specific activity that you were able to participate in on vacation, find ways to naturally integrate it into your life before making a major change. If it was the flexibility to make your own decisions and schedule, it may be that finding new ways to do your work may give you better results. Keep in mind that the grass may appear greener on vacation turf than it really is; see if you can find ways to sample what a new opportunity or schedule might look like before you dive in.

Keep in mind that it will take time to readjust. The fact that you were maxing out on vacation time may mean that you were way overdue for a break. Take things one day at a time and spend time to reflect and analyze your state. Good luck.

KATRINA DAVY is a Santa Monica-based professional career counselor. She has degrees from Cornell and Columbia universities. Got something on your mind? Write in! Send your questions to newshrink@gmail.com. All questions are kept anonymous; let us help you with your life matters.



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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Doing it yourself not an option

I ENJOYED BEING RAISED IN THE SUBURBS, but lately I've been thinking I might be a wee better off today had I been raised on a farm, or in a lumberyard.

It's not like I have a yen to hoe a cornfield or whittle my own dining room table; I just think knowing how to do more than screw in a light bulb would be useful from time to time.

In the nearly four years that we've lived in our house — which is the first item more expensive than a bread box either of us have ever owned — my husband Rick and I are still discovering that when you're not living with your parents or in a rental, there's no super, landlord or handyman on call to fix stuff around the house, and the bill gets sent to you (and you have to pay it) every time the plumber visits.

Last week, I broke the key in the lock on the front door. Since I know nothing about the art of locksmithing, I called Rick to come home, and while waiting for him, I also called a locksmith. Rick arrived first, armed with a pair of pliers, but before he even had a chance to ply, he reached down and simply took the key out of the lock (which it hadn't occurred to me to try to do, because, as my dad has said forever, I have a burning need to learn everything the hard way). Then Paul the locksmith showed up and with way more kindness and patience than my ignorance deserved, gave me a thoroughly enlightening lesson on how to open a door without breaking the key off in the lock.

Thankfully, though, I'm not entirely useless. I unclogged the garbage disposal in our last place at least twice and only one of those times was I actually responsible for the clogging. (I'll cop to being the one who put flour down the disposal without thinking it would turn into Elmer's Glue when mixed with water, but I'll be damned if anyone thinks I was the dummy who figured it was OK to put pistachio shells in there.) I once WD40'd a squeaky screen door. I've been known to locate a fuse box and figure out which switch needed resetting. And I used to be able to check the oil level in my car (if pressed, I could probably do it again, but I haven't tried in years).

Rick has surprised me with how handy he is. Not because he isn't an extraordinarily all-around capable person (who spent a year in college working at Ace Hardware as a licensed propane tank filler), but I automatically assume that no one I know is capable of doing anything more complicated than jiggling a toilet handle to stop the water from running. Whenever his car battery dies (which seems to be every few hours), I wince and shield my face from what I'm always certain will be a MacGruber-type explosion when he attaches the jumper cables and asks me to start the car and give it some gas. He gets a thunderous round of applause from me with each successful unexploded charge.

He isn't the only one who surprises me with his skills. One of my girlfriends recently recaulked her shower. I have a friend who changes the oil in his car despite the abundance of Jiffy Lubes in his city. I know people who chop their own firewood (yet I still felt no shame having mine delivered and stacked the three years I had a wood-burning stove). One of my neighbors designed, built and installed all of the cabinets in house and hooked up a sink in his kitchen island.

When my parents visited a few weeks ago, we went to Lowe's to buy some shelves to hang in our pantry. My dad urged Rick to buy some super-duper fancy laser level to assist in the placement. I marveled at how he hung the shelves with ease and was a little relieved when he couldn't figure out how to use the laser level. I mean, if Home Depot turned me on, I would have married Bob Vila.

Rick and my mom also hung some pictures and art around our house, which was nice since I'll live with bare walls before attempting to hang anything myself. Math isn't my strong suit, and I'm likely to miscalculate the measurements, hang everything crooked or in the wrong spot, create unnecessary holes and then helplessly try to figure out how to fill them without screwing up and having to repaint the entire house.

It actually wasn't so long ago that I figured out how to screw in a light bulb. Well, that's not entirely true. I'm sure I've always known how to do it, but I think I always thought there was more than a slight risk of electrocution.

Hey, if it weren't for people like me, just think of all the highly skilled people out there who would be out of work. No need to thank me. I simply do what I can and leave the rest to the professionals.

More at MeredithCarroll.com.

The Q Line

Rolling feast

The City Council last week approved a new permit that allows property owners to turn parking lots into mobile food truck courts.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Are you interested in dining at these impromptu dining spots?

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


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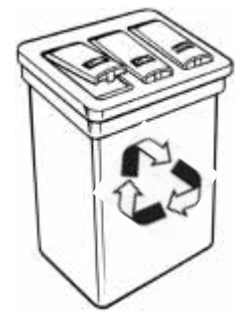
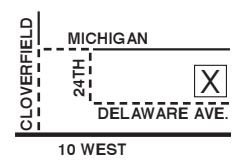
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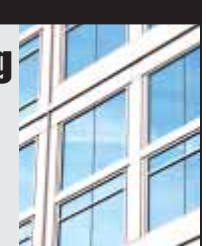
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Records detail Brown's flights on state plane

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO California Attorney General Jerry Brown has used a state-owned plane on 15 days since he took office in 2007, including at least two trips to attend gatherings of lobbyists and donors, according to documents released by Brown's office.

The attorney general's office said previously that its aircraft — two airplanes and a helicopter — are used only for law enforcement purposes and only when it is less expensive than flying commercial.

The Associated Press previously reported on Brown's occasional use of a state-owned plane because it appeared to be at odds with remarks he has made as he runs for governor.

The Democratic candidate has promoted his elimination of the governor's airplane when he last held the office from 1975-83 and has said the state should do away with perks as a way to save money.

He also has criticized his opponent, Republican Meg Whitman, for chartering private jets for her campaign.

Most of Brown's trips were related to public meetings of law enforcement officers and funerals, and the vast majority of Brown's air travel has been by commercial airlines.

In 2007, Brown used the plane to speak on two occasions to influential groups meeting at upscale California resorts, according to the records, which were released late Monday to the AP under the California Public Records Act.

On one trip, he stayed overnight in Pebble Beach while the state-owned plane, a Beechcraft Super King Air 200 turboprop, flew back to Sacramento and then returned to pick him up the next day.

Brown attended a reception at the exclusive Lodge at Pebble Beach for the University of California, Berkeley's Haas School of Business-Fisher Center for Real Estate on April 19, 2007. The event was to honor real estate magnate and Democratic donor Gerson Bakar, who has given Brown's campaigns $16,300 since 2004, according to secretary of state records. Brown addressed the group the following morning.

