



TALE OF TOUGH TIMES
SEE PAGE 17

Santa Monica Daily Press

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THE ON THE SCENE ISSUE

Gang-related shooting Downtown

Police arrest three suspects; one victim suffered non-life threatening injuries

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN Three suspected gang members were in custody Friday in connection with a shooting in the parking lot of Sears, the crime taking place as thousands were leaving a concert on the Santa Monica Pier.

Police were still searching for a fourth suspect Friday afternoon, with detectives "working diligently to establish the fourth suspect's identity," said Santa Monica Police Department's Sgt. David Hunscke.

The shooting at Fourth Street and

Colorado Avenue was reported at 9:45 p.m. Thursday. Officers responding to the scene found one victim who suffered a single, non-life threatening gunshot wound, Hunscke said.

The suspects reportedly confronted the victim as he was leaving the pier and asked him where he was from, a phrase commonly used by gang members to determine if a person is from a rival gang. The victim told the suspects he was not in a gang and the suspects left the area.

A short time later, the suspects confront-

ed the victim again, this time in the area of the Sears parking lot, at which time a fight broke out. One of the suspects produced a gun and shot the victim, Hunscke said.

Witnesses provided officers with a description of the four suspects and the direction they fled following the shooting. Officers set up a perimeter and with the assistance of a helicopter provided by the Los Angeles Police Department were able to apprehend three of the four suspects a

SEE SHOOTING PAGE 13



Daily Press Staff news@smdp.com

TAKING NOTES: A possible witness gives details of the shooting to a Santa Monica Police officer.



Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

PUTTING IN MILES: Trang Guzze, a registered nurse at Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, commutes from Garden Grove to Santa Monica every morning. She leaves her Orange County home at 5:30 a.m. every day in order to arrive at work on time.

Finding middle ground

Santa Monica is lacking homes that the majority of middle-class workers can afford, raising concern

BY MELODY HANATANI

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE There's a small window of opportunity separating a free-flowing ride up the I-405 Freeway and stand-still traffic and Trang Guzze nails it almost every time.

After all, her nearly 44-mile commute from Garden Grove to Santa Monica depends on it.

A registered nurse at Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, Guzze is sure to leave her Orange County home at 5:30 a.m. every day in order to arrive at work on time. Missing the mark by 20 minutes could be the difference between an easy 45-minute drive and a two-hour nightmare.

"There's that magical 20 minutes that caus-

SEE HOUSING PAGE 12

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Calendar

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Fancy felines

1855 Main St., 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

The Santa Monica Cat Club presents their 42nd annual Cat Show. See over 300 pedigreed cats in competition representing over 36 different breeds. Looking for that special kitty? Meet with over 100 breeders or adopt one of our rescued cats. This event takes place at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium and will run both Saturday and Sunday. For information, contact agraaf@speakeasy.net.

Seriously Sri Lankan

Third Street Promenade, 10 a.m. — 10 p.m.

This day-long festival features Sri Lankan food, culture, arts, music, singing, dance and costumes. Sri Lanka Foundation hosts events in order to bring relief to disaster stricken individuals and communities in Sri Lanka. For more information, visit www.srilankaoundation.org.

'Excuse for a Swordfight'

1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m. — 9:45 p.m.

A. F. Cronin presents his hysterical new comedy, "Excuse for a Swordfight," a delightfully funny and a biting satiric look at the blind ambition and thoughtless formulas that dominate our entertainment industry. To purchase tickets or get more information, go to TheatreforaSmallSpace.com. or call (310) 393-3018

Sunday, Aug. 24, 2008

Workouts for teens

3026 Nebraska Ave., 3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Max offers two daily classes teaching teens how to exercise and eat properly in a cool and fun environment. They get to hang out afterwards in the wi-fi lounge, play Nintendo Wii, or simply surf the Internet. For information, call (310) 867-1650.

Get it while it's fresh

Downtown Mar Vista, 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.

Head out to lovely Mar Vista for the weekly Farmers' Market. Located at the corner of Grandview and Venice boulevards, the market includes fresh fruits and vegetables as well as some prepared foods.

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.





Soraya Danesh news@smdp.com

TOUCHING MOMENT: Don Umber, the head of the Santa Monica Animal Shelter, takes time to play with a kitty at the shelter on Thursday.

