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Volume 8 Issue 248

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Santa Monica Daily Press

HAPPY B-DAY, CO-OP

We have you covered

THE **WATCH THE PETS** ISSUE



LOCAL BOYS

Brandon Wise *news@smdp.com*

Drummer Anthony Logerfo of the band Venice warms up with the rest of the group at Thursday night's Santa Monica Pier Twilight Dance Series.

A change at the very top

SMC football coach dismissed amid recruiting violation claims

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC After 15 years at the helm, Santa Monica College's head football Coach Robert Taylor has been dismissed from the program amid allegations of recruiting violations that involved student athletes receiving special financial incentives that were not extended to the rest of the campus population.

Sources said Taylor changed the residency status of out-of-state players on his football team so they would pay the significantly lower in-state tuition. SMC officials confirmed that Taylor was relieved of his duties as head football coach and that he remains on the staff as a full-time physical education professor.

He was hired in 1984 as an assistant football coach and was promoted to head coach in 1994. During that time, he coached several future NFL stars, including Isaac Bruce, Steve Smith and Chad Ochocinco, formerly known as Chad Johnson.

Taylor did not respond to a call seeking comment.

The team has experienced success during his tenure, including in 2003 when the Corsairs won the Western State Conference. The program has however fallen on harder times over the past several years, winning just over a half dozen games since 2006. The team is now in the Western Division of the American Conference.

Now those wins won't count.

SMC officials have self-imposed sanctions and penalties on the program, vacating all wins back to the 2006 season. It will also be suspended from post-conference play this season and be placed on probation for three years during which time the college will develop and institute a plan that will monitor all areas of the program.

"I, along with our senior administrators,

SEE **SMC** PAGE 11

Coyote ugly

Reports of critters killing pets are up

BY EMMA TROTTER
Special to the Daily Press

DOUGLAS PARK For 13 years, Wally the cat was the king of the neighborhood.

"He was just mister stud cat," said his owner, Kristin Rotblatt, who lives near Douglas Park just north of Wilshire Boulevard. "He was very sweet to us, but he never took any crap."

Wally met his untimely death earlier this month — at the jaws of coyotes, Rotblatt suspects. She said her beloved pet had been missing for five or six days when a neighbor called her and said she found Wally's body on her lawn.

"When I saw that cat and how he'd been killed, I knew it was a coyote," Rotblatt said. "It was the same night that a white duck was killed by a coyote in the park. And my neighbor said she had heard a huge fight happen between a cat and coyotes in the bushes outside her window."

Wally isn't the first cat in recent memory to die in such a way.

Santa Monica Police Department Lt. P.J. Guido said animal control officers have been dispatched to pick up remains of cats eight times since July 21 of this year, mostly north of Wilshire and east of Fifth Street. Over 30 sightings have been reported in the last year.

While the numbers alone are not unusual citywide, Guido said, the attacks do represent "an increase," especially in the area.

Guido emphasized that the attacks are "suspected" — not confirmed — coyote kills.

"There has not been one case where there was a sighting of a coyote attack upon a domestic animal," he said.

In that situation, the only clues that coyotes were responsible come from the remains, which in the case of coyote kills are often distinguishable by decapitation or missing limbs.

Left in this partially-eaten state, the attacked felines usually die before they can be taken to veterinary hospitals.

That might explain why Santa Monica Dog and Cat Hospital veterinarian Carrie

SEE **COYOTES** PAGE 12



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Tour da Arts

Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave. G-1. 2 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Join the Santa Monica Museum of Art and Cyclists Inciting Change through Live Exchange for a workshop and cultural bike ride through Santa Monica. Enjoy special programming and tasty treats along the way. Participation in the bike tour is free. The workshop is free for museum members and $5 for everyone else. For more information, or to register, visit www.smmoa.org or call (310)394-9779 ext. 2.

100 years of hostelling

Hostelling International
1434 2nd St., 4 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Join Hostelling International as they celebrate 100 years of hostelling around the world with food, music and fun at this open house. Admission is free. Call (310)393-3413 for more information.

Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009

The Co-Op turns 35!

Co-Opportunity
1525 Broadway Ave., 12 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Co-Opportunity is celebrating 35 years as Santa Monica's Cooperative Natural Grocer. Everyone is welcome to come help us commemorate our anniversary. It's a free event with fun, food, music, dancing, prizes, kid's activites and more! Call (310)451-8902 for more information.

Santa Monica Pier Photo Exhibit

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

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.



Jackson's memorabilia tour gets nod

LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES A judge on Friday firmly approved a deal between Michael Jackson's estate and a concert promoter to exhibit his memorabilia, praising the arrangement that the singer's mother had fought in court over her concerns that it could harm his legacy and wasn't competitively bid.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff approved the deal that's expected to earn Jackson's estate up to $6 million, saying after four hours of mostly closed-door testimony that there was "no question in my mind this agreement is in the best interest of the estate."

Beckloff noted the lack of a reasonable alternative presented by Katherine Jackson's attorneys, alluding to a mention made in court of a company starting up in the Middle East that might be able to handle the exhibitions.

"The most foolhardy thing the administrators could do is connect with some start-up company from the Middle East," he said.

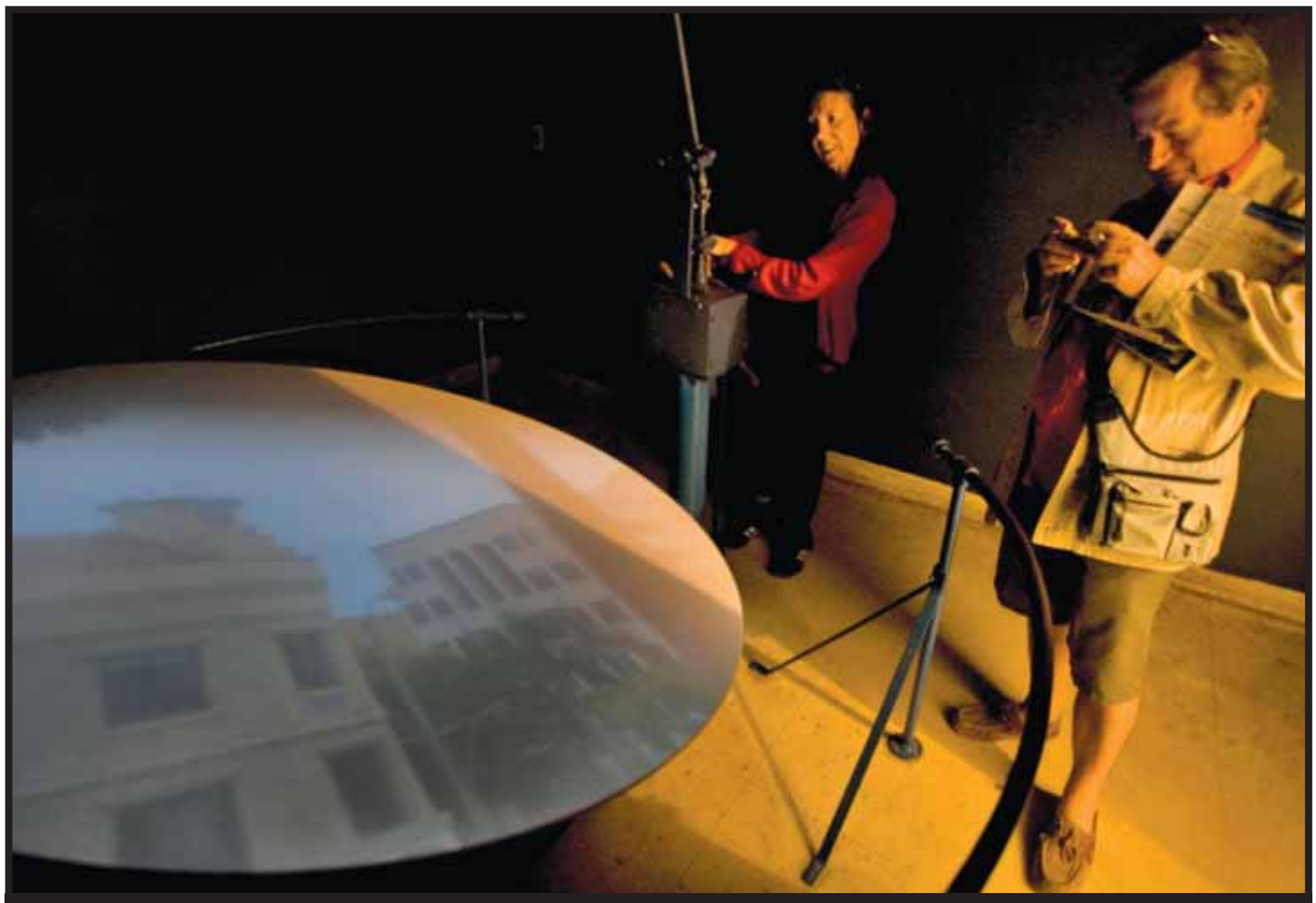
The show will open in London's 02 Arena, where Jackson was set to kick off his "This is It" tour this summer.

"I think everybody is going to be thrilled with the results," said John Norman, president and CEO of the exhibit's promoter, AEG Live-owned Arts and Entertainment International. "It will be great to celebrate this man's legacy."

AEG Live, the company that was preparing Jackson's 50-concert comeback tour when he died June 25, plans to open the exhibit around the Oct. 28 release of a film using footage of the singer's final rehearsals. Attorneys for Katherine Jackson had tried to block the deal, arguing it should have been competitively bid, and that the estate should have a larger cut of the proceeds than the 50-50 split negotiated with AEG.

John Schreiber, an attorney for Katherine Jackson, suggested there was no need to hurry or conduct "a fire sale" of the memorabilia. But the judge chided his "hyperbole about rushing to judgment and fire sale and giving away the store" as inappropriate, and said he was convinced the negotiations were above board.

SEE **JACKSON** PAGE 13



UNIQUE VIEW
Brandon Wise *news@smdp.com*
Patrice Porre and Susanna Agati get a different look at the city from the Camera Obscura room at the Senior Recreational Center Thursday.

Enjoying art on two wheels

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

MICHIGAN AVENUE There won't be a cancer-surviving superstar cyclist or sights of the French countryside but the inaugural Tour da Arts in Santa Monica promises to highlight some of the city's significant cultural landmarks.

More than 100 people are expected to show up for the Santa Monica Museum of Arts' (SMMOA) event Saturday that showcases a trio of major players in the areas of theater, fine and performing arts through a nine-mile bike ride, stopping at The Broad Stage, Miles Memorial Playhouse and 18th Street Arts Center.

The event is part of the museum's ongoing series called Cause for Creativity, which focuses on using the arts to raise social awareness. This particular installment will focus on environmental issues.

"It's based on saving energy and alternative forms of energy in which we're using power from our bodies to get around town," Asuka Hisa, the director of education for SMMOA, said.

Co-hosting the event is C.I.C.L.E. (Cyclists Inciting Change thru LIVE Exchange,) a Los Angeles-based nonprofit organization that holds monthly bike rides called Urban Expeditions and will plan the route and navigate participants when the tour kicks off at 5 p.m. from Bergamot Station.

The C.I.C.L.E. team will include Liz Elliott, the executive director who from the front will serve as captain and guide the group safely to their various stops. Assisting her will be about a dozen trained ride leaders — identifiable by their yellow vests — who will be scattered in the crowd of cyclists, making sure that the group will always have a C.I.C.L.E. representative in case they're separated by a traffic signal.

The organization has also coordinated the Pasadena ARTRide.

"We are savvy at this point on how to lead a large group ride," Elliott said.

The first leg of the trip will take the riders to the corner of 11th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard, home of The Broad Stage, Santa Monica College's $45 million performing arts center that opened last year. The theater was designed by Santa Monica architect Renzo Zecchetto, whose work was honored by California Construction Magazine. It features a 499-seat theater, combining the intimacy that comes with a small space with the high-end acoustics of a larger venue.