Mary Corley, executive director of the group that sponsored the Pebble Beach function, said the group paid $651 for Brown's room at the Pebble Beach Lodge, which is located on the 18th hole of the world-renowned golf course.

Brown did not have to list the gift on the public disclosure statement he filed that year because regulations in effect at the time "exempted necessary lodging and subsistence provided directly to an official in connection with an event at which the official gave a speech," said Christine Gasparac, spokeswoman for the attorney general's office.

That same month, Brown used the state plane to fly from Oakland to Fresno to meet with the Central Valley Hispanic Leadership group, then flew to a meeting on judicial appointments in Santa Monica, where he stayed overnight before flying the next day to a meeting of the California Hospital Association at the La Costa Resort and Spa near San Diego, according to the records.

Gasparac said both the speech to the hospital association and the real estate group were related to law enforcement but declined to be more specific about the link between the groups and the attorney general's job.

"The attorney general is the chief law officer of the state," Gasparac said in an e-mail. "All of his official duties relate to furthering justice by enforcing the law, both civil and criminal."

The AP sought additional details about those trips by asking for Brown's calendars for the days surrounding his speeches, but the AG's office did not immediately release them. Gasparac said the office would provide them later Tuesday.

The records show Brown also has used the plane for travel to Palm Springs for a speech at a crime victims event and to attend the funerals of two law enforcement officers.

The AP previously reported that Brown has used the plane three times in 2010 — for a California Highway Patrol officer's funeral, a gang takedown and news conference in Salinas and to attend a meeting with local sheriffs in Truckee.

Only Department of Justice personnel were on board the plane for all events, except for a CHP official who accompanied him to one of the funerals, according to the department. The records show no flights by Brown on the department's plane in 2008 or 2009.

He has flown commercial airlines for 139 round-trip flights since he took office in 2007, the attorney general's office said.

The department reported it also owns a 1977 six-seater Aerostar 601 turboprop plane and a 1968 Bell UH-1 "Huey" military helicopter, as well as other aircraft it uses for undercover law enforcement activities.

State official: Stimulus recipient's staff untrained

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES California's inspector general says a contracting company that received nearly $3 million in federal stimulus money to weatherize homes should stop work because it did not train its employees.

Laura Chick says in a letter to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger that there is no assurance that Campesinos Unidos Inc. is doing the work correctly. The company is contracted to weatherize homes of low-income residents in San Diego and Imperial counties.

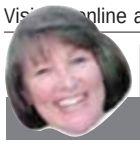
Chick also recommended that state officials verify that the 38 other recipients of stimulus money to weatherize homes are providing appropriate training and adequately assessing completed work.

Schwarzenegger spokesman Matt Hirsch says the governor was confident any problems would be corrected quickly.

Campesinos Unidos director Jose Lopez did not return a phone call.







Play Time

Cynthia Citron — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

‘Bedroom Farce’ riotous, but isn’t a rip-roaring revival

WHOLE LOTTA SCREAMIN’ GOIN’ ON, AND it isn’t coming from the audience. In fact, the audience becomes quieter and quieter as the evening wears on. Not a good sign for what is supposed to be a rip-roaring comedy.

Sir Alan Ayckbourn has written 73 plays, so it stands to reason that not all of them can be smash hits. Even Neil Simon has a bad day once in a while. But I’m not sure if Ayckbourn’s 1975 play “Bedroom Farce,” now onstage at the Odyssey, should be blamed on him or the actors or the director.

Darcy Prevost has designed an interesting set — three distinctive bedrooms that reflect the personalities of the couples who inhabit them. From left to right they are Nick and Jan (Scott Roberts and Ann Noble), Malcolm and Kate (Jamie Donovan and Kate Hollinshead), and Ernest and Delia (Robert Mandan and Maggie Peach). And bouncing between them and creating havoc wherever they land are Trevor and Susannah (Anthony Michael Jones and Regina Peluso).

As the play begins, Malcolm and Kate are preparing for a housewarming party in their new flat. Jan is preparing to come, but without Nick, who is laid up with a back problem and whose dialogue consists almost exclusively of groans and plaintive wails of “Why me?” And Ernest and Delia, who are Trevor’s parents, are preparing to go to dinner to celebrate their umpteenth wedding anniversary.

Trevor and Susannah have a troubled marriage, which might be partially explained by the mantra that she repeats obsessively: “I’m attractive! And I’m not afraid of people!” When she and Trevor arrive at the party — separately — they begin fighting immediately, and so viciously that all the other party guests go home.

Trevor and Jan have had a previous relationship and they eventually wind up in an impulsive and passionate kiss that the consistently overwrought Susannah oversees. More screaming.

And so it goes. The play, ostensibly, is about how four different couples handle marriage, with Ernest and Delia, the elderly couple, providing the template for successful companionship. Delia is full of wisdom, giving her daughter-in-law Susannah pithy bits of advice, like “Don’t tell him anything you don’t have to,” and “Keep him well fed and his clothes clean.”

The play is too improbably farcical to be all that funny, but it might be more amusing if played well. The younger actors, however, are uniformly screechy, with everyone continually exhibiting unmodified hysteria. With a little less volume and more moderate pacing, more variety in delivery, the humor, such as it is, might have been better received. As it stands now, only Ernest and Delia and the bedridden Nick do justice to their roles. And, unfortunately, director Ron Bottitta doesn’t do justice to his.

And finally, you get a clue that there is something wrong with a comedy when the funniest things in it are the vintage 1970s outfits put together by costume designer Kathryn Poppen.

Alan Ayckbourn’s “Bedroom Farce” will continue at the Odyssey Theatre, 2055 South Sepulveda Blvd. in West Los Angeles, Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Sept. 26. Call (310) 477-2055 for reservations.

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

Video game lets players be MJ

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES An upcoming video game starring Michael Jackson is set to be “Bad.”

Video game publisher Ubisoft announced Wednesday its dancing-and-singing “Michael Jackson The Experience” game will feature such Jackson hits as “Bad,” “Beat It” and “Billie Jean.”

The title is scheduled to be released later this year for the Xbox 360, PlayStation 3 and Wii, as well as the handheld consoles Nintendo DS and PlayStation Portable.

Other tunes for the game centered on the late King of Pop include “Earth Song,” “The Girl Is Mine,” “Who Is It” and “Workin’ Day And Night.”

“Michael Jackson The Experience” will be among the first to use Kinect and Move, the new gesture-recognition systems for Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3.

The game’s songs were announced at the Gamescom convention in Cologne, Germany.