Lawmakers opt not to meet during convention

BY JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Lawmakers in the state Assembly have opted not to meet for most of next week, despite a state budget that's nearly two months late and a looming deadline for hundreds of bills to pass out of both houses.

The decision makes it possible for members of the mostly Democratic body to attend the party's national convention in Denver. Many said they still won't attend the four-day convention, which runs Monday through Thursday.

"I don't think I should festoon myself with buttons and signs and spend a week in Denver," said Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael, who is a member of the convention's platform committee.

The state Senate said it would meet every day next week.

Speaker Karen Bass, D-Los Angeles, scheduled Assembly sessions for Monday afternoon and next Friday morning, but denied she was shutting down the Assembly Tuesday through Thursday so lawmakers could attend the convention.

"I don't know who is going to the convention from my caucus. What I do know is that our Number 1 priority is to solve the budget," Bass said.

Her spokesman, Steve Maviglio, said Bass had canceled her scheduled events in Denver and her plane tickets and had no plans "at this point" to attend. Bass was scheduled to attend several events at the convention, including one with U.S. Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein.

Maviglio said there's no need for the Assembly to meet every day next week because many of the bills the Assembly has to act on are still in the Senate, and with the budget unresolved, members have little to vote on.

The Legislature is supposed to wrap up its 2008 session by Aug. 31, although some bills, including the budget, can be acted on after that date. Many Democratic legislators are delegates to the convention who would vote on the party's nomination of Illinois Sen. Barack Obama as its presidential candidate.

Economy kicking Fido out of the family home

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Sometimes, during an economic slump, the dog house has to go, too.

While pet homes aren't necessarily being foreclosed, many canine and feline owners are finding that the effects of near-recessionary conditions are making it impossible to keep

their furry companions.

Adoption groups like locally-based Karma Rescue are reporting an increase in calls this summer from individuals who need to give up their cat or dog, admitting that personal finances are making it unfeasible to support an extra family member.

Foreclosures seem to be one of the biggest culprits, forcing owners to lose their pets

when they go from a house to an apartment that doesn't accept animals.

"We have had such an influx of phone calls," Rande Levine, the founder and president of Karma Rescue, said. "When the foreclosure thing happened, the phone lit up and we got 10 calls a day whereas we used to get

SEE PETS PAGE 10



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Looking for a good margarita?
Editor:

I was surprised that Nora Sorena Casey’s article, “Legendary stores thrive and survive,” Aug. 16, page 1, failed to include the Casa Escobar on Wilshire Boulevard, which opened in 1965.

My family moved to Santa Monica in 1971 and we have been loyal customers throughout the years. We have developed close relationships with many of the staff and regular customers and have shared every kind of occasion there including sports events, birth-days and even my mother’s wake.

The original owner, Carlos “Choppo” Escobar, created a special environment with wonderful people, great food and, of course, the best margarita in town. That tradition is now proudly carried on by his son Michael. The Casa Escobar is truly unique to Santa Monica in this day and age and should be celebrated in the city’s local paper.

Julie Grobe
Los Angeles

Voting woes
Editor:

Has voting in elections become, as I have believed in the past, just a joke?

A few years ago I voted at Santa Monica City Hall. I got the voting card and entered a voting booth. I placed a voting card in the proper slot and picked up the vot-ing punch pencil and noticed that the punch pencil point seemed a bit shorter than it should be.

When I attempted to punch voting holes in the card, I realized the pen point did not penetrate the card fully. I showed this defect to a person who had given me a voting card and showed the person the problem. After getting a blank stare from that person, I was given a new card and a voting pen that would penetrate my card. But no one appeared to check other voting pens for possible problems. I even alerted the people who had voting booths for the opposite party than mine, as I only thought it was fair to do so. Well, I only got a blank stare from them also. I left the building in disgust.

Henry Duval
Santa Monica

Defining the family
Editor:

In response to letter to the editor, published Monday, Aug. 18, “‘Yes Vote on Prop. 8 is a vote for God,’ I think [the author] owe[s] an apology to all who had to go through life without a “mom or dad” and turned out to be decent human beings anyway. [The author] also owe[s] an apology to all who raised them. If you wish all others to be on God’s side, why not try that yourself? Do not speak of “war with those” and do not adopt a tone that betrays your hatred of all who do not share your view of the world.