SEE **ARTS** PAGE 12

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Stop singling smokers out

Editor:

I'm disgusted about our city fathers wanting to criminalize smoking in our own homes. Smoking is legal, but City Hall seems hell bent on continuing to single out and persecute a class of people. What's next, having smokers register their names with the city clerk? Then what, tattoo a cigarette on the forearm of every smoker and make them wear bright patches on their clothing to make them easy to identify? I know that is an awful symbol and parallel, but it's not too far off the mark. I hope City Hall exercises good sense and stops singling out this class and persecuting them. But I'm not very confident it will based on past performance.

Carmen Polizzi
Santa Monica

Follow the money

Editor:

The Greg Risling article ("Film producers to stand trial in bribery case," Aug. 17) made me wonder how our government determines what is "bribery." For years I have considered lobbyists to be "bribers." What else do they do except "bribe" our congressmen to vote in favor of their corporations? Their fight against a health plan is a disgrace. They now have a new "dirty" word to use – "socialism." Isn't our Medicare what they call "socialism?" For the 30 years I have been privileged to have it, I have wished all Americans could have something similar. I have only one fault with it – that it does not insure 100 percent. For the 20 percent the insurance pays, its premiums are so much more than Medicare – it is criminal! When I complained about my last raise, the woman laughed and said, "Expect it to go higher!" I rest my case.

Cecilia Rosenthal
Santa Monica





Modern Times

Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dining with Uncle Sam

THE PUBLIC DEBATE OVER HEALTH CARE has become increasingly contentious. There is a group of people that doesn't want the government to be involved in anything having to do with their health. They seem to conveniently forget about Medicare, but that's their right.

I recently learned that there is a proposed provision in the health care bill called The Affordable Health Choices Act. This has to do with insisting that restaurants put on their menus caloric and other nutritional information about the food they serve. Why haven't I seen crazed people (some with their precious legal guns), screaming their opposition to the government telling them what to eat? I'm surprised I haven't seen angry signs saying things like, "I'll be Unhealthy If I Want To," or "Feds: Keep Your Hands Off My Fat."

LET'S SAY YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE GO OUT TO DINNER FOR YOUR ANNIVERSARY. YOU GO TO THAT SPECIAL, FAVORITE RESTAURANT OF YOURS. DO YOU REALLY WANT TO SEE HOW MANY CALORIES ARE IN THAT ITEM THAT YOU'VE DREAMT OF FOR WEEKS?

The proposal is not as simple as one would hope. As of now, the bill only applies to chains with 20 or more restaurants. These restaurants must post calories on their menus and provide other information such as fat and sodium content if customers request it. Small restaurants claim the new menus would cause too much of a hardship for them. Needless to say, the chain restaurants don't think this is fair. So we have the weird situation in which Domino's Pizza, Del Taco, and Jack in the Box, among similar places, are calling for a plan that would give more nutritional information to more people. This is like the tobacco companies saying, "No, those warnings on the packs aren't scary enough. Let's just say these things cause cancer, and you'd be a fool to smoke them."

Let's assume that they work out the details and come up with a menu labeling bill that makes sense to all of the restaurant owners. If it helps people lose weight and avoid things like diabetes and obesity — which is the purpose — I think it's a great idea. There's nothing wrong with educating people about food.

But I'm concerned about how this is going to change the American dining experience.

Let's say you and your spouse go out to dinner for your anniversary. You go to that special, favorite restaurant of yours. Do you really want to see how many calories are in that item that you've dreamt of for weeks? Will the two of you have a good time if, after the waiter describes a delicious dinner, you stop him and ask, "How many grams of sodium are in it?" Will you skip that special dessert if you see that it contains more calories than a marathon runner burns? Will the two of you end up just ordering salads, and then uttering those words that have become part of our modern vocabulary — "and I'd like the dressing on the side, please."

This may take some of the fun and all of the romance out of eating. Maybe the restaurants should print up two sets of menus: one for those who want the information and one for those who don't. Of course, it's quite possible that those who don't want to know how many calories are in the Chocolate Surprise are those who need this information the most.

Maybe they should add an "every once in a while clause." This would entitle us to go out to dinner every once in a while, and order from old-fashioned menus without the nutritional information. This would apply to holidays, birthdays, and anniversaries. And I guess it should apply to days when you're feeling really good. Of course, you might also want to enjoy food when you're feeling really bad. And then there's … OK, OK, maybe the "every once in a while clause" isn't such a practical idea.

Obviously, when I think about the statistics about how unhealthy we eat and what the costs are both in terms of health and money, I'm for this plan. These harsh realities outweigh my concerns about fun no longer being part of eating.

But I am concerned that this kind of thing can get out of hand. Food regulations are a greasy slope. This bill may lead to people ordering without even mentioning the food, and just saying things like: "I'll have the 13.28 grams of fat, 453 milligrams of sodium, and 28 grams of carbohydrates." If we ever get to that point, I'll rebel and work to repeal the bill. Or at least, I'll ask for a side order of 39 grams of sugar.

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his Web site at lloydgarver.com and his podcasts on iTunes.

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The Q Line

Pigeon problem?

This past week, Q-line asked:

The City Council recently approved a net that will be installed under the Santa Monica Pier to prevent pigeons from fouling the bay, which is home to some of the most polluted waters in California. This has animal rights activists in an uproar, with some claiming the net could kill or injure the birds who roost underneath the famous structure. Do you think the net is a good idea and why?

Here are your responses:

"THE PIGEONS WERE HERE FIRST. I SAY remove the pier."

"NEVER MIND THE PIGEONS; IF YOU WANT to get rid of the pollution, get rid of the bums. The drunken bums cause more pollution than any pigeons do."

"NO, I DON'T THINK THE NET IS A GOOD idea. It is inhumane to trap mature birds and young fledglings under it. There are certainly more humane ways of dealing with the problem. What about the human waste that finds its way into these waters and has for years? Put the net over the peeing, pooping and vomiting bums."

"YES, THE NET SHOULD BE INSTALLED. Screw the activists – pigeons are flying vermin. In fact, I'm in favor of giving everyone on the Third Street Promenade or the pier who wants one a nail on a stick to stab the little suckers and toss them into a trash bin."

"I SAY PUT UP THE NET. A FEW LESS pigeons would be a bonus. We could also do with a few less animal rights activists. They're about as obnoxious and useless as the crows – now there's a problem."

"YES, I BELIEVE IN CONTROLLING POLLUTION of the bay. But even though I'm an animal rights activist, kind of, I think putting the net under the pier is a good idea. I'm sure the people who are doing it are being guided by the people that believe in animal rights. I'm an animal rights believer, but not for humans."

"I AM A SANTA MONICA PERSON, AND I really think that net should be for the pigeons. It' s not going to hurt them and I think it's going to be better for the pier. But I have one other suggestion: What about the pigeons on the promenade? When you're eating out, they fly all over you. Can't you do something about that too?"

"WE CAN FEED THE HOMELESS AND SOLVE our pigeon problem with this recipe: Homeless Squab Flambé. Take one pigeon and marinate with cheap beer or whiskey, add a dash of crack or heroine to taste, cook over burning trash can until well done. This recipe can also be used for squirrel or rat."

"IF ANY QUESTION COMPLETELY DEFINES Santa Monica, this is it. This sounds like a fund-raiser for Heal the Bay. No one swims under the pier. These animal rights people have got too much time on their hands, or are trying to justify their salaries or non-profit status. Pigeons are just rats with wings. Here is a great example of non-clarity and no common sense from the misguided. Instead of worrying about pigeon poop, we should be concentrating on the obscene, half-a-billion-dollar budget, and the explosive, ruinous growth. Pigeon poop will now compete with bum poop, educational poop, so-called entertainment poop on the mall, poopy low-income housing, light rail poop and the best is the poop from City Hall: obfuscation, hubris and greed. Clean up this town. Get a bum to eat a pigeon."

"THE CITY COUNCIL ONCE AGAIN SHOWS us what idiots they are. They just spent a large sum to replace the pipes under the pier, and the Heal the Bay water sample still rates the pier D at best and F most of the time in dry weather. Now they are blaming this on birds. Looks like they could have saved a lot of money on pipes. Walk under the pier, and see how many water leaks are always coming from above. Next election, vote everyone out but Shriver."

"I DO THINK THE NET'S A GREAT IDEA, because all pigeons do is defecate all over the place and make a mess, and they're not worth anything. If it was seagulls, if it was cranes, or pelicans, I would say no. But there's enough pigeons on the promenade and in the park. Let them stay there, and let's keep the water clean. I've been in Santa Monica for 30 years, and I haven't gone in the water for 25 because of the pollution."

"I HAVE ONE QUESTION FOR THE Q-LINE AND the City Council: Why do they pick the least humane way to handle some kind of animal issue? They poisoned those little squirrels and animals in the Pacific Palisades when there was a humane option available. There's also a humane option available to this net, and they're totally ignoring it. They're the poo in the net."

"THE NET IS A TERRIBLE IDEA, ESPECIALLY from a city that prides itself on being an environmental Mecca. Has the California Coastal Commission given permission? What about the Department of Fish and Game? Not only are we talking about pigeons, but what about the seagulls, wandering pelicans and migratory fowl that could be caught in this net? It's almost like Sarah Palin authorizing aerial shooting of wolves. Come on, Santa Monica can come up with something better – maybe completing the construction authorized in Measure B so the real cause of the pollution, our sewage, is stopped. The pigeons are like a drop in the bucket; it's the rest of us that are causing the pollution, and Santa Monica needs to stop that, not by killing birds."

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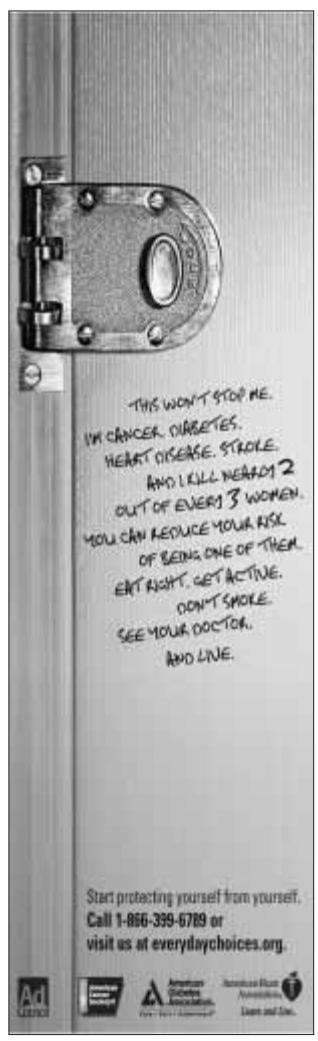

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Meat as a drink?

CARYN BROOKS
For The Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. First you cook the bacon, remove the fat and tear it into pieces. It sounds like the start of a nice breakfast, but it's actually the first part of mixologist Adam Seger's Baconcello recipe. The next step is steeping the bacon in vodka for 72 hours.

Bacon-infused spirits and other so-called "carnivorous cocktails" are quirky options on the menus of some cutting-edge bars these days, and with the introduction this May of a mass-produced product called Bakon Vodka, flesh-flavored spirits are beginning to nudge their way into the mainstream drinking scene.

Seger, general manager, mixologist and sommelier of Chicago bar/restaurant Nacional 27, is part of a multitasking breed of barkeep that likes to incorporate culinary techniques into drinks. Bacon is the most popular meat-in-a-glass, but Seger has also made a ham-and-cheese cocktail, while renowned mixologist Todd Thrasher has experimented with foie gras and lamb.

Seger says that savory drinks follow cooking logic. "You use alcohol to deglaze a pan when you cook, so it makes sense that you can inverse it," he says.

To taste Thrasher's BLT cocktail, you have to head to his speakeasy PX in Alexandria. Can't find it? That's because there's no sign and you have to knock on an imposing door to gain entrance.

On a recent summer night, we entered and found Jayson Smith manning the bar, doling out the BLT — a drink full of mind-bending, taste bud-tingling turns. A huge ice cube, made with lettuce water, anchors a glass rimmed with bacon salt. Clear tomato water and bacon-infused vodka are mixed and poured over the lettuce cube.