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CHARGES
FROM PAGE 1

this year," said Maureen Bradford, the district's director of assessment, research, and evaluation. "We were really happy to see that happen because it has been an area of particular focus for us."

The results, she said, validated the district's concentration on improving math instruction during the past two years in teachers' professional development workshops.

"That area has been more difficult for us to demonstrate growth over time, so it was great to see a 3 percent gain in our math scores over last year."

Superintendent Tim Cuneo stated in a press release the results were part of a steady pattern of continuous improvement.

"This multi-year upward trend is reflective of the high caliber of our teachers and their on-going efforts to improve instructional practice," he said, while noting scores for some demographic groups remained significantly lower than the district average. "Our work continues as we build a strategic plan centered on narrowing the achievement gap for students of color, economically disadvantaged students, English learners and students with disabilities."

Fifty-two percent of African American students in SMMUSD scored proficient or advanced in language arts last school year, in-line with the statewide average but 18 percentage points below the district average.

Latino students scored slightly lower in language arts, with 49 percent proficient or better.

Asian students scored best on the language arts test, with 86 percent proficient or advanced, followed by white students, 81 percent of whom were at least proficient.

The latest test results showed a similar achievement gap in math, with Asian and white students scoring well above the statewide average, and black and Latino students scoring well below.

> **THIS MULTI-YEAR UPWARD TREND IS REFLECTIVE OF THE HIGH CALIBER OF OUR TEACHERS AND THEIR ON-GOING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICE."**
>
> **Tim Cuneo,**
> SMMUSD Superintendent

Overall, district improvement was in-line with annual gains on the standardized test since 2002.

District officials also touted an "additional bright spot" in the test results, noting an increase in the district-wide percentage of students who scored in the advanced category. In math and science, the percentage of students scoring at the advanced level increased by nearly four points, and by three points in English, officials said.

Two important school accountability measures, the Academic Performance Index (API) and the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports, are due to be released by the state Department of Education by the end of the month.

nickt@smdp.com

ARREST
FROM PAGE 3

court Thursday.

Her attorney, Jerod Gunsberg, said his client will be exonerated of all the charges.

Perez's website says her celebrity clientele includes Jennifer Aniston, Halle Berry and Cher. An affidavit said actress Liv Tyler had about $214,000 in bad charges from Perez's studio to two credit cards over a five-month period last year.

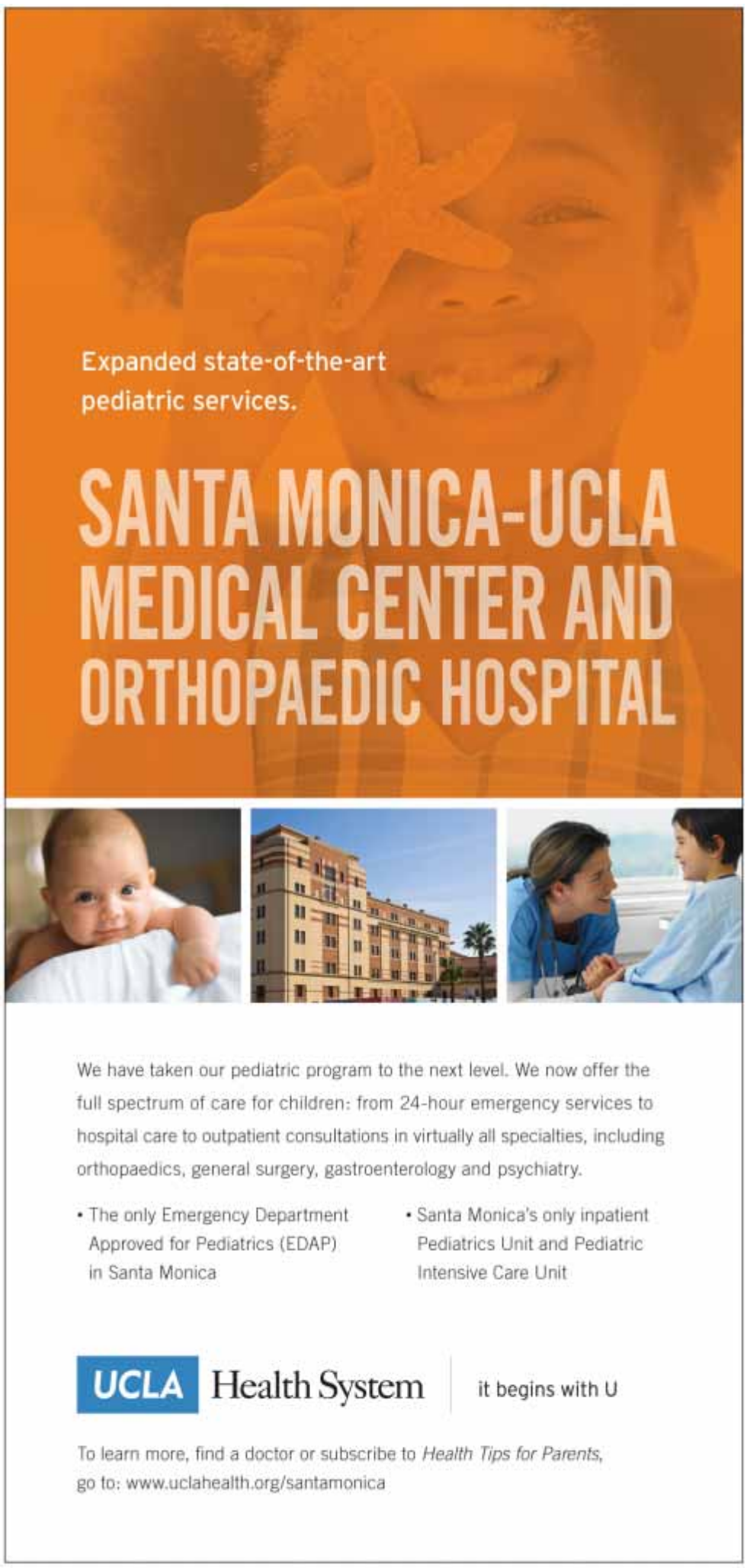
Another alleged victim was jewelry designer Loree Rodkin, whose attorney told investigators that about $68,000 had been charged to her credit card from Perez's studio without her authorization. Perez offered $25,000 worth of products in exchange for the charges, but Rodkin refused, the affidavit said.

Investigators said in Rodkin's case, most of the charges from Perez's studio were made when the credit card numbers were entered manually as opposed to the card being swiped.

Rodkin also told authorities she knew of other clients, such as Aniston, Cher and Anne Hathaway, who had similar charges on their credit card, the affidavit said.

Messages left with the three actresses' representatives were not immediately returned.