You are wrong, by the way, when you say “the fami-ly [as you define it] has been with us from the begin-ning of time.” You obviously haven’t read enough histo-ry and anthropology.

Ursula Fox
Santa Monica



Modern Times
Lloyd Garver

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Age is nothing
but a number

NUMBERS HAVE BEEN VERY IMPORTANT in the Olympic Games. The number eight is the luckiest number in the Chinese lore, so it was considered fortuitous to start the Olympics at exactly eight minutes after eight on 8/08/08. Sixteen, 11, and 14 have been important, too. Some of the members of the Chinese women’s gymnastics team look like they’re about 11, they’re supposed to be 16, and some documents say they’re 14.

The American press and gymnastics team have been outraged about the fact that the Chinese team may have lied about the age of some of its members. Olympic gymnasts must be at least 16 (or turn 16 during the year of competition). Theoretically, it is eas-ier for younger women/girls to perform some of the gymnastic routines, so it’s not fair for someone under 16 to participate against those who are 16 or older. But we shouldn’t jump to conclusions. Just because, on the average, the Chinese gymnasts weigh 77 pounds doesn’t mean they’re under 16. Maybe they just don’t like milkshakes.

However, going by earlier Chinese publi-cations, at least three of the athletes are only 14. But according to their current passports, which determine Olympic eligibility — sur-prise, surprise — everyone on the Chinese team is at least 16.

So, are the Chinese cheating? Are some of these gymnasts really younger than they say they are? And if so, why are people so out-raged?

The possible lying about their ages seems a much smaller “crime” than how these kids are treated. They are spotted as possible gymnasts at an early age, and taken from their families to a training center where they live and work at becoming good enough to represent their country. So, why aren’t the American critics lashing out about this?

Well, the American coach, Martha Karolyi happens to be married to Bela Karolyi. He was the Romanian who coached Nadia Comaneci and later, Mary Lou Retton. In the ‘60s and ‘70s, he pioneered the system in Romania in which young girls were chosen for their athletic potential and then trained at a boarding school. Sound familiar?

Before I go any further into my in-depth

investigation, let’s talk about numbers again. Dara Torres astonished the world with her medal-winning swimming at the remarkable age of 41. Now, remember when I said that some of the Chinese gymnasts look 11, claim to be 16, but might be only 14? Well, if you add 11 plus 16 plus 14, you get 41. And how old is Dara Torres? 41. Coincidence? Yeah, probably.

Okay, back to the possible age-cheating. If they are lying about their age, it’s going to come back to haunt them. They’re not going to be so happy when someone throws them a 30th birthday party when they’re only 28.

However, a rule is a rule, and cheating is cheating. If those Chinese girls are under 16, they shouldn’t be participating. But the Olympics don’t have age-testing. Athletes can be tested to make sure they’re of the gen-der they claim to be. They’re tested for drugs. But how do you test them to prove how old they are?

Don’t worry. I’ve come up with the defin-itive test for determining if female gymnasts are too young.

A contestant is too young if:

- She needs someone else to add up the scores for her
- She thinks the tooth fairy brings gold medals
- Her best “floor exercise” is crawling
- She doesn’t wear diapers anymore — except at night.

Okay, that takes care of the future. But what about the women/girls on this year’s Chinese gymnastics team? How will we ever know how old they really are?

Maybe we have to return to Chinese numerology. Michael Phelps won eight gold medals. Eight is the luckiest number. Then maybe eight is the best age for a gymnast. Eight? Could that really be their age? It seems awfully young for them. But is it any harder to believe than 16?

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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STRAY talk

A CENTER-CUT, NO-FAT REVIEW OF WHAT WAS SAID THIS PAST WEEK BY FOLKS THE WORLD OVER AND RIGHT AT HOME

“We expect to win the [conference] championship because I never set the standards lower.”

— SMC head football coach Robert Taylor regarding his hopes for this year's team.

“We’re proud of our position as pioneers.”

— LaDonna Ringering, president and CEO of Center for the Partially Sighted.

“I think what you get is a potpourri of wonderful Santa Monica artists in this show.”

— Local artist Steve Galloway regarding the “Emphasis Santa Monica” exhibit taking place at Santa Monica College.

“The Olympics are almost over and none too soon. I haven’t watched this much TV since the O.J. trial. With the time difference, I don’t think I saw a single event ‘live.’ The announcers say it’s live but the results are on the Internet hours earlier. They should call them the TIVO Olympics.”