Thrasher also makes an off-the-menu special called "MacGriddle," which tastes like a McGriddle from McDonald's. This one mixes the bacon vodka with cream, maple syrup, a whole egg and confectioner's sugar. Smith warned us, "It coats your palate" and he was right: It's very sweet and good as a one-off dessert drink.

Thrasher echoes Seger when he talks about his overall mixology inspiration.

"I love food, I love cooking, but the limitations of a bar have been alcohol and just alcohol," he says. "I found the limitations of being a bartender, for lack of a better word, limiting. So I started looking through cookbooks to find inspiration."

What started Thrasher's engine when it comes to carnivorous cocktails was reading about how famed chef and author Auguste Escoffier poached foie gras (duck or goose liver) in Armagnac (grape brandy) in the late 1880s and then used the fat-washed spirit to flavor sauces.

"That's how the whole situation started for me," he says. "That's when I started thinking about things other than what a bartender is supposed to use. In 2005 I created a drink called The Pear of Desire using foie gras as garnish. At the beginning it wasn't so well-received, but a week into it a buzz started happening and everyone started ordering it."

The new commercial product Bakon Vodka, launched by three friends in Seattle, seems as far from the barroom experimentations of Adam Seger and Todd Thrasher as artisanal bacon is to a jar of Bacon Bits. The most obvious reason? Bakon isn't made with real bacon.

One of the owners, Sven Liden, explains: "After a lot of testing and figuring out shelf-life and other issues, we decided that an infusion was too complicated and messy. The upside is that it's vegan and gluten-free."

Because Bakon's bacon-ness is chemically induced, it comes off far more smoky and strong than the bar infusions. But for those who might not have access to painstakingly infused liquor, Bakon Vodka (which currently sells by mail order at www.drinkupny.com for $29.99) seems to be appealing. Linden says demand has outpaced his predictions.

"Our initial expectation was that we could do a small pilot test in the Pacific Northwest with a few hundred cases. Not a huge amount, but we thought it would last 2-3 months based on similar introductions of specialty liquors," he says. "That run sold out in about three weeks."

Seger, the mixologist from Chicago, has tasted Bakon Vodka and fears that those who sample that product first will get the wrong idea about the real possibilities of carnivorous cocktails. "It tasted like vodka with a liquid smoke rather than an infusion you do with a high-quality protein," he says.

For anyone who has tasted the amazingly refined Old Fashioned served at Manhattan's PDT bar — made with bacon-infused Four Roses bourbon and Grade B maple syrup — there is no comparison.

However, Linden says the bartenders he's supplied in his area are enthused. "In Washington we're starting to see repeat sales to the same customers, and we're seeing bars put it on their permanent menus — so we know it's more than just a novelty purchase," he says.

Regardless of the source, the carnivorous cocktail movement is expanding people's view of drinking. As Thrasher says: "If you drink like you eat, you can have some amazing things happen."

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Photo courtesy GlutenFreeFoodReviews.com

CHOW DOWN: **A slice of organic rice crust, gluten-free spinach pizza.**

Can't live by bread alone

SINCE THE DAWN OF CIVILIZATION, PRETTY much, bread has been known as "the staff of life." But for those suffering from gluten intolerance, bread may be more like "the enemy of the state" or at least feel that way from the associated digestive issues.

There are times when cutting down on bread can facilitate weight loss, which would make anyone feel better. However, bread, even whole grain bread eaten in moderation, may cause major problems to the gastrointestinal (GI) tract for those gluten sensitive individuals. This GI distress can lead to further complications stemming from malabsorption of essential nutrients as well as concomitant auto-immune diseases.

Gluten intolerance, also known as celiac disease, is an auto-immune disease in which the GI tract is the initial site of injury. Gluten refers to a group of proteins found in wheat, rye and barley. For those celiac disease suffers, the immune system treats gluten as a foreign body and inflames the villi (little finger-like projections in the GI tract) to protect the body from the perceived intruder.

Under normal circumstances, the villi are the main site for nutrient absorption. In their inflamed state, nutrient absorption is hindered leading to nutritional deficiencies and possible short- and long-term complications. Common nutrient deficiencies associated with gluten intolerance include low iron in the blood or anemia which may cause chronic fatigue. Calcium absorption can also be inhibited leading to bone loss or osteoporosis. Gluten intolerance has also been linked to other chronic auto-immune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis and type-1 diabetes.

It seems that once your body begins fighting battles to protect itself from invaders like gluten, it sometimes kills off its own healthy cells. This is the case with type-1 diabetes where the beta-cells of the pancreas are destroyed thereby eliminating the body's own insulin production. An auto-immune response may promote an increase in pro-inflammatory agents as a way to protect specific body parts from assailants while at the same time unintentionally causing pain and suffering to other areas such as the joints, as seen with rheumatoid arthritis.

Technically, you do not have a true gluten intolerance or celiac disease unless tested and confirmed by a physician. The tests include blood work for the anti-gliadin antibodies (IgA) as well as a biopsy of the GI tract. If you suspect that you are gluten intolerant and begin to eliminate sources of gluten, as I did, your tests will come back negative. You have to ingest the offender in order to stimulate the antibodies. For more on gluten intolerance and foods to avoid as well as foods to include, tune in next week. For now, at least pizza is back on the menu!

ELIZABETH BROWN is a gluten intolerant registered dietitian and certified holistic chef who has learned that there is more to life than bread. For more information visit her Web site: www.thekitchenvixen.com.

Gluten-free pizza crust recipe

1 packet or 2 1/4 tsp. active, dry yeast
3/4 cup warm water, not too hot to touch
1 tsp. sugar
1 cup brown rice flour
3/4 cup tapioca flour
1/4 cup millet flour
2 tsp. xanthan gum
3/4 tsp. sea salt
2 eggs, room temperature
2 tbs. olive oil
2 tbs. ricotta cheese, room temperature

Allow ricotta and eggs to come to room temperature. Preheat oven to 200 degrees and place pizza stone or baking sheet in oven to warm. Place yeast and sugar in a small bowl and add 1/4 cup warm water. Mix to dissolve yeast and sugar and wait five minutes for yeast to activate. The water will appear milky and tiny bubbles will rise to indicate the yeast is active.

In one mixing bowl, combine the flours, xanthan gum and salt. In another bowl, beat eggs and combine with oil and ricotta cheese. You can combine all ingredients by hand in a very large mixing bowl, or use a standing mixer or a food processor. Combine the flour with the yeast-water. Add the egg-ricotta mixture. Add more water very gradually while you either knead the dough by hand or with your mixer. Your goal is to get a shiny, pliable dough.

Turn off your oven. Remove pizza stone or baking tray. Cover stone or tray with parchment paper. Coat your hands with olive oil. Place the dough on your pizza stone or baking tray lined with parchment. Shape the dough into a 12-inch round pizza. Pull up the edges to create a crust.

Turn on your oven light, place the doughy pizza crust in the oven. Do not turn on the oven. Let the dough rise for 45 minutes in the oven with the oven light on. Once the dough has risen, turn the oven temperature to 375 degrees and bake the crust for 10 minutes or until golden. Remove crust from the oven and top with your favorite toppings. Turn the oven heat to 400. Bake pizza with toppings for 7 minutes. Or for those anxious pizza eaters, try Amy's Organic Rice Crust Gluten-free Pizza.





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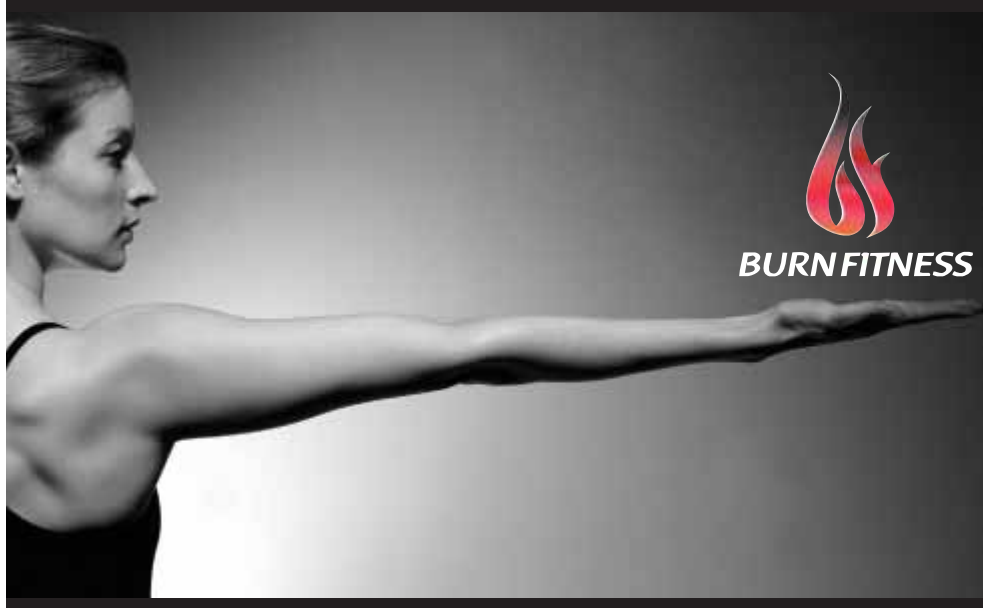
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Karzai, Abdullah both claim lead in Afghan vote

JASON STRAZIUSO &
ROBERT H. REID
Associated Press Writers

KABUL Both main candidates for Afghan president claimed to be ahead Friday after an election marred by violence, spotty turnout and fraud allegations — threatening U.S. hopes for Afghans to come together to combat the challenges of Taliban insurgency, corruption and poverty.

President Hamid Karzai's campaign insisted he would have enough votes to avoid a runoff with his chief challenger, Abdullah Abdullah, a former foreign minister. Abdullah countered that he was leading but suspected there would be a runoff.

Election officials called on the candidates to refrain from such claims, which could delay formation of a new government. Officials of Afghan and international monitoring teams agreed that it was too early to say who won or to know whether fraud was extensive enough to influence the outcome.

Millions of Afghans voted Thursday in the country's second-ever direct presidential election, although Taliban threats held down the turnout, especially in the militant south where Karzai was expected to run strong among his fellow Pashtuns. Insurgent attacks claimed more than two dozen lives.

Partial preliminary results won't be released by the election commission before Tuesday with final official returns due in early September. Officials count ballots at voting centers around the country and then send the figures to Kabul, where they are tabulated, verified and announced.

Nevertheless, the absence of official figures didn't dissuade supporters of the two leading candidates from issuing their own claims, which they said were based on reports from their representatives at the counting centers.

Karzai's campaign spokesman, Waheed Omar, said the president's campaign believes "we are well ahead" in the ballot count and will end up with more than 50 percent of the votes — enough to avoid a runoff that Omar said would be "logistically, financially and also politically" problematic.

"Our prediction is that the election will not go to the second round," Omar said. "Our initial information is that we will hopefully be able to win the elections in the first round."

Abdullah challenged the claim, telling The Associated Press that he was in the lead "despite the rigging which has taken place in some parts of the country."

He alleged that government officials interfered with ballot boxes and in some places blocked monitors from inspecting boxes or their contents. Abdullah said there "is a likelihood" that neither he nor Karzai would win more than 50 percent of the vote, setting the stage for a runoff in early October.

The U.S. Embassy and Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission dismissed both sides' claims, saying it was too early for anyone to declare victory. Commission chairman Noor Mohammed Noor said candidates had no basis for such claims and should refrain from making them.

"Anything else is speculation at this point," U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Fleur Cowan said. "We will wait to hear from the IEC and electoral complaints commission."

Clearly, however, there were some irregularities.

The Times of London newspaper reported Friday that election officials at a polling station near Kabul recorded 5,530 ballots in the first hour of voting Thursday, even though no voters were at the site when the Times' reporter arrived at 8 a.m., one hour after the voting began.

Election workers said the area was pro-Karzai and was controlled by a lawmaker who said he had already voted for the president, even though his finger wasn't marked with indelible ink, a fraud prevention measure, the Times reported.

The International Republican Institute, a U.S.-based nonprofit organization that had about 30 election observers in Afghanistan, said the vote was at a "lower standard" than the 2004 presidential ballot and 2005 parliamentary vote but that "the process so far has been credible."