An e-mail message left with Rodkin's attorney, Dave Kettel, was not returned Wednesday.







HORIZONS
FROM PAGE 1

Wright did not return several phone calls seeking comment.

Those in the surfing industry said the struggling economy, coupled with competition from major chains and a gloomy summer season have put pressure on many mom-and-pop surf operations, which derive most of their revenue from the sale of clothing and other ancillary items, not surf boards or skateboard decks.

Wright took over the shop in the mid-'80s from Z-Boy Nathan Pratt, who founded Horizons after Engblom and Ho dissolved their partnership. Pratt and fellow Z-Boys Stacey Peralta, Jay Adams and Tony Alva, among others, would hang out at the surf shop after school.

Assaf Raz of Dogtown Realty is representing the property owner, Juli Doar, and told the Daily Press that previous plans to redevelop the 87-year-old commercial site have been put on hold because of the economy. Doar submitted plans to erect a LEED certified, three-story apartment complex and retrofit the space that housed Horizons.

Now Doar is looking to bring in a new business that respects the history of the site and the community, Raz said. Raz would not provide more details, saying a lease agreement has not yet been finalized.

However, Raz claims the new venture will "draw people from all over the world," leading some to speculate that a museum is in the works.

"It's not just about putting in any businesses," said Raz who claims to have had several offers for the space. "The owner cares about the community and wants to continue the legacy of the building."

A goal is to bring in a businesses that can generate more energy at the northern end of Main Street, which hasn't seen the activity of the southern portion with its many bars, restaurants and boutiques. New developments in the last five years have created a buzz in the northern section, but it still needs more, said Gary Gordon of the Main Street Business Improvement Association.

"It would be great if they can come up with something that can bring people, attract people. That's what this is all about," Gordon said.

Decorative lighting was added to help create a sense of connection between north and south, Gordon said, but "the fulfillment is not quite there yet."

Raz said he will release more details about the new tenant in September.

In the meantime, those with close ties to the landmark are concerned about its future.

Engblom said he was happy to learn that the building still stands, but had several unanswered questions as to what the owner's plans entail.

"Are they going to have wax sculptures of us?" he said. "Maybe in my later years I could get a job as a curator or something. … Are they going to sell souvenirs? If they aren't going to have someone in there that is selling surfboards and wet suits and trucks, then it becomes a museum and you have to sell trinkets. … To me it seems like a very strange situation. Are they going to have some major companies come in and create a whole new line of stuff from that old label?"

Engblom feels the old character of Main Street has been diminished by an influx of yuppies and would welcome some venture that works in tandem with the California Heritage Museum to celebrate the Dogtown culture. Engblom said it could be a viable venture given the popularity of the museum's current exhibit "Skateboard: Evolution and Art in California," which features more than 275 rare skateboards and has been extended several times because of demand.

"Whomever takes it over, they should do something with the museum and have rotating exhibits there, like an annex space," he said.

Without some connection the Z-Boys, the historical significance of the worn building is lost. The retail space itself is indistinguishable from like structures. It is the people affiliated with Dogtown who have made the space relevant. It remains to be seen if that will continue without Horizons.

BODIES
FROM PAGE 3

like, wrapped in an extra blanket, the sheet and newspaper. You could see the child's hair, Gomez said.

Both had been wrapped up like mummies but both were skeletons, Gomez said.

Another paper in the trunk was dated Sept. 17, 1937.

The women found a certificate indicating Barrie belonged to "The Peter Pan Woodlands Club," Gomez said. That said to them that the owner of the trunk might be wealthy, she said.

Oddly, Peter Pan was created by Scottish author James M. Barrie.

Coroner's investigators took the bodies, drawers, medical bags, photos and some of the documents, Gomez said, but they left her the trunk, the book, the bowl, the cigarettes, a typewriter manual, the ticket stubs and clothing.

Police are awaiting results from the coroner's office and have promised their own investigation.

"We'll put detectives on this case for the long term," police Chief Charlie Beck told the Los Angeles Times. "We'll try to reconstruct the circumstances based on what the coroner tells us, based on the history of the residence and based on science. We have many more tools and technology available to us than before, which may allow for identification of the victims and closure to any family members."

According to the property manager's website, the Glen-Donald building has been used in a national DirecTV commercial, for the television show "Quarter Life" and a small, independent film project.

The building's interior has solid mahogany woodwork throughout, a grand style lobby and two period elevators that serve the building, another website said.

The building is being converted from a co-op building to one with condos. There were 94 units when it was a co-op.

Gomez said it was home to doctors, lawyers, writers and actors when it opened in what was then the tony Westlake district.





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GM makes move to be publicly owned

KEN THOMAS & TOM KRISHER
Associated Press Writers

DETROIT General Motors Co. on Wednesday filed the first batch of paperwork required by regulators to sell stock to the public, a step that brings the automaker closer to its goal of shedding government ownership.

The 700-page registration form, filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, begins a process that will lead to an initial public offering of GM's stock. No date was set for the sale, but experts say the IPO could come as early as October.

Stakeholders in the company, including the U.S. Treasury Department, initially will sell common stock, while GM will sell preferred shares that are similar to bonds.

The forms did not say how many shares would be sold and it was unclear just how much stock the government wants to unload.

"Treasury will retain the right, at all times, to decide whether and at what level to participate in the offering," the department said.

GM, leaner and more efficient than it was before a stay in bankruptcy protection last year, earned $2.2 billion in the first half of this year despite depressed U.S. auto sales.

GM gave a lengthy list of risks facing the company, including growing competition, restructuring costs and new laws and regulations. Most of the risk factors had been previously disclosed in regulatory filings with the government.

GM said the company was dependent upon global car and truck sales and said "there is no assurance that the global automobile market will recover in the near future or that it will not suffer a significant further downturn."

The company said it had no plans to pay dividends on its common stock and future dividends would be determined by its board of directors.

The U.S. government owns roughly 61 percent of the company, which it got in exchange for giving GM $50 billion in survival aid last year. GM has repaid $6.7 billion, and the remaining $43.3 billion was converted to the ownership stake. Other stakeholders include a United Auto Workers health-care trust and the Canadian government.

Government ownership has hurt the company's public image and sales, CEO Ed Whitacre has said. He'd like to shed the derogatory nickname "Government Motors."

GM's IPO would have to bring in $70 billion just to pay back all of GM's stakeholders. The largest U.S. IPO so far is Visa Inc.'s 2008 offering that raised $19.7 billion.

The Detroit automaker's recent profits come after it lost nearly $13 billion in last year's second quarter alone.

Obama says economy is coming around

BEN FELLER
AP White House Correspondent

COLUMBUS, Ohio Admittedly wary of losing touch, President Barack Obama returned to the comfort of backyard politics on Wednesday, assuring a polite gathering of middle-class neighbors that the economy is coming around "slowly but surely."