— SMDP columnist Jack Neworth writing in “Laughing Matters.”

“From the very beginning of school to the age of 12, about 80 percent of learning is done by vision and of course vision is very important to learning.”

— Sarah Ito, a doctor at Visionworks Optometry on Lincoln Boulevard.

“There’s no question that what people really want is the old songs done in the old way as well as we can.”

— Peter Asher of Peter and Gordon. The popular group from the early 1960s recently played the Twilight Dance Series at the Santa Monica Pier.

“The Save Our City campaign should be called ‘Save Our Developers.’”

— Diana Gordon, the co-chair of the Coalition for a Livable City, the group that has created the Residents’ Initiative to Fight Traffic. It’s measure on the November ballot that aims to slow commercial development in the city.

“A lot of folks on there, you’ll find are also members of important organizations that serve our community that are concerned about the impact of RIFT.”

— Terry O'Day, who heads the Save Our City campaign.

“Let me get this straight, by this tortured illogic, should one be ashamed of Jesse Owens’ dominance over Aryan ‘superiority’ in the 1936 Berlin Games? Should one be ashamed of the U.S. women’s saber team that swept the medal round in an Asian country of hereditary swordsmen? Should those young ladies have remained in the scullery where they belong? The next thing you know some whack job will advocate that a woman should be elected president.”

— SMDP columnist Steve Breen writing in “Going Postal.”



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Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 28, 2008 at the Office of Sustainability and the Environment.

Applications are invited to fill 5 vacancies on the Measure V Citizens Oversight Committee. All persons who reside in Santa Monica are invited to apply regardless of race, sex, age, disability, religion, marital status, national origin, sexual preference, or ancestry. Appointment will be made at a City Council meeting in September or October, 2008.

The Oversight Committee is being assembled to audit the use of the proceeds of the Clean Beaches and Ocean Parcel Tax (also known as Measure V) adopted by voters in November, 2006.

The State Political Reform Act requires Commission (Committee) members to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action by filing a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office and annually thereafter.

Application forms and information are available on the internet at www.smpd.org. Applications are also available at the Office of Sustainability and the Environment, 200 Santa Monica Pier, Suite J, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Applications may be received and/or submitted by mail, email or fax. Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request. Contact information: phone: (310) 458-2213; fax (310) 393-1279 or email: environment@smgov.net.

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AT HOME

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The QLine

GOOD SERVICE

This past week, Q-line asked:
Mixed-use development with businesses located on the ground floor has become all the rage in Santa Monica, Downtown especially. Do you consider this a good thing? Are these businesses truly neighborhood serving?
Here are your responses:

“YES, BUSINESSES DO ACTUALLY SERVE neighbors as they should. I've lived adjacent to Main Street for 12 years now and I have been able to witness what I consider a very positive change in our city; more mixed use developments and more businesses tailored to the needs of Santa Monica residents. I actually gave up my car three years ago and have never been happier, opting for public transportation and car sharing through Zipcar (formerly Flexcar). Everything I need is here in Santa Monica. And what I can't get is easily delivered. The quality of my life has risen steadily over the years I've lived here as I shifted my lifestyle. Things like walking to the store, using the Farmers' Markets, staying in town to socialize at local venues rather than trek to Hollywood have all made life here even more fantastic.”

“SANTA MONICA HOTELS AND SMALL businesses, especially along the Third Street Promenade, depend on tourists and individuals who live outside of Santa Monica's boundaries. We also have the multitude of those who work in the high-rise office buildings that we see as we drive along Wilshire Boulevard, from Ocean Avenue to Barrington Avenue. There is truly a mass of humanity that crowds into Santa Monica's boundaries on a daily basis. This is good for business, especially for the restaurants. Still, it is this mass of humanity, with their automobiles, that creates all of the congestion we see in Santa Monica on a daily basis. You ask me if these new businesses are truly neighborhood-serving. The answer, in my opinion, is no; nor do they want to be neighborhood serving. They serve the world. The world is changing, and it's only a matter of time when we will no longer see in the window of a business stating, 'Se Hable Espanol.' The signs will only state, 'English spoken here,' – if we are lucky.”