Low turnout — estimated between 40 and 50 percent nationwide — showed that Taliban efforts to keep people home were at least partly successful, creating an election "defined by violence," said Richard S. Williamson, the IRI's delegation leader in Afghanistan and a former U.S. ambassador to the U.N.

"There is no denying the fact that a notable reason for low turnout was the lack of security, and obviously that must be addressed," IRI said. "Second, there were many credible reports that voter registration cards were sold. ... While it is difficult to determine how widespread this practice was, the magnitude of such reports of fraud warrant investigation."

Human Rights Watch cautioned against declaring the election successful, given the violence Thursday and low turnout in areas where Taliban influence is greatest.

"Early impressions of turnout suggest that violence and intimidation succeeded in keeping voters away from polling stations in a huge swathe of the country, which adds up to a successful day for the Taliban," said Rachel Reid, Afghanistan researcher for Human Rights Watch. "If international standards are dropped, there risks being a serious credibility gap — which will only serve to increase disillusionment with the efforts to create a democracy."

Many of the irregularities and low turnout occurred in the southern and eastern areas where Karzai draws his strength and — ironically — where the Taliban is strongest. Abdullah, who is half Pashtun, is widely seen as the candidate of the northern Tajiks.

In Washington, a former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, Ronald Neumann, told the BBC that the credibility of the election will depend on whether enough Pashtuns voted that their community does not feel disenfranchised and whether Afghans perceive the fraud went beyond levels they find acceptable.

One American election observer said the delay in announcing results was fueling rumors and allegations that threaten to poison the atmosphere at a time when Afghans need to come together to deal with the problems facing their country.

Glenn Cowan, the co-founder of the U.S.-funded observer group Democracy International, said announcing results more quickly would serve as a "pressure valve release."

"Instead what you get is a buildup," Cowan said. "What's very interesting to us is that we don't know very much more about this election today than we did on Wednesday. The paucity of information is really incredible."



File photo

DURING BETTER TIMES: **Former SMC Head Coach Robert Taylor (right) was hired in 1984 as an assistant football coach and was promoted to head coach in 1994.**

Wins for past three seasons have been vacated by school

FROM SMC PAGE 1

take ownership of the problems identified and intend to continue to show through both our words and actions that Santa Monica College is acting responsibly to address the serious issues that have emerged," SMC President and Superintendent Chui Tsang said in a statement dated July 29.

Tsang said the program was in violation of the constitution and bylaws of the California Community College Commission on Athletics and the California Community College Athletic Association. He said that an investigation into the program has shown "serious violations of institutional rules relating to changing student residency status."

Students with a California residency have paid $20 a unit for the past several years, which translates to about $480 tuition for the year. Out-of-state students pay about $216 a unit, or about $5,184 a year. The tuition for in-state students will increase to $26 a unit this fall.

Michael Tuitasi, the vice president of student affairs, could not be reached for comment.

The dismissal of Taylor has not discouraged incoming freshman running back Christian Ross, who said he chose SMC over El Camino College because of the coach, whom he calls a family friend.

Ross said he debated whether to go to another school but is choosing to stay.

"He said they will have a good program this year and I believed in what he said," Ross, who also played at Santa Monica High School, said. "He's been there for years and really knows the game."

The California Community College Athletic Association, which is the governing body for athletics at junior colleges, initially received communication about the possible recruiting violations in June. The organization will not have further involvement on the allegations since SMC has already self-imposed sanctions, Carlyle Carter, the CEO and president, said.

Recruiting violations at community colleges have come up over the five years that Carter has been at the head of the organization, some that involve individuals who believe they are doing favors for students.

"Many students we get are coming from really disadvantaged or desperate situations and some of our coaches do it because they think it is out of trying to benefit the student," Carter said.

Ventura College was similarly investigated and self-reported violations that information on the applications of out-of-state players in the basketball program from 2000 to 2006 had been fabricated. The Ventura County Star reported earlier this year that a half dozen Western Conference titles were forfeited.

The state's education code has some of the most restrictive rules when it comes to recruiting, prohibiting coaches from going out of their college district to lure prospective athletes. The California Community College Athletic Association mirrors the state's regulation but with the exception that coaches are allowed to recruit in districts that are contiguous, Carter said.

Coaches are also prohibited from recruiting out-of-state students unless they receive a waiver.

California is also unique in that it also has more two-year-college football programs than almost any other state in the country, an attractive feature that draws students from out of state.

"Some of them are trying to improve their grades, some of them are trying to improve their skills," Carter said.

He also pointed to SMC's history of producing NFL stars, which is also encouraging to players who are trying to further their careers.

Violations such as changing the residency of students actually takes place more than people think, Efrain Martinez, the head coach at Los Angeles Pierce College, said.

"I don't think they are the only school that does it," he said. "I'm sure there are others that do and have.

"There might be other programs that do it but since they win consistently, people might look the other way."

Martinez, who has coached for three years at L.A. Pierce College, which is in the same conference as SMC, said that he feels bad for Taylor, whom he calls a "great guy."

But the party that will suffer the most are the players, he said.

"Anytime you let somebody go, the allegations have to be serious," he said. "It's a surprise regardless, especially this late in the season because what happens is it puts the program in disarray."

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Coyote sightings on the rise

FROM COYOTES PAGE 1

Bagshaw has not seen any cats come in with coyote-attack related injuries. Her own cat was eaten earlier this summer, however, in what she suspects was a coyote kill.

> **"THAT NIGHT I LET HIM OUT – AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGMENT."**
>
> **Kristin Rotblatt**
> Pet owner

The police department is investigating the attacks and has stepped up patrols in the affected area, Guido said. He encouraged the community to do its part by keeping small domestic animals and their food inside or kenneled and securely fastening all trash cans.

George Wolfberg, president of the Santa Monica Canyon Civic Association, said attacks in that area peaked around a year ago. Despite occasional howling or sightings, he hasn't heard of an attack happening in the neighborhood in almost three months.

"We put out some comprehensive information reminding people not to leave food out for pets — or leave their pets out as food," Wolfberg said. He recommends that other homeowners do the same.

Rotblatt said Wally spent nights outside all his life and never had a problem. Still, in the weeks before his death, rumors of coyote kills gave her pause.

"I had been making him stay in every night," she said. "But that night I let him out — against my better judgment."

Wally's ability to hold his own with the family's 115-pound lab made Rotblatt think he could handle anything. Now, she's changed her mind.

"I don't think anyone with any cat should allow them to be outside at night," she said. "And small dogs. If you have a short fence, those coyotes can jump right across."

Even in her grief, Rotblatt understands the age-old cycle her cat's death fits into.

"It's a sad situation, but I don't have any ill will against these coyotes," she said. "They're hungry and trying to survive."

news@smdp.com

Tour da Arts features major players in area cultural scene

FROM ARTS PAGE 3

The riders will receive an open house tour and be treated to live music by a visiting African drumming troupe.

> **"IT'S BASED ON SAVING ENERGY AND ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF ENERGY IN WHICH WE'RE USING POWER FROM OUR BODIES TO GET AROUND TOWN."**
>
> **director of education**
> Santa Monica Museum of Art

Their next stop will be the Miles Memorial Playhouse, an 80-year-old small theater tucked inside Christine Emerson Reed Park on Lincoln Boulevard. The playhouse was constructed after late City Councilman J. Euclid Miles and his wife Katherine bequeathed $25,000 after his death for a "public recreation hall for the young men and women of the city."

The playhouse, which was dedicated to Miles' daughter, Mary, was designed by renown local architect John Byers, who made his mark on homes throughout the Westside, including in Santa Monica, the Pacific Palisades and Brentwood. Awaiting the cyclists at the stop will be a swing band performance to which they can dance.

About two and a half hours after the beginning of the ride, the cyclists are scheduled to finally arrive at the 18th Street Arts Center where a tour of various studios and a new exhibit will await them. The 21-year-old complex includes several artist live-work spaces and houses various nonprofit organizations.

The exhibit, called Post American L.A., features artists who "question the scope, sphere and impact of American authority," according to the 18th Street Arts Center Web site. Ashley Hunt, an artist in the show, will also give a talk about his work.

The mission of Tour da Arts could resonate with the artists who live at the 18th Street Arts Center, many of whom commute by bicycle. The next show at the art center will also focus on a car-less society, Ronald Lopez, the program coordinator, said.

"The encouragement of using bikes to go from one center to the next center is a fantastic idea," Lopez said. "Hopefully we will see (more) future events like this."

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Foreclosures fuel sales

ALEX VEIGA
AP Real Estate Writer

LOS ANGELES Home sales across the Western region of the country posted an annual increase of nearly 4 percent in July as buyers snapped up foreclosures and first-time homeowners rushed to take advantage of a temporary tax credit, the National Association of Realtors said Friday.

Those fire-sale prices helped drag down the median home price in the West by 28 percent to $202,300.

"In the West, it's still the economy that's determining sales," said Patrick Newport, an economist with IHS Global Insight, noting that the West was the only region to see a decline in sales from June levels.

That was largely a reflection of the job market. The West had a jobless rate of 10.5 percent last month, the highest of any region, the Labor Department said Friday.

"Since the economy is still getting worse, that's offsetting this extra kick that you're getting from lower house prices and the tax credit and low mortgage rates," Newport explained.

Nationally, sales last month surged by nearly 6 percent from a year earlier, and showed a surprisingly large gain over June. Affordability is the reason — the national median price fell 15 percent to $178,400.

Despite the economic doldrums weighing on the West, many of the largest metros saw better sales last month than in July last year, according to The Associated Press-Re/Max Monthly Housing Report released Friday. The report tallies all home sales in the metropolitan statistical area by all real estate agents, regardless of company affiliation.

Phoenix, Las Vegas, Billings, Mont., Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Boise, Idaho, Portland, Ore., Anchorage, Alaska, and Albuquerque, N.M., registered an increase in home sales last month.

While Seattle, Honolulu and Denver each saw sales tumble in July from a year earlier, according to the AP-Re/Max report.

Home values plunged the deepest in Las Vegas, where the median sale price sank in July by more than 40 percent to $125,000. Sales climbed by nearly 50 percent, according to the AP-Re/Max report.

Rosa Herwick, a broker and owner of Century 21 JR Realty in Henderson, Nev., said her office handled nearly three times as many sales in July as it did in the same month last year.

The majority of Herwick's clients are first-time buyers, but many cash-carrying investors continue pounce for bargain properties, often beating out other buyers on sales.

"They're buying properties in the lower price ranges — $150,000 or less — and turning them into rentals," Herwick said.

She expects her August transactions will be slightly lower than July, but ahead of last year.

"Our market is very hot and if you're buying something less than $300,000, there's multiple offers on everything," Herwick said.

The inventory of homes in the Las Vegas market has been whittled down by more than 46 percent since July last year. And most of what's out there are foreclosures or short sales, when a seller asks the bank to take less than what is owed on the mortgage.

That's also true, though to a lesser extent, in California, where Cindy Hanvey just landed a five-bedroom, three-bath house for $243,000, about $57,000 less than the previous owners paid for it.

The customer service representative had tried for a year to buy a foreclosure in San Diego only to lose out to other bidders. So she went after a short sale in Winchester, some 75 miles north. The paperwork took three months, she said, but was worth it.

"I feel like I definitely bought at the right time," said Hanvey, 37. "I'm hoping to stay in this home for the rest of my life, as long as we don't lose our jobs or anything like that."

Tour will visit London

FROM **JACKSON** PAGE 3

Meg Lodise, an attorney appointed to represent the interests of Jackson's three children, agreed that the deal was in the best interests of the youngsters, who are entitled to 40 percent of their father's estate. Katherine Jackson is the beneficiary of another 40 percent, with 20 percent going to unnamed charities.

Norman said the memorabilia exhibition calls for a three-city tour spread over two years that would stay four to six months in each city. He said he didn't know what would be included in the exhibit, but that there were warehouses of material to select from, including items from Jackson's Neverland Ranch and the "This is It" shows. The selection process would begin on Monday, he said.