At the brick-and-shingle house of the Weithman family, Obama's questioners showed no interest in the divisive midterm elections or other matters gobbling up the political debate. They wanted to know what he was doing on jobs, health care, pensions and child care. In turn, Obama got what he wanted: a sunny platform to engage voters and promote his agenda.

Obama hadn't even left the property, though, before he got off message by answering a reporter's shouted question about a national controversy — plans for a mosque and community center near the site of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York. Obama said he had "no regrets" about his stand that Muslims have the right to build the mosque.

In the midst of a fundraising tour that has generated more than $3 million for Democrats, Obama seemed refreshed to be having his chat in the Weithmans' backyard.

The neighbors sat scattered in lawn chairs and picnic tables. The president held forth with a microphone, jacket off, sleeves rolled up, as if he were just talking with old friends. Reporters were packed in all the way to the tomato garden.

"Look, I'll be honest with you," Obama said over the whirring of lawn mowers in the distance. "Sometimes when you're in Washington, you get caught up with the particular legislative battles or, you know, the media spin on certain issues. And sometimes you lose touch in terms of what folks are talking about around the kitchen table."

So no one missed the point, Obama actually sat at the kitchen table with Joe and Rhonda Weithman and their two kids.

His broader discussion with neighbors predictably centered on the economy, with unemployment at 9.5 percent nationally and topping 10 percent in Ohio. Obama took questions about how to bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S., how to breathe life into the sagging housing market and how the mammoth health care law he signed will provide real help to people.

"Slowly but surely we are moving in the right direction," Obama said of the economy. "We're on the right track."

That continues to be a tough sell. Only 35 percent of those polled in a new Associated Press-GfK poll say the country is headed in the right direction. Just 41 percent approve of the president's performance on the economy, a slipping number. In his favor: Three-quarters say it is unrealistic to expect noticeable economic improvements in the first 18 months of a president's term.

In every stop, Obama has been trying to convince people that his efforts to improve the economy will take time and that matters would be disastrously worse without the steps his administration has taken. Yet those, too, are often underwhelming political arguments for the millions who have been out of work long-term and want faster results.

In the setting of the Weithmans' yard, Obama took a break from his standard campaign speech. Gone, at least for one event, were his claims that Republicans offer the country nothing but fear, cynicism and recklessness.

But the partisan words returned quickly. He was back to his well-worn story that Republicans had driven the economy into a ditch as he spoke at a fundraiser for Ohio's Democratic governor, Ted Strickland, who is fighting for re-election.

The president capped his three-day, five-state trip with a $700,000 fundraiser in Miami for Florida Democrats, where he repeated his attacks on Republicans.

On his way out of town, Obama stopped at Jerry's Famous Deli for a taste of Miami and some more face time with Kendrick Meek, the Democratic congressman in a tough race for Florida's U.S. Senate seat.

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Feds: No timeline for completing Gulf oil relief well

HARRY R. WEBER
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS The government's point man for the Gulf oil spill said Wednesday he cannot provide a timeline right now for when BP's blown-out well will finally be plugged for good.

Retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen told reporters he will give the order to complete the so-called relief well when he is ready. Since nearly the start of the disaster in April, the plan had been to complete the relief well by early to mid-August. But stormy weather and now questions of how to make the job less risky have delayed that process.

Allen said BP PLC still needs to come up with a plan to alleviate pressure that may build up once the relief well intersects the blown-out well.

"We will know when we have satisfied ourselves and we have removed any shadow of doubt," Allen said when asked at what point he would give the order to move forward. He said the pause is "nothing more than an overabundance of caution and doing our jobs."

Ultimately, the plan is to pump mud and cement in from the bottom to plug the well permanently, a procedure known as a bottom kill. The well blew out when the offshore drilling rig Deepwater Horizon exploded April 20, killing 11 workers and setting off one of the worst offshore oil spills in history.

A cap has kept oil from flowing for more than a month, but that's just a temporary solution. Mud and cement was later pumped in through the top of the well, significantly reducing the pressure inside it.

But the government believes the bottom kill procedure is necessary to declare the well dead once and for all.

John Wright, who has been leading the team drilling the relief well aboard a rig at the wellsite, said he also has not been given an exact timetable.

"I was told they are working through risk and contingency plans and would let me know when they were ready to start again," Wright said in an e-mail to The Associated Press from aboard the Development Driller III vessel.

Also Wednesday, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration chief Jane Lubchenco said she stands by the conclusions of a government report that found 74 percent of the oil had been captured, burned, skimmed, evaporated, dissolved or dispersed. Researchers found rest was on or just below the surface of the Gulf, had washed ashore or was buried in the sand.

But, she said, "We know that oil is out there. It is diluted. Dilute and dispersed does not mean benign."

After the government released its report, scientists from the universities of South Florida and Georgia said they have found that most of the oil is not gone and must be dealt with.

Stocks make modest gains on heels of positive retail news

JOYCE M. ROSENBERG
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Stocks ended a seesaw day with a modest gain Wednesday after investors found some pluses in retail earnings reports.

The Dow Jones industrial average and other major indexes fluctuated throughout the day before closing with slender gains. There was little news to motivate investors a day after a stream of improving economic numbers restored some of their enthusiasm for stocks and sent the Dow up 103 points. But retailers continued reporting second-quarter earnings and investors found a few positives.

Target Corp. missed analysts' forecasts for its second quarter revenue and offered a muted outlook for sales for the rest of the year. But the company told analysts it hopes to offset weak sales with higher sales of groceries and its new discounts for credit card holders. Target initially fell sharply, then recovered to a healthy advance.

The reports came a day after Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Home Depot Inc. issued numbers that were upbeat. Almost all the big retailers closed higher Wednesday. An exception was BJ's Wholesale Club Inc., which lowered its earnings outlook for the year. Its stock dropped.

Wednesday's trading was muted, and that was to be expected after Tuesday's advance and as the outlook for the economy remained unclear. Traders weren't about to commit much more money to stocks. And many traders weren't at their desks.

"This is sort of a reflection of it being August when most trading firms have a skeleton staff on hand. It's going to be quiet for the next week or two," said Robert Pavlik, chief market strategist at Banyan Partners LLC in New York.

The Dow rose 9.69, or 0.1 percent, to 10,415.54. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.62, or 0.2 percent, to 1,094.16. The Nasdaq composite index rose 6.26, or 0.3 percent, to 2,215.70

Gainers were ahead of losers by 3 to 2 on the New York Stock Exchange. Consolidated volume was again extremely light at 3.8 billion shares, down from Tuesday's 4.1 billion.