“SANTA MONICANS FOR RENTER'S RIGHTS should change their name to 'Santa Monica for Rip-off Retailers.' They've sold our once, sleepy little town to tourism and big development. It used to be that the mall was geared for low and moderate income locals. Now, it's just a tourist trap. When Target wanted to move by the mall, our City Council said no. Why would someone buy a pair of sandals for \$129 at the mall, when you could go a block and buy a nice pair for \$8.95 at Target. Santa Monicans for Renter's Rights needs the big development and tourism to pay for their expensive socialist programs and parties.”

“LIVING IN THE SAME BUILDING WHERE you work might be convenient for commuting, but a disadvantage would be that on your day off, they can always know where to find you.”

“IT'S THE DENSITY, STUPID. MIXED USED is developer code for bigger projects and bigger profits. Living in such tight quarters has many drawbacks. Think of the nightly bar noise, the early a.m. deliveries, hauling six bags of groceries, the small number of windows, and the lack of daylight, to name a few. If you like New York, move there.”

“WHEN CAN I STOP LAUGHING? OR IS IT crying? First, the City Council mothers overdevelop in this town, thereby squeezing more dimes from the gullible taxpayer citizens. Multi-use buildings are a New York City idea. How many people left the east coast, big city disaster, to bring their European, urban planning ideas to our town? Destroy the concept of openness of our charming beach community, with a crowded, ugly, dubious multi-use businesses and cheap housing for migrant workers, and you leave us with a hideous example of elitist, urban city planning. Eliminate building pollution, City Hall greed, and the old women on the council, and then we'll have a chance of regaining a once livable town. Multi-use is like multi-tasking. You just mask incompetence and lack of a simple and correct vision for Santa Monica.”

“THAT SOUNDS GOOD, IN THEORY, BUT the developers in the city will find a way to screw it up. Namely, they won't provide enough parking. They will say that because individuals in Santa Monica are locals, they don't need parking, when we do need parking because people do go other places. All units should have one parking space if it's a studio, two parking spaces for a one bedroom, and three parking spaces for a two bedroom, no exceptions. Plus, the retail space each hundred square feet should have at least one parking space. But, naturally, they won't do it, and they will complain about traffic and parking.”

“THE MIX-USE DEVELOPMENT IN SANTA Monica so far is suspect. So many of them sit vacant, so I don't see how they're truly neighborhood serving.”

“MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT IS TACKY IN the extreme. It reminds me of the old tenement, low-income housing in New York's past years. Speaking about the businesses serving the citizens, that hasn't happened in a long time – not in Santa Monica. Those that did really provide for the citizens' needs, are long gone.”

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Restaurant Snapshot

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Pasta to perfection

LOCANDA PORTOFINO IS A SMALL neighborhood restaurant that offers some of the best, most authentic Italian food in town. It also has a selection of wine, if you can afford the prices, some of which are difficult to find except in the very top Italian restaurants. The pasta here is as good as the best, well, almost the best, in Italy.

WHERE: 1110 Montana Ave., on the south east corner of Montana and 11th Street. (310) 394-9828.

WHEN: Lunch, Monday — Saturday, noon — 2:30 p.m.; Dinner, 5:30 p.m. to 10 (10:30 Friday and Saturday). Closed Mondays.

BEST DISHES: For me the pasta shines here. A few times the chef made spaghetti Carbonara (the traditional pasta of Rome) for me although not on the menu. There are plenty of meat and fish dishes from which to choose on the menu. Antipasti prices range from \$10 to \$22. Pasta runs from \$16 to \$20, and main courses are between \$25 and \$35.

BEST FEATURE: The food and the wine

selection.

WORST FEATURE: The owners sometimes display a touch of arrogance, not atypical in Italy, but not well received in Santa Monica. Once they told me the corkage fee was \$40. So I said “OK, but I’ll take it off the tip.” And I did. The next time I was there they said the corkage fee had been reduced to \$25.

WHAT TO DRINK: This is a chance to try some hard to find Barolo’s and Barbaresco’s from top vintage years, properly stored.

BOTTOM LINE: This is a small, unpretentious neighborhood restaurant with great food and usually good, professional service. It’s not crowded at lunch, and you can park the car yourself.

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

Is slow food finally picking up speed?

BY SCOTT LINDLAW
Associated Press Writer

BOLINAS Trailing Alice Waters through a Marin County garden, watching her gather fragrant pea blossoms and lemon verbenas, it is easy to believe the tide is turning against America’s mac-and-cheese culture.