AEG attorney Kathy Jorrie noted in closing arguments that AEG has gone from being a potential creditor to Jackson's estate with millions of dollars in claims to becoming a partner in its success. She said some of the costs of Jackson's public memorial at the Staples Center are factored into the agreement, but that the exact amounts are confidential.

Burt Levitch, one of Katherine Jackson's attorneys, said he hoped AEG would show sensitivity in how it portrays Jackson. The contract approved Friday requires the promoter to collaborate with the administrators of Jackson's estate, but Katherine Jackson may not have a formal say in how it is crafted.

"Mrs. Jackson still feels there are certain aspects of the AEG deal that could have been improved upon," Levitch said.

Katherine Jackson's attorneys have also filed a motion seeking Beckloff's permission to contest the ability of attorney John Branca and music executive John McClain — who were named as co-executors in Jackson's will — to administer her son's estate. A hearing on that motion is scheduled for September, but Levitch told Beckloff Friday that he preferred to "let the dust settle" from Friday's hearing before pursuing the matter further.

While the hearing was going on in downtown Los Angeles, Drug Enforcement Administration agents were raiding a pharmacy in Beverly Hills that had sued Jackson in January of 2007, claiming the singer owed more than $100,000 for prescription drugs (the matter was quickly resolved). Agents were seeking evidence of improper dispensing of controlled substances in conjunction with the investigation into the singer's death, and took at least one box of records from the Mickey Fine Pharmacy & Grill.

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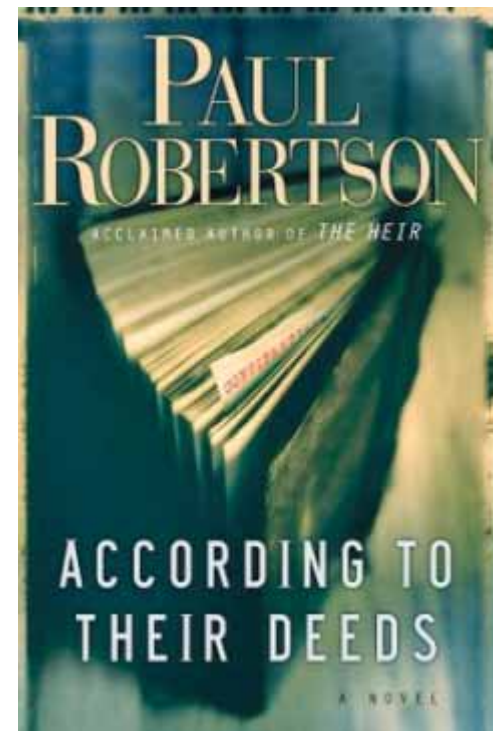
BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON



'According To Their Deeds'

By Paul Robertson • Bethany House



We all have something to hide. If a list of your deeds were to fall in the wrong hands what would be the outcome? What if you were being blackmailed? To what extent would you go to make sure the information never saw the light of day?

In this story the blackmailer has been killed but the information is still out there. An auction is being held and the records are somewhere in the office equipment and books being put on the block. Someone is trying to stop the blackmailing for good.

Our hero is a bookseller of rare texts. He has brought some books once owned by a former client who had been connected in the Justice Department. He options 13 books at the auction. He discovers that a book he purchased by Keats is ruined when he inventories his acquisitions. The middle of the book is being used as a storage place for papers.

"He touched it, nestled in the hollow space, just a plan deck of playing cards. The book had been hollowed for it."

"Several white sheets were folded together, and he opened the first. "I don't even know what this is. A list. Fifty or more handwritten lines, each two letters, a date, and a number ."

It turns out these papers are dangerous to have around. These are records of transactions that are best kept secret. What is to be done? Should he go to the police with the papers? The information there could ruin the reputations, careers, and even lives, of those mentioned.

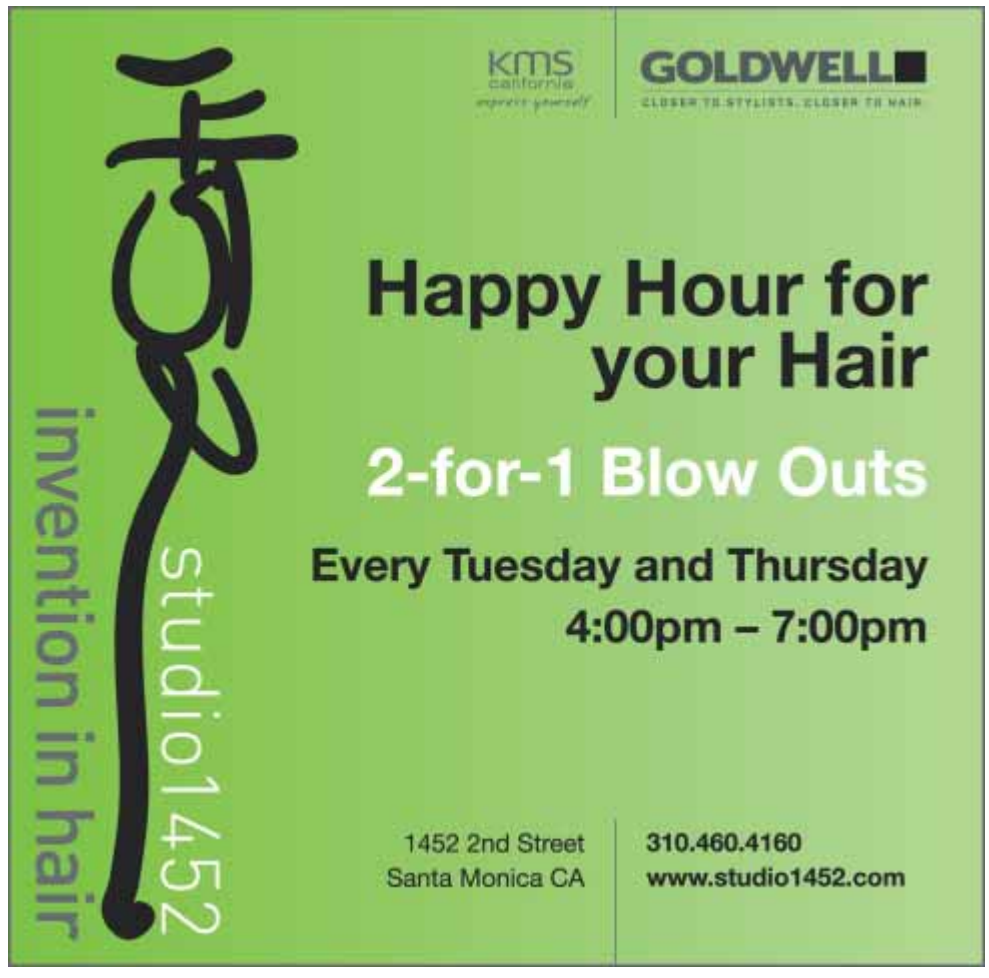
"According To Their Deeds" is sectioned into day, afternoon, evening for each chapter. Charles Beale, our bookseller, upon discovering the papers searches each person named to seek the truth. This puts him in danger. Someone is killing people to keep the papers from surfacing.

Two plot lines run through this story. The first one is the rare book market, the buying and selling of such. The second one is blackmail.

This is an entry in the suspense fiction line that Bethany House is publishing in answer to the need for good wholesome stories. The suspense genre has Paul Robertson who writes a suspenseful tale. He has written a few before this such as "The Heir" and "Road to Nowhere." He is in control of the format.

Contact **DANE** at smdp_review@yahoo.com and let him know how he is doing.





NEW DVD RELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS



Photo courtesy A&E

'How Bruce Lee Changed the World'

From fashions to video games to sports training to moviemaking, the producers of this documentary illustrate how a global icon of martial arts transformed pop culture. Interviews with those he worked with and others he influenced from Jackie Chan to LL Cool J reveal that despite a tragic early death, Bruce Lee's impact lives on well beyond his classic films like "Enter the Dragon." (A&E)

'How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days'

Matthew McConaughey is Benjamin Barry an advertising executive and ladies' man who, to win a big campaign, bets that he can make a woman fall in love with him in 10 days. Kate Hudson as Andie Anderson covers the "How To" beat for "Composure" magazine and is assigned to write an article on "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days." They meet in a bar and shortly after the bet is made a fresh battle of the sexes rolls before the cameras. (Paramount)

'Almost Heaven'

Donal Logue ("Grounded for Life") stars as a charming yet alcohol-fueled Canadian television director who gets a chance to revive his sagging career when he is hired to salvage an international fishing show in Scotland. The only hitch: his ex-wife (Joely Collins — daughter of musician Phil Collins) is the host. What he finds in Scotland is love in the form of a local fishing guide (Kirsty Mitchell) and the chance to repair his life and his friendship with his ex-wife with whom he had a child who died. Tom Conti and Julie Cox also star. (E1)

'Scenic National Parks: Zion & Bryce' (Blu-ray)

The sweeping beauty of America's national parks, filmed in high definition is regally enhanced by Blu-ray as this series takes you off the beaten path to discover untamed places and unique wildlife. This presentation probes the interesting geological wonders of these two parks in Utah. (Questar)

'The Paper Chase' Season One

John Houseman reprises his Academy Award and Golden Globe winning role as the revered and feared professor of contract law, Charles Kingsfield in this drama about the trials and tribulations of students at an Ivy League law school. Marilu Henner, Kim Cattrall and Ken Olin are some of the guest stars who appear in the 22 one-hour episodes from the 1978 debut season. (Shout Factory)

'Dexter' The Third Season

The junior year of Showtime's most popular series stars Michael C. Hall as Dexter Morgan, a vicious serial killer on the right side of the law. Will he finally be exposed or will Dexter continue to have his cake and it eat too? The witty and thrilling drama comes with a dozen episodes, cast interviews, excerpts from the book, "Dexter By Design," and the first two episodes of "The United States of Tara,: Season 1 and "The Tudors," Season 3. (CBS/Showtime)

'The Simpsons' Season 12

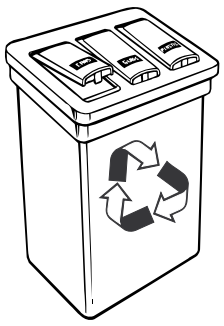
The adventures of Homer, Marge, Bart, Lisa and Maggie as part of the longest running animated series in television history continue with this latest collection featuring all 21 episodes from the 2000-01 season. Storylines include Bart's boy band odyssey as well as guest stars Roger Daltrey, Justin Timberlake, Drew Barrymore and Edward Norton. A special introduction from creator Matt Groening; deleted scenes; commercials and sketches are part of the extra material. (Fox)

RANDY WILLIAMS can be reached at www.sportandcinema.com

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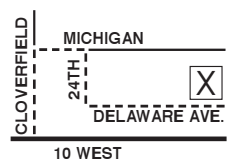


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Play Time
Cynthia Citron
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Boss mood music for a very volatile decade

SO THERE'S THIS RADIO DJ WHO IS RUNNING a contest to find the best new musical talent in town. Doo-wop doo-wop doo-wop. Then there's Denny (the cute one) and his buddy Eugene (the nerd) practicing their moves in Denny's basement. Then they add Wally (the choir boy) because he can raise the $50 they need to enter the contest. And finally, there's Skip (the hunky garage mechanic) who wanders in from the "wrong side of town." And sh-boom, you've got a singing quartet! And you also have one of the most delicious new musicals to hit the stage since "The Marvelous Wonderettes."

Roger Bean, who created and directed "Wonderettes" is also the writer and director of this 1960s pop retrospective, "Life Could Be A Dream." And, like the female quartet in "Wonderettes," the four male singers in this show are sensational, at least as good (or better) than their 1960 counterparts, the Four Tops, the Monkees, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, Gerry and the Pacemakers, et al. The current quartet consists of Doug Carpenter as Skip, Ryan Castellino as Wally, Jim Holdridge (a Jerry Lewis look-alike) as Eugene, and Daniel Tatar as Denny. Together they call themselves "Denny and the Dreamers."

There is also a female love interest, a spectacular singer named Lois (Jessica Keenan Wynn), who is there ostensibly to help them with their moves and dance routines. (The show's actual choreographer is Lee Martino, who keeps the group bouncing non-stop for nearly two hours with undiminished energy and enthusiasm.)