Treasurys remained a destination for investors seeking a safer place than stocks to put their money. The 10-year Treasury yield fell to 2.63 percent from 2.64 percent late Tuesday.

John Stoltzfus, senior market strategist with Ticonderoga Securities in New York, said the market is becoming increasingly dominated by a "What have you done for me lately?" attitude and responding to daily reports about the economy.

"We live from economic data point to economic data point," he said. "That will probably continue at least until the end of the summer as we wait for some kind of catalyst that would give the market better definition."

BHP Billiton's $38.5 billion takeover offer for fertilizer producer Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan turned hostile Wednesday. Potash had called BHP's offer grossly inadequate. The announcement of the bid and Potash's rejection Tuesday helped feed the rally in stocks. Mergers and acquisitions activity tends to lift the market because it shows investors' confidence in the economy.

Investors were expecting a better offer. Potash rose $4.76, or 3.3 percent, to $147.93.

Target rose $1.27, or 2.5 percent, to $51.95. BJ's fell $1.17, or 2.7 percent, to $42.14. J.C. Penney Co., hurt last week by a disappointing earnings report, rose along with its competitors. It closed up 52 cents, or 2.6 percent, at $20.66. Clothing retailer AnnTaylor Corp. rose 97 cents, or 6.5 percent, to $15.96.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei 225 index closed up 0.9 percent. In later European trading, London's FT-SE 100 index fell 0.8 percent. Germany's DAX index fell 0.3 percent, while the CAC-40 index in Paris fell 0.7 percent.

City of Santa Monica Ordinance Numbers 2318, 2319, and 2320 (CCS) (City Council Series)

The following are summaries of Ordinances Number 2318, 2319 and 2320, which were adopted by the City Council on August 10, 2010.

Ordinance Number 2318 expands protections against smoke for multi-unit residential properties by prohibiting smoking in all outdoor areas within 25 feet of any door, window or vent and by requiring owners to compile and disclose information as to whether units are smoking or non-smoking.

Ordinance Number 2319 suspends certain Municipal Code provisions, including the provision closing Palisades Park at night, and certain permit conditions within stated boundaries for the purpose of conducting the City's one-night arts festival, Glow, on September 25, 2010 between 7:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m.

Ordinance Number 2320 sets the tax rate for fiscal year 2010-2011 for library general obligation bonds at $.007990 per $100 of assessed valuation.

Ordinance 2318 will become effective thirty days after its adoption. Ordinances 2319 and 2320 became effective upon adoption. The full text of the ordinances is available upon request from the Office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California; phone (310) 458-8211.





SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 64°

Swell Forecast

Looks smaller: knee to waist.

Long Range Synopsis

Early AM sessions are looking at waist to chest high sets around south facing breaks. Size should become consistently chest high later in the morning.

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 30 days up to the ending date of **August 11, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 44 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Grousbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, SIMA, Carlson Family Foundation, Inc.

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
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisa creeks.	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	C	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 18948 PCH stairs.	D	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A	ns

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

LEGEND

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

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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NFL

Favre wants shot at another title

JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP Sports Writer

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. The lure of playing in another Super Bowl brought Brett Favre back to the NFL — again.

Favre joined his Minnesota Vikings teammates at practice Wednesday. The three-time MVP wore a helmet, shoulder pads and red quarterback's jersey as he worked out with Minnesota for the first time since getting battered by New Orleans as the Vikings lost the NFC championship game in January.

"As we were driving on that last drive it seemed like it was destiny — for us," Favre said. "I was so close, so close to getting these guys to the Super Bowl."

Instead, Favre threw an interception in the final minute of regulation. The Vikings never got the ball back in overtime.

"I owe it to this organization to give it one more try," the quarterback said.

Not that coming back for a 20th season was a simple decision.

"I could make a case for both playing, not playing," Favre said. "This is a very good football team. The chances (of going to the Super Bowl) here are much greater than other places. From that standpoint, it was always going to be easier (to return).

"Part of me said it was such a great year, it would be easy to say, 'Hey, can't play any better, why even try?' Then the other part is, 'Guys are playing on a high level. Why don't I go back out?' The expectations are high here, as they should be."

The expectations always are high for Favre, even at 40. He's the NFL's leader in nearly every significant passing category and the winningest regular-season quarterback ever.

After staying away from training camp, as he's done for much of the past two summers, Favre was practicing less than 24 hours after the team sent Steve Hutchinson, Jared Allen and Ryan Longwell — three of his closest friends — to Mississippi to bring him back. Favre underwent left ankle surgery on May 21 and just a few weeks ago texted several teammates and Vikings officials that he would not return because the recovery was slower than he expected.

He's back now.

"There is nothing on me that's 100 percent. There wasn't anything that was 100 percent last year or the year before," Favre said. "The surgery made me a little better.

"I have played 309 straight games, I can't complain."

Coach Brad Childress is glad to have him, even with the aches and pains.

"Obviously, Brett was a huge part of what we were able to accomplish last year. That goes without saying. We wanted him back," Childress said. "It wasn't me wanting him back, it was we wanting him back."

Favre's return to the field came on the one-year anniversary of the day he signed a two-year, $25 million contract with the Vikings.

In a scene nearly identical to his arrival last August, Favre took a private plane from Hattiesburg on Tuesday, was followed by news helicopters from a suburban airport to the team headquarters and was greeted by dozens of fans and media members upon his arrival.

"Helicopters acting like they are following O.J.," tight end Visanthe Shiancoe tweeted. "Where is the bronco."

The big difference between this year and last year? His signing with the Vikings — Green Bay's bitter NFC North rival — was an unexpected change of direction.

This time around, virtually everyone expected the quarterback who flirts with quitting every summer to return. Favre's latest dalliance centered on the ankle that was injured in New Orleans and needed surgery. This is the third straight year the Vikings have dealt with questions about Favre — Minnesota was raised as a destination when he spent a year with the Jets — so they weren't convinced he was done.

Now it's time to see if the old man can do it all again.

The gray-haired Favre turned in one of the best seasons in a terrific career last year, throwing 33 touchdowns and only seven interceptions to lead the Vikings to the NFC North title. He passed for 310 yards and a touchdown against the Saints in the Superdome, but also threw that fateful interception.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Baxter unlikely to travel with USC to Hawaii

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Southern California running back Dillon Baxter is unlikely to travel with the team to Hawaii for the season opener on Sept. 2 after being suspended.

The heralded freshman spoke to reporters Wednesday for the first time since coach Lane Kiffin handed out the discipline last week for violating team rules. Kiffin has not said specifically what Baxter did to warrant a suspension.