In this wealthy rural enclave, there are no Starbucks or Wal-Marts. It is home to uber-eco rancher Bill Niman; small farms are nestled into hillsides; the shelves of the co-op are stocked with local, organic greens.

Yet Waters knows that to the east lies a nation starved for time, bloated with fast food and mostly ignorant of her effort to make people think more about where, how and by whom their food is produced.

Still, the grand dame of the so-called “slow food” movement sees evidence of progress nationwide: Bustling farmers markets. Bans on trans fats. Greater awareness of food sources, albeit driven by waves of food contamination scares.

“All kinds of things are going on that are pushing people into this slow food place,” she says.

Even, perhaps, slow food itself. After years of lurking, barely a shadow of its European counterpart, Slow Food USA is about to make its first major foray into the U.S. cul-

tural and political scenes. Tens of thousands of people are expected to attend Slow Food Nation over Labor Day weekend in San Francisco, a Woodstock-like festival and symposium meant to underscore the connection between planet and plate.

It’s the first serious test of whether Slow Food — a philosophy born in Europe and often hobbled by a snob factor — can evolve into a movement capable of altering the appetite of the average American.

“We don’t want (the slow food movement) to be about celebrity chefs and fancy restaurants,” Waters says.

To that end, organizers have worked hard to mainstream their message, offering forums highlighting everyday and heirloom foods from the South and Southwest, as well as discussions about eating well on a budget.

There even is a partnership with the Food Network, which is planting a mini-garden for children within a larger “victory garden” on display at San Francisco City Hall for the festival.

The network is using the garden — and the Slow Food event as a whole — to announce the launch of a series of sustainable schoolyard gardens it will build around the nation, an effort first hatched by Waters 14 years ago and carried on today by her Chez Panisse Foundation.

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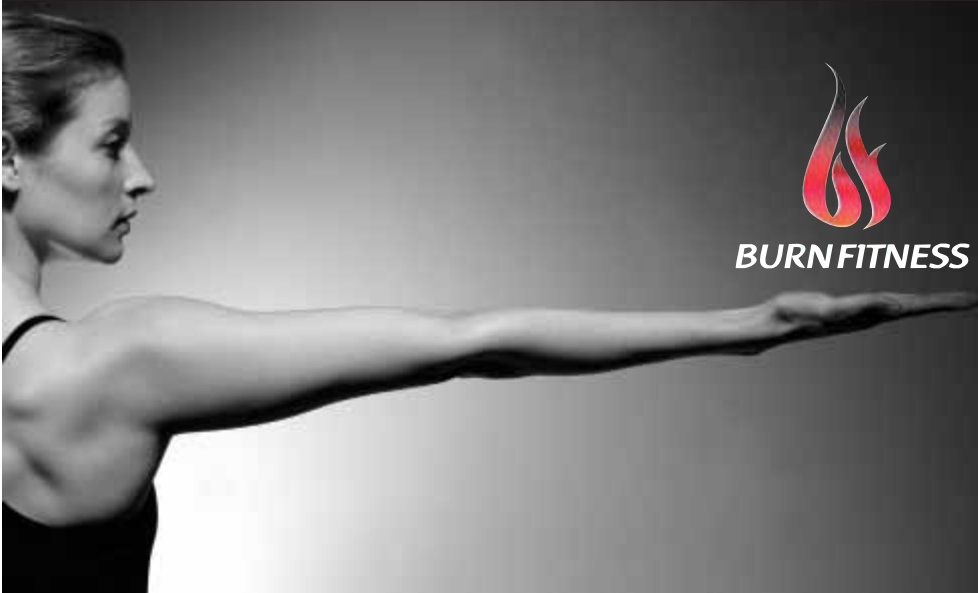


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Shelters taking in more dogs because of economy

FROM PETS PAGE 3

two or three."

The overwhelming cases of relinquishments are putting shelters and rescue centers in an awkward position, turning down many requests because they can't afford to board any more pets, but leaving them worried as to whether the animals will otherwise be abandoned.

Groups like Perfect Pet Rescue are not only constrained financially, but by a lack of space, which is a result of another impact from the economic downturn — fewer pet adoptions.

Perfect Pet Rescue holds several mobile adoption drives in the Los Angeles area every week, including on Montana Avenue on Saturdays.