The songs themselves are so well integrated into the plot that it's hard to tell which came first. Did Musical Arrangers Roger Bean, Jon Newton, and Steve Parsons, and Musical Director Michael Paternostro choose the songs and then script the play around them, or did they select songs to go with the lively and predictable plot?

Among the more recognizable hits of the more than two dozen the group performs are "Sh-Boom," "The Wanderer," "Earth Angel," "Only You," "I Only Have Eyes for You," "Sunday Kind of Love," "Unchained Melody," "The Great Pretender" and "The Glory of Love." There are also a number of wonderful songs that you may not recognize or remember, and those are fun to be reintroduced to as well.

While veteran sound designer Cricket S. Myers has overmiked everyone just a little bit and lighting designer Luke Moyer sometimes has a little trouble keeping up with the bouncing players, these are minor cavils. Tom Buderwitz' tacky, cluttered basement set is spot-on perfect, as are Shon LeBlanc's multiple costume changes. And like the "Wonderettes," there's no doubt this show will play here forever and then go on to become a big hit in New York.

Co-producer David Elzer, who also produced the Wonderettes, was standing by the exit greeting the members of the audience as they filed out. (It was a fully packed house.) I said to him, "My god, David, where did you find these guys?" To which he replied, with an exhausted smile, "We held a lot of auditions!" Rama lama ding dong.

"Life Could Be A Dream" will continue Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. at the Hudson Mainstage Theatre, 6539 Santa Monica Blvd. in Hollywood, through Sept. 27. Call (323) 960-4412 for reservations.

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



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Avid smokers grow their own cigs

STEVE SZKOTAK
Associated Press Writer

RICHMOND, Va. Something unusual is cropping up alongside the tomatoes, eggplant and okra in Scott Byars' vegetable garden — the elephantine leaves of 30 tobacco plants.

Driven largely by ever-rising tobacco prices, he's among a growing number of smokers that have turned to their green thumbs to cultivate tobacco plants to blend their own cigarettes, cigars and chew. Byars normally pays $5 for a five-pack of cigars and $3 for a tin of snuff; the seed cost him $9.

"I want to get to where I don't have to go to the store and buy tobacco, but I'll just be able to supply my own from one year to the next," Byars said.

In urban lots and on rural acres, smokers and smokeless tobacco users are planting Virginia Gold, Goose Creek Red, Yellow Twist Bud and dozens of other tobacco varieties.

Although most people still buy from big tobacco, the movement took off in April when the tax on cigarettes went up 62 cents to $1.01 a pack. Large tax increases were also imposed on other tobacco products, and tobacco companies upped prices even more to compensate for lost sales.

Some seed suppliers have reported a tenfold increase in sales as some of the country's 43.3 million smokers look for a cheaper way to get their nicotine fix in a down economy. Cigarettes cost an average of $4.35 a pack, home growers can make that amount for about 30 cents.

It's the latest do-it-yourself movement as others repair their own cars, swap used clothes and cancel yard work services to save money.

"Cigarette smokers say, 'Yeah, we're going to die of cancer, but do we have to die of poverty as well?'" said Jack Basharan, who operates The Tobacco Seed Co. Ltd. in Essex, England. Virtually all of his increased tobacco seed sales have been in the U.S., he said.

Provided the tobacco isn't sold or traded, the Food and Drug Administration doesn't regulate homegrown tobacco. Most people grow for cigarettes, but some blend their own cigars and chew.

The FDA and U.S. Department of Agriculture don't keep statistics on home growers, though seed suppliers and Internet buzz suggest strong interest.

Seedman.com has sold more than 100,000 packets of tobacco seeds this year, compared with 22,000 in all of 2008, president Jim Johnson said. The Gautier, Miss.-based company offers 40 varieties of tobacco from around the globe and packages various flavor blends for first-time growers.

A grower who purchased one of Johnson's Oriental and Turkish blends for $24.50 could satisfy a pack-a-day habit for more than three years, according to Johnson's calculations.

However, growing and processing tobacco can challenge even the best gardeners. The nearly microscopic seeds must initially be grown inside and transplanted after the threat of frost has passed.

A seed started in March can be harvested, hung to dry and ready to smoke as soon as October. Some anxious growers have been known to microwave leaves to hasten the drying. For purists, the leaves can be cured, or aged, like a fine wine for up to three years.

"It's actually very labor intensive," said Ed Baker, general manager of Cross Creek Seed Inc. in Raeford, N.C., the No. 1 tobacco seed supplier in the U.S. "There's a reason why cigarette companies make all that money. If it was that easy, everyone would be growing their own tobacco."

Cross Creek has seen a big increase in seed requests from home growers but it sells in volume. It's smallest seed offering is 90,000 seeds for $170.

Novices and veterans can find smoker-friendly havens like howtogrowtobacco.com, a Web site that offers growing and curing tips, often including angry posts over ever-increasing taxes and smoking restrictions.

Many would not discuss their crops with The Associated Press, fearful a high profile would invite government scrutiny and taxes. Others proudly share stories and post photos.

Arthur Skora, 42, records his success growing and curing in Greenwood, Wis., on a how-to DVD he sells online.

"Most of the people who are ordering are just getting fed up with prices and basically they're not going to take it anymore," Skora said.

Saving money wasn't the only motivation for Matt Schoell-Schafer, a landscape architect in Kansas City, who has 50 plants growing in his urban garden.

"It's not being a victim to their manipulation of this product," said Schoell-Schafer, 34, who enjoys an occasional cigar or cigarette. "So I'm sort of liberating myself by growing it myself."

Some growers contend their tobacco concoctions are safer than commercial products, which have a stew of additives ranging from colorings and oils to ammonia.

"The quick answer to that is no," said Thomas Glynn, director of cancer science and trends at the American Cancer Society. Glynn knew of only one study of the health risks of homegrown and commercial blends — and it concluded no difference in safety between the two.

Homegrown tobacco can also contain fungus and mold, which can cause chronic bronchitis and other ailments, Glynn said.

Philip Morris USA, the nation's No. 1 cigarette maker, and other big companies are unlikely to shudder. Philip Gorham, a tobacco industry analyst with the investment research firm Morningstar, said he had no data on smokers who switched to homegrown. But he doesn't see it as a mass movement.

"It's one thing to switch from a premium brand to a discount one. It's quite another to switch from buying a manufactured product to roll your own," Gorham said.

At VirtualSeeds.com, Joyce Moore said she typically sold tobacco seeds as ornamental plants to gardeners who appreciated their elephantine leaves. This year, her Astoria, Ore.-based company was overwhelmed by orders from tobacco users slammed by "the market collapse, the recession, then getting hit with exorbitant tobacco taxes."

Moore doesn't use tobacco herself but has no misgivings about her business.

"If I sold doughnuts in a bakery would I feel guilty because fat people come in and buy them?" she asked. "It just happens to be a very good year for tobacco seeds."

On the Net:
American Cancer Society: www.cancer.org
How to Grow Tobacco: www.howtogrowtobacco.com
Virtual Seeds: www.virtualseeds.com
Back Forty Tobacco: www.backfortytobacco.com
The Tobacco Seed Co. Ltd.: www.tobaccoseed.co.uk
Cross Creed: www.crosscreekseed.com/us/index.html

Lutherans to allow sexually active gays as clergy

PATRICK CONDON
Associated Press Writer

MINNEAPOLIS The nation's largest Lutheran denomination took openly gay clergy more fully into its fold Friday, as leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted to lift a ban that prohibited sexually active gay and lesbian people from serving as ministers.

Under the new policy, individual ELCA congregations will be allowed to hire homosexuals as clergy as long as they are in a committed relationships. Until now, gays and lesbians had to remain celibate to serve as clergy.

The change passed with the support of 68 percent of about 1,000 delegates at the ELCA's national assembly. It makes the group, with about 4.7 million members in the U.S., one of the largest U.S. Christian denominations yet to take a more gay-friendly stance.

"I have seen these same-gender relationships function in the same way as heterosexual relationships — bringing joy and blessings as well as trials and hardships," the Rev. Leslie Williamson, associate pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Plaines, Ill., said during the hours of debate. "The same-gender couples I know live in love and faithfulness and are called to proclaim the word of God as are all of us."

Conservative congregations will not be forced to hire gay clergy. Nevertheless, opponents of the shift decried what they saw as straying from clear Scriptural direction, and warned that it could lead some congregations and individual churchgoers to split off from the ELCA.

"This will cause an ever greater loss in members and finances. I can't believe the church I loved and served for 40 years can condone what God condemns," said the Rev. Richard Mahan, pastor at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Charleston, W.Va. "Nowhere in Scripture does it say homosexuality and same-sex marriage is acceptable to God. Instead, it says it is immoral and perverted."

David Keck, a delegate from the Southern Ohio Synod, said he feared that by embracing partnered gays as clergy that the ELCA was heading down a road that would ultimately lead to "the blessing of same-sex unions as the policy of this church," he said.

Mahan said he believed a majority of his congregation would want to now break off from the ELCA.

Other leaders indicated they might leave as well; the Rev. Tim Housholder, pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove, Minn., described himself during the debate as a rostered ELCA pastor "at least for a few more hours." The Rev. Marshall Hahn, pastor at St. Olaf Lutheran Parish in Dubuque, Iowa, said he'd need to talk to his bishop "to discuss what this means for my future with this church."

In September, Lutheran CORE — the group that led the fight against the changes — is holding a convention in Indianapolis to discuss the next steps. It also encouraged ELCA members and congregations to direct finances away from ELCA churchwide organizations and toward "faithful ministries within and outside of the ELCA."

Other Christian denominations in the United States have struggled to remain united in the face of such debates. In 2003, the 2 million-member Episcopal Church of the United States consecrated its first openly gay bishop, a move that alienated American Episcopalians from its worldwide parent church, the Anglican Communion. The divide has led to the formation of the more conservative Anglican Church in North America, which claims 100,000 members.

But ELCA supporters of its change said that failure to ratify it ran just as great a risk of alienating large portions of the membership, particularly those from younger generations.

The Rev. Katrina Foster, pastor at Fordham Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Bronx, said that Lutherans heard similar warnings about flouting Scripture when they made past changes that are now seen as successful — chiefly, the ordination of women.

"We can learn not to define ourselves by negation," said Foster, who is a lesbian. "By not only saying what we are against, which always seems to be the same — against gay people. We should be against poverty. I wish we were as zealous about that."

Tim Mumm, a gay man and an assembly delegate from Whitewater, Wis., said the Scripture that guides opponents of the more liberal policy was written by mortals, at a much earlier time, and doesn't reflect what many Christians now believe.

"I believe for me to marry a woman would be wrong — even sinful," Mumm said. "I don't believe God intended to put me and others in a no-win situation."

Some ELCA congregations had already been flouting the ban on noncelibate gay priests by hiring pastors in gay relationships. Some synods looked the other way, while others removed such priests from their rosters.

It was such divisions and inconsistencies in enforcement that an ELCA task force aimed to finesse when it began several years ago to draw up the ministry recommendations and a broader social statement on human sexuality, which passed earlier this week.

Under the new policy, heterosexual clergy and professional lay workers will still have to abstain from sex outside marriage. The proposed change would cover those in "lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships."

Classes help divorcing couples end feuding

ANNE WALLACE ALLEN
For The Associated Press

Mark Sims and Nicole Collier watched their son become nervous during eight years of custody battles. Isaac, now 10, seemed fearful and took to biting his nails.

Then the two separated parents took a six-week class geared toward separated or divorced parents, and everything changed. In the court-ordered class, they learned how to put their anger aside and focus on what was best for their child.

Both have seen the difference in their son.

"Since we have resolved our issues, he has really relaxed and is much better for it," said Collier, 37, a stay-at-home mother in Los Angeles with four other children.

The class, aimed at teaching parents to continue parenting together after their marriage or relationship has ended, is part of a changing approach to helping families through a divorce or separation. Such parenting programs are now required in 27 states. In other states, judges can order parents to attend, or there are districtwide or citywide mandates regarding such programs, according to a 2008 survey of mandatory parent education.