Baxter says he made "mistakes" and he is "not going to do anything wrong from here on out." He has continued to practice with the rest of the team.

Kiffin says Baxter would not be making the trip with the team to Hawaii because it would be a distraction to the other players.

Baxter is expected will play at home against Virginia on Sept. 11.





MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for more information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Toy Story 3 (G) 1hr 49min
1:30pm

Inception (PG-13) 2hrs 28min
2:45pm, 6:15pm, 9:40pm

Middle Men (R) 1hr 45min
4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:05pm

Despicable Me 3D (PG) 1hr 35min
2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Kids Are All Right (R) 1hr 44min
2:20pm, 5:00pm, 7:40pm, 10:15pm

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

Eat Pray Love (PG-13) 2hrs 13min
12:40pm, 3:55pm, 7:15pm, 10:35pm

Eat Pray Love (PG-13) 2hrs 13min
11:40am, 2:55pm, 6:15pm, 9:30pm

Dinner for Schmucks (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:15am, 2:10pm, 5:05pm, 7:55pm, 10:40pm

Inception (PG-13) 2hrs 28min
12:10pm, 3:45pm, 7:10pm, 10:25pm

Other Guys (PG-13) 1hr 47min
11:00am, 1:35pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Step Up 3D (PG-13) 1hr 37min
11:10am, 2:05pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:35pm

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11:50am, 2:45pm, 5:30pm, 8:05pm, 10:45pm

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

Mademoiselle Chambon (NR) 1hr 41min
1:30pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Extra Man (R) 1hr 48min
11:20am, 1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

Peepli Live (NR) 1hr 46min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

Farewell (2003) (NR) 1hr 30min
1:10pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

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

Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore 3D (PG) 1hr 22min
11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:20pm, 6:45pm, 9:00pm

Salt (PG-13) 1hr 39min
12:05pm, 2:35pm, 5:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Expendables (R) 1hr 43min
11:00am, 11:50am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:10pm, 5:10pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:45pm, 10:45pm

The Other Guys (PG-13) 1hr 47min
11:40am, 2:25pm, 5:05pm, 7:55pm, 10:40pm

Flipped (PG) 1hr 30min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Be alone, Cancer

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You could be stunned by news. Without any time lost, you will be at work resolving an issue. You will find that the "right" solution might not suit you personally. Separating work from your private life is more important than you realize. Tonight: Count on a late dinner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ A partner or close friend does the unexpected, jolting you and perhaps others. Detach from the immediate situation. Understanding the forces at work will point to how to handle the issue. Tonight: Feed your mind with a great movie or maybe some music.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Perhaps in recent weeks you have noticed a tendency not to be able to juggle many different concerns. Know that you cannot be everywhere. Handle an upset with a partner or associate. Tonight: Talk over dinner.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ A morning surprise could force you to regroup. Others clearly have many opinions, and you will hear them, like it or not. In fact, a trusted partner or associate surprises you with his or her outlook and ideas. Tonight: Just don't be alone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Head into work ready to deal with some contrariness. You might think everything is OK, but others will let you know otherwise! Focus on one task at a time. Understanding evolves as the day gets older. Tonight: Revamp plans if need be.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Juggling different needs could be difficult, until you tap into your ingenuity. Try not to involve your funds in this creative drive. If you want to take a risk, opt for an emotional one. You are more likely to be successful in this area. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Make calls as soon as possible. You might want to say little and focus on a project. You will be hard-pressed to eliminate distraction. You will have to close your door at the office, if you can. Tonight: Head home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Say "no" to a risk if you cannot afford the loss, especially financially. Communication could be overwhelming. If you feel that you are going to lose your temper, opt for a walk or a change of scenery. Tonight: Catching up on a friend's news.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Deal with some issues surrounding money. Meetings and friends seem to ask a lot right now. Be graceful if you are postponing a reply or saying "no." Given time, you will see the path to do what you want. A family member is capable of creating uproar. Tonight: Treat a friend to dinner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You feel a change midmorning. Even if you encounter flak, you see many new options. You will be able to process a change and make it the most positive experience possible. A boss or older relative is difficult, to say the least. Tonight: As you like -- finally.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ News or information could change a decision. Take your time, and don't respond to others' pressure. You will be processing this experience, and come out with a new point of view. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You energize and decide to make sure an event or situation works out as you would like. You find that a partner or associate differs from your ideas. You also might need to revise your thinking. You can control only yourself, your expectations and your desires. Tonight: Where your friends are.

Happy birthday

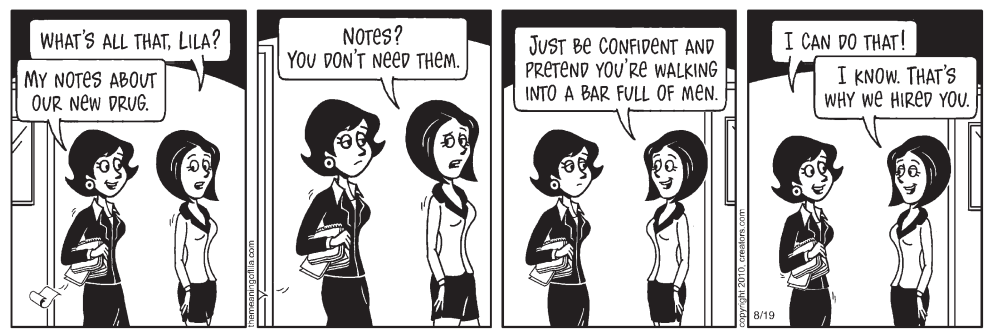
This year, focus on the quality of your daily life. You discover that some changes and tweaks here and there make all the difference. For some, it might be a change of hours; for others, a new hobby; and yet for some, a new way of eating. If you are single, you also will meet different people because of this change. Be aware that someone you meet this year might not be around forever, but it works at this juncture. If you are attached, the two of you opt to take up a new pastime. CAPRICORN tends to ground you.