"In the last year adoptions have been quite a bit slower and we don't get as many calls from people adopting as we do now from people looking for homes," Nancy Carter, a volunteer with the rescue group, said.

The problem isn't unique to the Los Angeles area. Petfinder.com, which links prospective owners with adoptable pets, recently conducted a survey of its 11,300 members, the majority of which include animal shelters and rescue organizations, finding that 49 percent had pets given to them in the past six months because of home foreclosures. Approximately 57 percent said they are seeing a drop in adoptions.

The Los Angeles chapter of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA-LA) is seeing more people giving up their pets not just because of the housing crisis, but due to financial hardship in general.

"Usually when people turn in their animals, they won't tell you the reason because they're embarrassed, saying they have allergies when they didn't know what they were getting into" Madeline Bernstein, the president of SPCA-LA, said. "But people are saying they can't afford it, they had to make cut backs and this had to be one of them."

The organization was preparing to see fewer adoptions and more relinquishments shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks when the economy took a hit. Instead the opposite happened as more people adopted to seek companionship.

While adoption is far less expensive than buying from a pet store, fees could run in the \$400 range. The SPCA-LA charges \$125 for a dog, which includes spay or neutering and vaccination, and \$100 for a cat. Some rescue groups, which operate on a nonprofit and

volunteer basis, charge several hundred dollars more.

But Bernstein said it isn't fees that are preventing people from adopting.

"There doesn't seem to be any other reason other than the fact that there's a lot of lay-offs right now, gas prices are high, inflation is high and people are simply choosing what to do with discretionary funds," Bernstein said.

Some shelters have remained relatively unaffected by the economy, including the Santa Monica Animal Shelter, which is operated by the Santa Monica Police Department.

Don Umber, the head of the animal shelter, said that adoption figures have remained stable from last year.

"There's not an appreciable difference," he said.

The Homestretch Greyhound Rescue and Adoption group has experienced a different twist, actually seeing more adoptions this summer because people are staying at home instead of vacationing.

The group, which is based in the Ventura area, is planning to hold an adoption drive at the Petsmart on Wilshire Boulevard on Saturday, Aug. 23.

"In the summer, people go on vacations and want to wait until the fall to adopt," Barbara Davenport, the executive director of Homestretch, said. "They're not doing anything this year and we actually have more adoptions than we normally do."

The concern for many groups that have seen relinquishments is whether or not the animals will be abandoned on the street.

"If you can't find a relative or close friend to help ... then don't open the door on the beach and let them go," Bernstein said. "Turn them into a responsible shelter where they have a chance to find a new home."

SPCA-LA offers assistance for pet owners who are relocating to an apartment, the organization equipped with a list of pet-friendly units.

There are also ways that pet owners can keep their companions by simply cutting down on related expenses, such as personally giving a dog a bath instead of paying for a professional groomer, Bernstein said. Owners could also check for pet food made from wholesome ingredients, which tend to be healthy but don't have the hefty price tag of boutique or premium brands.

"Remember that a pet is a companion, it's a part of the family," Bernstein said.

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MOVING ON

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

Workers from TLC Construction dig up seven palm trees on the Fourth Street side of Santa Monica Place Tuesday afternoon. Some of the trees are moving to Ocean Avenue.

Police search for fourth suspect

FROM SHOOTING PAGE 1

short time later.

The weapon used in the crime was not recovered as of Friday afternoon, police said.

The victim was treated at a local hospital and later released.

The three suspects were booked at the Public Safety Facility for attempted murder, conspiracy, and promoting a criminal street gang. They were identified as William

Ramirez, 26; Albert Ramirez, 22; and Jesse Araiza, 19. William Ramirez and Araiza were also booked for probation violations.

The shooting is still under investigation and anyone with additional information is encouraged to call the SMPD at (310) 458-8451, or (310) 458-8427. Anyone wishing to remain anonymous may call the WeTip hotline at (800) 78-CRIME (27463).