"Divorce is so common today, people forget it's still emotionally complicated or emotionally devastating," said Robert Emery, director of the Center for Children, Families and the Law at the University of Virginia. To counteract this, Emery said divorce-related parenting classes take a "child-focused, parent-friendly approach" to helping parents work out a parenting plan.

The classes reflect how dramatically family law and policy has changed in the past decades. Gone are the days when divorce proceedings focused on the division of the couple's financial assets.

"Children's issues were not as prevalent in the 1960s and the early 1970s," said Peter Salem, who is executive director of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts in Madison, Wis. "There was a pretty straightforward way of doing things. Mom got the kids, dad visited every other weekend, and that was that."

Now, there's a strong focus on the emotional health of both parents and children.

"One of the biggest things that happened to us in the class, and it's the simplest thing, is to have courtesy when you talk to the other person — to say stuff like 'thank you,'" said Sims, a 48-year-old Los Angeles musician. "It seems like a really simple thing, but it changes your attitude about what you're doing."

The parenting classes vary greatly. There are lecture programs, small groups, and a growing number of Internet-based classes that can be used to fulfill court orders for parent education.

The goal of most is to help parents understand the emotions that go along with divorce, and separate their parental relationship — which will continue — from the adult relationship that is ending, said Salem.

There are other common themes. Among them: Children shouldn't take on adult roles when the adults are struggling.

"They shouldn't be necessarily setting up the cable service, the phone service in the new apartment. That's not their job," said Salem. "There are certain household responsibilities, but children still need to be children."

Another: The child needs both parents in his or her life if possible.

Joan Haynes, a naturopathic physician who took a court-ordered class when she divorced last year, went in thinking it would be a waste of time. But she was surprised by what she heard there.

"They said divorce, per se, didn't hurt children," said Haynes, of Boise, Idaho, who now shares custody of her 10-year-old daughter with her ex-husband. "What hurts children is the ugliness around the divorce, or even if the parents are still married, it's the fighting and putting the child in between."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Vital Statistics Report, the divorce rate reached a high in 1970 and is slowly declining. Some demographers estimate divorce hit a high of 50 percent in 1970, and is now around 43 percent. However, in the same period the number of people having children together without marriage has risen, and their custody battles can end up in court as well.

Research has shown that some parenting programs can prevent future problems, such as more litigation, said Susan L. Pollet, who with Melissa Lombreglia published a paper on parent education programs in the journal Family Court Review. In a survey, the two found that 46 states have parent education programs related to divorce, some mandated, some not.

"All my clients who have gone, they always come back and say, 'I'm so happy I went to that; I learned a lot,'" said Lynnette Berg Robe, who practices matrimonial law in Studio City, Calif.

Mandatory classes get a bad rap, Robe said, but they get people in the door and listening to the material.

"It's not that anybody is trying to get them not to get divorced," she said. "It's just that if you behave in a certain way, you'll end up with an unhappy child who will grow up to be an unhappy adult."

After eight years of battling, Sims noted that he and Collier aren't friends — just parents. They prefer to communicate through texting. They go to school conferences together, and recently met up for Isaac's dentist appointment.

"It's not like this great thing," he said. "I would rather not talk to her, to be honest. I'm sure she'd rather not talk to me, but we have to do it for our son's sake. And this class helped us to be cordial to each other."

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The museum, a non-profit organization, was founded in 1975 by Santa Monica's Centennial Committee to collect and preserve the history, art and culture of the Santa Monica Bay Area for the community. Its archive has thousands of photos, artifacts and other rare treasures from schools, businesses, organizations, individuals and celebrities. The museum's *Morley Builders Santa Monica and California Research Library* has an extensive collection of rare books, documents, maps and records for researchers. Its *Cities By The Sea* exhibit covers the history of Ocean Park, Pacific Palisades, Venice and Malibu. The Museum holds programs, community events, and commemorative events.

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Officials: Breast implants used to ID model

GILLIAN FLACCUS & ROB GILLIES
Associated Press Writers

BUENA PARK An ex-model found stuffed in a bloodstained suitcase without fingers or teeth was so badly mutilated that authorities had to use breast implants to identify her body, prosecutors said Friday.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Marshals Service offered a $25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of Ryan Alexander Jenkins, a wealthy reality TV show contestant who was charged Thursday with murder in the gruesome slaying of Jasmine Fiore.

Detectives tracked the serial number on the implants because they could not use fingerprints or dental records, said Farrah Emami, a spokeswoman for the Orange County district attorney's office.

Fiore's body was found Aug. 15 in a trash bin in Buena Park, an Orange County city about 20 miles southeast of Los Angeles.

Authorities believe Jenkins, a contestant on VH1's "Megan Wants a Millionaire," may have fled more than 1,000 miles to reach his native Canada.

Buena Park police Lt. Steve Holliday said Jenkins, a native of Calgary, Alberta, is possibly armed with a handgun. Prosecutors recommended bail of $10 million upon his arrest and said he had significant resources to finance his flight.

Canadian authorities have ended a massive border search using helicopters, ground police and dogs but continued their investigation, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sgt. Duncan Pound said.

Tips in Canada were "on the low end," he said.

However, a Thursday news conference in Southern California prompted phone tips to American authorities that were being pursued, said Tom Hession, chief inspector for the U.S. Marshals Service's regional fugitive task force.

He declined to elaborate.

Jenkins is a real estate developer and investor who is also the son of a prominent Canadian architect. On the reality show, he said he had between $1 million and $2.5 million, Hession said, adding the money could help Jenkins stay ahead of police or work against him.

"It could be an area where he may not have access to that wealth, where he has assets that he has to sell or something like that and then he's going to have to expose himself to potential arrest," Hession said.

Hession declined to say if authorities were watching Jenkins' assets as part of their investigation.

"When we're looking for someone who's a fugitive, we try to find out everything we can about that person," he said. "We're going to turn every rock over."

Fiore and Jenkins were briefly married in a quickie Las Vegas wedding in March and had been fighting in recent months. Prosecutors said the two checked into a San Diego hotel Aug. 13, and Jenkins checked out the next morning. Fiore was not seen alive again.

Fiore's mother, Lisa Lepore, told The Associated Press her daughter had the marriage annulled in May. However, there were no court records of an annulment in either Clark County, Nev., where the couple was married, or in Los Angeles County, where they most recently lived.

Court records show Jenkins was charged in June in Clark County, Nev., with a misdemeanor count of "battery constituting domestic violence" for allegedly hitting Fiore in the arm and was set to be tried in December.

In his hometown of Calgary, Jenkins was sentenced to 15 months probation in January 2007 on an unspecified assault charge. The Canadian TV network CTV said Jenkins also was ordered to seek counseling for domestic violence and sex addiction.

Alain Hepner, Jenkins' attorney in that matter, did not return a call seeking comment.

In Calgary, Paulina Chmielecka said she was engaged to Jenkins for 2Ω years and never saw a violent side.

"The guy was a great guy, as far as I knew he was very happy," she told CTV. "In our relationship, we had our fights — everyone does — but I would never say, 'Well, he could have murdered someone.' There's no way."

A resume posted on the professional networking site LinkedIn.com says Jenkins has a license to fly commercial airplanes and has dabbled in several development enterprises and investments since graduating from college in 1999. Those include Townscape Development Inc., a condo project undertaken in Calgary with his father, architect Daniel Jenkins.

The elder Jenkins did not return phone or e-mail messages at his office.

Ryan Jenkins is believed to have driven to Washington state and possibly hopped in a boat to a peninsula on the border, where he walked into Canadian territory. A car and empty boat trailer belonging to Jenkins were found at a marina in the northwest Washington town of Blaine.

After taping for "Megan Wants a Millionaire" finished in early March, Jenkins met Fiore in a Las Vegas casino and the two got married, said Lepore, Fiore's mother. Court records show the date of marriage as March 18.

But in May "they had a big blowout" and fought because he was jealous of her exboyfriends, Lepore said.

Jenkins then went to Mexico to do another reality TV show but struggled to get Fiore back when he returned.

"He convinced her during that month that he was really the guy for her," Lepore said. "He wrote poems and stories, and prayed, and (claimed he) had this huge spiritual awakening."

The U.S. has filed a provisional apprehension warrant with Canada that allows officials there to issue a Canadian arrest warrant based on the U.S. charges, said Hession, the U.S. marshals official. The Canadian government will extradite defendants to the U.S. but only with reassurances that they will not face the death penalty in the U.S.

Emami, the Orange County district attorney spokeswoman, has said her office is not pursuing the death penalty.

Santa Monica Daily Press
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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 66°

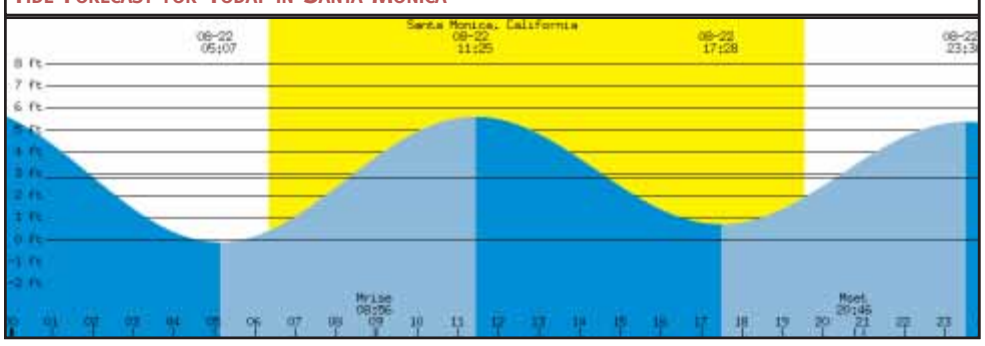
Swell Forecast

Today is also looking small, about knee+ most everywhere; however, we may see some waist to chest high forerunners around south facing breaks in the afternoon from Saturday's swell -- these pluses though would be rare.

Long Range Synopsis

By Sunday, this swell should peak with similar size - chest to maybe shoulder high around south facing breaks.

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 19, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / ns

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
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 Lachusa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	B	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 Blacker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pierce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	B	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	A+	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	D	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	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	C	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	C	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	C	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

NFL

49ers' Smith gets start against Raiders

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA CLARA Now it's Alex Smith's turn to make a case for becoming the San Francisco 49ers' starting quarterback.

Smith will start Saturday night's exhibition game against the Oakland Raiders, just the second time he will begin a game under center for the 49ers since injuring his throwing shoulder more than two years ago.

Smith is battling Shaun Hill for the starting job, a competition that likely will continue until the end of this month before coach Mike Singletary names his starter.

Hill started last week's exhibition opener against Denver and has been the apparent front-runner at quarterback since spring drills began in March.

But Smith has kept close while displaying he's fully recovered from problems with his right shoulder that required two surgeries and forced him to miss the 2008 season.

"First of all, my shoulder feels awesome," Smith said Friday. "So I've really been able to focus on football, playing quarterback and learning and executing this offense. I'm getting better every day, and now it's a matter of showing it come game time."

Smith was expected to be San Francisco's franchise quarterback when the 49ers selected him with the No. 1 overall pick of the 2005 draft.

But Smith's career has taken a series of twists and turns since the 2006 season, when he took every snap for the 49ers.

Smith tore ligaments in his throwing shoulder in Week 4 of the 2007 season. He attempted a comeback later in the year before going on injured reserve and having surgery.

Smith started San Francisco's preseason finale last August after the 49ers already had named journeyman J.T. O'Sullivan as their starter for the regular season. Smith injured the same shoulder a few days before the regular-season opener and went on injured reserve.

After taking over from O'Sullivan near midseason, Hill led San Francisco to a 5-2 finish last year.

TRACK AND FIELD

Felix cruises to win in 200

RAF CASERT
AP Sports Writer

BERLIN Usain Bolt got the birthday present he wanted from his teammates at the world championships Friday, and Los Angeles-native Allyson Felix spoiled the party by ending Jamaica's sprint domination.

After the Jamaican relay team qualified for the 4x100 final without Bolt on the track, Felix glided to the finish with an elegance reminiscent of a long distance runner to win her third straight 200-meter world title.