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

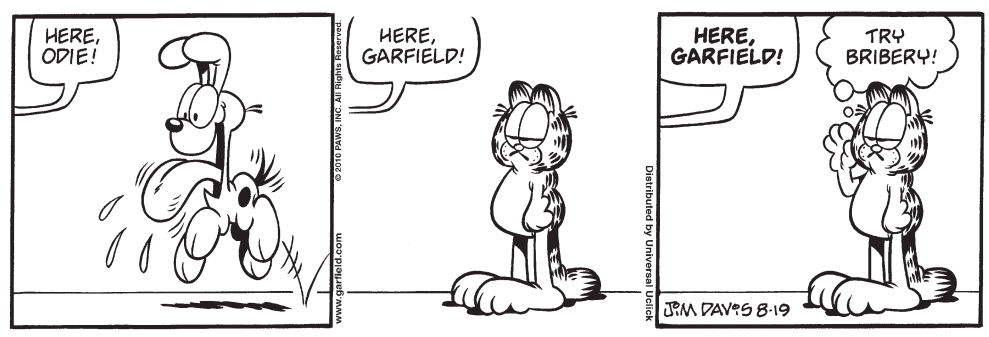
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



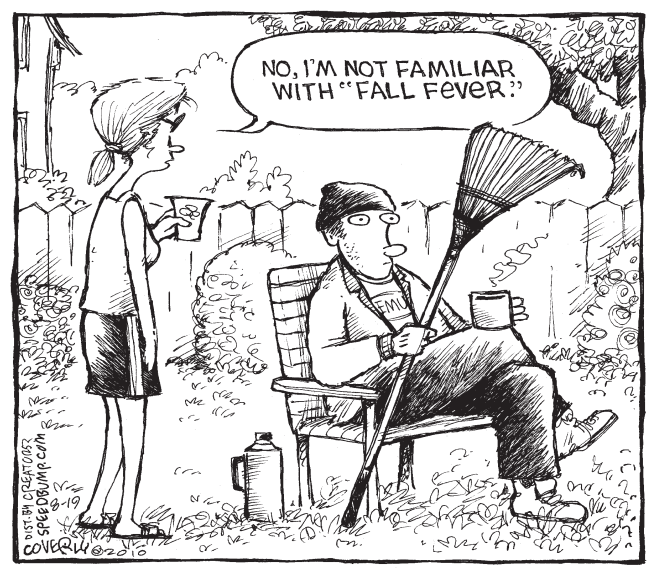
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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





MYSTERY REVEALED!

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Reader Roger Swanson correctly identified this photo of artist Pharoe's new garden mural next to the future Market Place at Santa Monica Place. He will receive two VIP passes to Pacific Park. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Expedited
5 Software buys
10 Show uncertainty
12 Plain silly
13 Light-footed
14 Type a password, perhaps
15 Wrestling need
16 Brownie additives
18 Confused
20 Feasted
21 Bailiwick
23 Wine choice
24 Worthless stuff
26 Chow
28 Painter Vermeer
29 Lowly worker
31 Help out
32 Set electrician
36 Watering hole
39 Golf position
40 Run, as color
41 Crumble
43 Moved carefully
44 Begat
45 Dangers
46 Painter Cassatt

DOWN

1 Wise fellow
2 Heathen
3 Musical set in Argentina
4 Penn. neighbor
5 Kitchen herb
6 Privy to
7 Large cactus
8 Made an afghan
9 Felt
11 Adapts
17 Historic time
19 Rooter
22 Steep-roofed dwellings
24 Fronton sport
25 Strip
27 Not working
28 Prattle
30 Sense of self
33 Plant life
34 Down source
35 Thin
37 Smell awful
38 Track figures
42 Brink

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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

8-19

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 11 19 40 43 44 Meganumber: 33 Jackpot: $100M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 8 12 24 36 40 Meganumber: 12 Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5: 9 11 14 22 29

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 4 7 EVENING: 4 7 0

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 02 Lucky Star 2nd: 05 California Classic 3rd: 07 Eureka RACE TIME: 1:42.46

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

■ Avoiding Marriage, the Hard Way: A female lawyer from Puri, India, in her mid-30s told The Times of India in July that she recently underwent gender-reassignment surgery in part to avoid the male-female marriage that her parents were arranging for her: "I did not want a family life which is being forced on girls in our society."

■ The Power of Books: Speaking to the city council of Crestview, Fla., in July, the founder of the local "Protect Our Children" citizens' group said her son (whose age was not revealed) had "lost his mind" when he looked through the violent Japanese "manga" graphic novel he found on open stacks in the Crestview Public Library. "Now," she said, "he's in a home for extensive therapy."

■ North Korea's World Cup adventure began auspiciously with a hard-fought 2-1 loss to a superior Brazil team, leading the government to release photographs of the North Korean coach supposedly receiving long-distance telepathic strategy signals during the game from Dear Leader Kim Jong-Il. With the country's hopes up, the team was embarrassed in two subsequent games and dispatched from the tournament. Back home in July, the players were paraded into the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang, where for six hours, they were publicly denounced and taunted. Coach Kim Jong-huh is said to fear an eventual violent end.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1955 In the Northeast United States, severe flooding caused by Hurricane Diane, claims 200 lives.

1960 Cold War: in Moscow, downed American U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers is sentenced to ten years imprisonment by the Soviet Union for espionage.

1960 Sputnik program: Sputnik 5 – the Soviet Union launches the satellite with the dogs Belka and Strelka, 40 mice, 2 rats and a variety of plants.

1965 Japanese prime minister Eisaku Sato becomes the first post-World War II sitting prime minister to visit Okinawa.

1981 Gulf of Sidra Incident: United States fighters intercept and shoot down two Libyan Sukhoi Su-22 fighter jets over the Gulf of Sidra.

WORD UP!

piquant
\ PEE-kuhnt \ , adjective;
1. Agreeably stimulating, interesting, or attractive.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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WLA $1700/MO near Bundy/SM Blvd. Spacious 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, upper, large closets, fireplace, appliances, laundry, parking, attractive, smaller building, (310) 828-4481

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20100888938 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as SKYCO SYSTEM LLC; AI#ON 201010510052, 27065 CROSSGLADE AVE. #1, CANYON COUNTRY, CA 91351, LA COUNTY . The full name of registrant(s) is/are : SKYCO SYSTEMS LLC, 27065 CROSSGLADE AVE. #1, CANYON COUNTY, CA 91351 This Business is being conducted by, an limited liability. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)4/16/2010. /s/: SHAWN MCKENDRY, SKYCO SYSTEMS LLC ; MANAGING MEMBER
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 6/29/2010. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/29/2010, 8/5/2010, 8/12/2010, 8/19/2010

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20100891972 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as PRODIGAL TEK; BLACK MAMBA MOTORSPORTS, 5650 CAMBRIDGE WAY #10, CULVER CITY, CA 90230, LOS ANGELES COUNTY. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : ANTHONY POTGIETER, 5650 CAMBRIDGE WAY #10, CULVER CITY, CA 90230 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant has not yet begun to transact business. /s/: ANTHONY POTGIETER; OWNER
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 6/29/2010. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 7/29/2010, 8/5/2010, 8/12/2010, 8/19/2010



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North of Montana	$3,495,000	$1,395,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,614,500	$709,000
South of Wilshire	$773,500	$649,000
Sunset Park	$1,150,000	$569,000
Ocean Park	$1,439,000	$909,500

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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