With a raised fist and little more than a smile at the finish, Felix broke the Jamaican hold on sprinting going back to the Beijing Olympics. She held off an early charge from Olympic champion Veronica Campbell-Brown of Jamaica, and once she entered the straight where her stride is at its most efficient, there was no stopping her.

"I was very confident about my strength," Felix said. "I defended my title. I cannot ask for more."

It was the first sprint gold medal for the United States at the championships and Jamaica's first loss. Jamaica beat the United States 5-0 in sprints in Beijing.

Earlier, the Jamaican sprint team qualified for the 4x100 relay final, giving Bolt a shot at winning a third gold and setting a third world record at the world championships.

The United States was disqualified for an illegal baton change, robbing the championships of a high-powered clash with the Jamaicans.

The women's sprint relay teams also have their final Saturday.

The relay disqualification was the only blemish on a good day for the United States, which also got a 1-2 finish in the men's 400 with Olympic champion LaShawn Merritt beating defending champion Jeremy Wariner.

The United States jumped over Jamaica in the medals table with six golds and 16 overall. Jamaica was second with five gold and 10 overall.

The victory of Yaroslav Rybakov in the men's high jump and Sergey Kirdyapkin in the 50-kilometer walk gave Russia four golds and 11 overall.

After two gold medals and two world records in six days, Bolt took a rest Friday, centering on signing autographs instead of running as he celebrated his 23rd birthday with the fans at the Olympic Stadium.

When he collected his gold for the 200 title and a second $100,000 check for his world record, some 45,000 fans in the stands gave him a heartfelt "Happy Birthday to You" serenade. It was another indication that nothing can seemingly go wrong for the star of the championships.

With two records and two golds, he has already won $320,000.



MOVIE TIMES

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

Extract (R) 1hr 31 min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Bandslam (PG) 1hr 51min
10:15 a.m., 12:50, 3:30

The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard (R) 1hr 29min
10:30 a.m., 12:45, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45, 10:05

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 2hr 33min
6:15, 9:35

Funny People (R) 2hr 16min
12:30, 4:00, 7:10, 10:20

The Hangover (R) 1hr 40min
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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

G-Force (PG) 1hr 30min
11:50 a.m., 2:05, 4:20, 6:50, 9:10

Post Grad (PG-13) 1hr 29min
11:55 a.m., 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

Shorts (PG) 1hr 29min
11:15 a.m., 1:50, 4:15, 7:00, 9:20

X Games 3D: The Movie (PG) 1hr 32min
11:30 a.m., 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30

Ponyo (Gake no ue no Ponyo) (G) 1hr 40min
11:00 a.m., 1:30, 4:10, 6:40, 9:15

The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13) 1hr 48min
11:40 a.m., 12:30, 5:15, 7:50, 10:30

Julie and Julia (PG-13) 2hrs 3min
10:50 a.m., 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:15

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

Earth Days (NR) 1hr 57min
1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

Paper Heart
1:00, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

(500) Days of Summer (PG-13) 1hr 35min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

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

The Cove (PG-13) 1hr 30min
11:00 a.m.

Valentino: The Last Emperor (PG-13) 1hr, 36min
11:00 a.m.

Yoo-Hoo, Mrs. Goldberg (NR) 1hr, 30min
11:oo a.m.

Irene in Time (PG-13) 1hr 34min
11:00 a.m.

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

Inglourious Basterds (R) 2hrs 32min
12:00, 1:30, 3:30, 5:00, 7:00, 8:30, 10:30, 12:00 a.m.

G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (PG-13) 1hr 58min
12:40, 3:40, 4:50. 6:40, 9:40

The Ugly Truth (R) 1hr 36min
11:50 a.m., 2:20, 7:40, 10:10

District 9 (R) 1hr 53min
11:40 a.m., 2:30, 5:20, 8:15, 11:00

District 9 (Digital Projection) (R) 1hr 53min
1:20, 4:20, 7:15, 10:00

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

Let your imagination rock, Gemini

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Stay centered. Your instinct might be to tackle someone the minute you wake up. Try to go for a walk or jog instead. Your sense of direction returns midday. Certainly, a family member is demanding change. Tonight: Defer.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Could you see a different end result? Let your creativity go to work. You might feel as if you don't have what it takes. You do. Listen more to a child or loved one. Hear this person's request, as subtle as it might be. Tonight: Don't push so hard.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You are bound and determined to have it your way. You seem insolent or difficult to a close friend or loved one. Find an appropriate manner to express your mood. Respond to excitement around news. Tonight: Let your imagination rock 'n' roll.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Express your limitations and ask for help. Nevertheless, be prepared to deal with the situation alone. You are full of energy and fun, which in some manner challenges a key person in your life. Learn how to handle this person's moods. Tonight: Talking up a storm.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Keeping an eye on your expenses might not be what is needed to hold them down, but it certainly is the first step. You could be stunned by someone's temper. Do you want to be involved with this type of uproar? Accept a friend's invitation. Tonight: You don't need to go far to meet up with a friend.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Curb your assertiveness in the morning. Don't be surprised if you get a harsh response. Be careful with expenditures. A risk could easily backfire and cost a fortune. Careful. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Lie low in the morning. Someone at a distance could knock on your door – time to revamp your plans. At first, you could be irritated, but you will open up later. Quickly you discover how attitude can change the colors of a situation. You radiate. Tonight: Act like the world is your oyster.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ See past a problem and don't allow a partner to get under your skin. Listen to news with a grain of salt. If you cannot accept the present circumstances, withdraw for a while. Tonight: Do your thing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You cannot wiggle out of a responsibility. It would be best to move forward. Later in the day, you'll be free and clear. Join your friends at a baseball game, or get together at the beach. Enjoy a summer happening of some sort. Tonight: Just wish upon a star.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Reach beyond your immediate grasp if you face a hassle. You could be surprised by what some "experts" suggest. Adjust plans to indulge an older relative or handle a last-minute responsibility. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Working with a person or loved one is worthwhile, if you aren't too controlling. Wanting events to tumble in a certain direction might not happen. Detach if you find yourself triggered. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Defer. Worry less about people's reactions. Certainly someone on the home front could make your morning less than agreeable. Dedicate the afternoon to those you enjoy. Tonight: Add that special quality to the moment.

Happy birthday

This year, use your willingness to break from your pattern and follow a different approach to life. Many of you could decide to develop your own business on a secondary level. Focus on risking less and building a more secure financial base. If you are single, you attract many different types of people. Romance happens unexpectedly. Wait till the year mark to consider this bond a relationship. If you are attached, the two of you experience more high-voltage moments than usual. Respect your differences. LIBRA helps you make money.

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



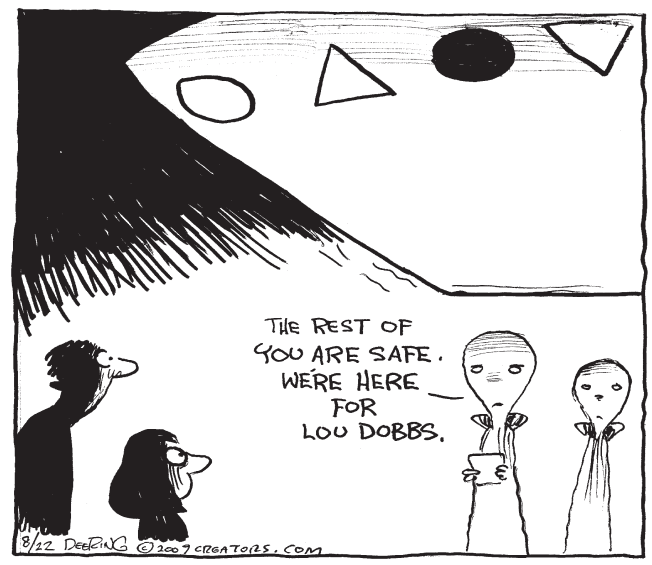
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By Jim Davis



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

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

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Maya Sugarman *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Mosaic piece
5 Like some dorms
9 — Island
10 Carnival attractions
12 Music's Shaw
13 Best of the best
14 Run-down
16 Nail site
17 Afr. neighbor
18 Travel to endangered areas
20 Capitol group
22 Screws up
23 Congress coverer
25 Cook's mint
28 Because
32 Forecast
34 Mexican gold
35 Like some verbs: Abbr.
36 Travel to the slopes
38 Dynamite inventor
40 More severe
41 Pigs
42 Spring sign
43 Mailbox feature
44 Ohio team

DOWN

1 Twisting force
2 One after another
3 Luke's sister
4 Holes for laces
5 Guiding principle
6 Motor need
7 Post man?
8 Diversion
9 Lawyer's jobs
11 Visionaries
15 Chipping tool
19 Revival setting
21 Served well
24 Dove's stance
25 Roulette rounds
26 Quiver contents
27 Desert rodent
29 Dreadful
30 Occurs
31 Hits the sauce
33 Key
37 Went fast
39 Music's Brian

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

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				■

8-22

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 5 26 37 56 Meganumber: 25 Jackpot: $207M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 20 25 29 35 41 Meganumber: 25 Jackpot: $12M

FANTASY 5: 2 3 17 21 26

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 9 8 EVENING: 9 5 7

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 01 Gold Rush 2nd: 04 Big Ben 3rd: 03 Hot Shot RACE TIME: 1:44.57

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

■ Christopher Bjerkness, 31, was arrested in Duluth, Minn., in July and charged with another episode of breaking into a gym facility and slashing numerous large rubber exercise balls. He had acknowledged a sexual urge to slash that type of ball following a conviction in 2006 for cutting up 70 balls in three incidents at the University of Minnesota Duluth. This time, 40 balls were damaged at a St. Mary's/Duluth Clinic West building. Police were told by a psychologist last year, after Bjerkness abandoned court-ordered therapy, that he "continues to be a risk to society."

■ Recurring Themes: (1) Lonnie Meckwood, 29, and Phillip Weeks, 51, were arrested in Kirkwood, N.Y., in June after allegedly robbing the Quickway Convenience Store. Their getaway ended about a mile from the crime scene as their car ran out of gas, even though the Quickway is also a gas station. (2) Hatim Gulamhusein, 48, was arrested at Toronto International Airport in April, suspected of bringing 76 swallowed packets of cocaine into the country as a drug mule, despite a mighty effort to avoid being charged. Gulamhusein managed to control his bowels so well that it took three weeks for all the packets to pass.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1559 Bartolomé Carranza, Spanish archbishop, is arrested for heresy.

1639 Madras (now Chennai), India, is founded by the British East India Company on a sliver of land bought from local Nayak rulers.

1642 Charles I calls the English Parliament traitors. The English Civil War begins.

1654 Jacob Barsimson arrives in New Amsterdam. He is the first known Jewish immigrant to America.

1717 Spanish troops land on Sardinia.

WORD UP!

stultify \STUHL-tuh-fahy\ , verb: 1. To render useless or ineffectual; cripple. 2. To cause to appear stupid, inconsistent, or ridiculous. 3. Law To allege or prove insane and so not legally responsible.

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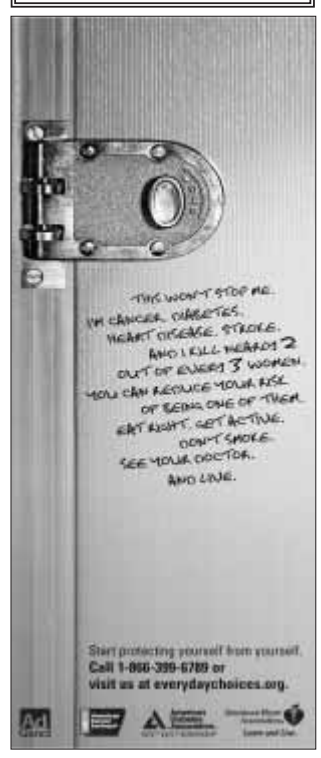
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Between Wilshire & Montana	$ 1,895,000	$ 992,000
South of Wilshire	$880,000	$680,000
Sunset Park	$1,199,000	$644,250
Ocean Park	$1,598,500	$835,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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