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NEW DVD RELEASES

BY RANDY WILLIAMS

Tyrone Power: Matinee Idol Collection

The charismatic screen legend of the '30s and '40s and one of Hollywood's enduring icons, returns to DVD with a five-DVD package of 10 titles: "Cafe Metropole," "Girls Dormitory," "Johnny Apollo," "Daytime Wife," "Luck of the Irish," "I'll Never Forget You," "That Wonderful Urge," "Love Is News," "This Above All" and "Second Honeymoon"). This follow-up to last year's five-title release, finds the dashing actor teamed up with a glamorous group of co-stars that includes Loretta Young, Anne Baxter, Gene Tierney and Dorothy Lamour. (Fox)

'La Chinoise'

Famed French director Jean-Luc Godard assembled one of his most contentious and politically-charged works here by focusing on a small group of French students planning to change the world by using any means necessary. After studying Mao and the growth of communism in China, the militants decide they must use terrorism to ignite their own revolution. The 1968 picture, re-released theatrically in 2007, won the Venice Film Festival Special Jury Prize. The movie is digitally restored and presented in French with English subtitles. (Koch Lorber)

'The Suffragettes'

Here is a compelling documentary presenting the story of women in the late 19th century who waged the war for social and economic equality. Insightful, the hour-long program chronicles both the complete Suffragettes story and provides insights into gender politics, human rights, and the struggle for equality. (Kultur)

'Making Of'

Winner of Best Screenplay and Best Actor at the Tribeca Film Festival, here's a movie that illustrates how "terrorists aren't born, they're made." Lotfi Abdelli is the star as a jobless Tunisian breakdancer recruited by a group of fundamentalists and educated in the violent and dangerous world of terrorism. (Koch Lorber)

'The World's Greatest Railroads'

Filed in high definition this fast-paced five-DVD lavish production takes you on a steel-wheel journey like never before. From Texas to New Zealand from Cuba to Washington riding steam trains of yore and modern diesel locomotives, here is a beautifully photographed brilliant collection. (Discovery)

RANDY WILLIAMS can be reached at writtenbyrw@yahoo.com



Photo courtesy Fox

'Charlie Bartlett'

A darker, edgier version of the late '80s popular comedy, "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," this film features a fine performance by Anton Yelchin in the title role where a rich kid becomes the self-appointed psychiatrist to the student body of his new high school. It is one of the better "teenagers know everything, adults don't have a clue" films that often come down the pipeline. (Fox)

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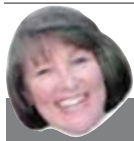
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SMDP0708



Play Time
Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Chops and Louie and lots of hooley

AT LAST, A FARCE THAT IS ACTUALLY LOL funny! Consistently hilarious, stupendously silly, and played with over-the-top sincerity by a superbly comic cast. The play, now having its world premiere at the Meta Theatre is "Suffer the Long Night" by Greg Glienna and Mary Ruth Clarke.

A thinly disguised parody of the Humphrey Bogart thriller "The Petrified Forest," in which an escaped convict holds an assortment of characters hostage in a roadside diner, "Suffer" has two escaped convicts holed up in a house in Ohio while they wait for the older one's girlfriend to come and rescue them.

The house belongs to the Burling family and, according to Chops, the older convict (played by Jeffrey Markle), it's really "fancy," reflecting the upscale status of the owners. Which couldn't be further from the truth: the house is as tacky as a house can be, with hardly any furniture and doors that stick so effectively that the whole play stops dead while people struggle to open them.

It's Christmas Eve, 1949, and the Burling family is just getting ready to leave for church, where daughter Rosie (a buxom Kipleigh Brown, outlandishly miscast as a 10-year-old) is going to be

playing an angel. The other daughter, Mary, a red-nosed Stephanie Manglaras, has a debilitating cold and, between sneezes, talks without using her nose.

The mother, Vera, who introduces herself before the play begins as Meredith Lipschitz-Sinclair, the leader of "this group of thespians who are about to present the play you are about to see," is played by a hilariously earnest Pam Levin, who appears to be channeling Tallulah Bankhead. And the father of this typical American family, Bob Burling, is played by Jon Van Middlesworth, who also plays his own mother, Grandmother Burling.

The younger of the two convicts, Louie Defazio, is played by a handsome, rigid Greg Glienna, who keeps breaking the fourth wall, smiling and waving discreetly at the audience. He also has a cell phone long before they were invented, and Mary has no watch, even though she keeps checking her bare wrist and mumbling things like, "Oh my goodness, it's getting late..."

There's also a running gag about the fact that it's supposed to be snowing, so every time the front door opens, someone offstage tosses handfuls of white pillow feathers around.

GO SEE THE PLAY AND FIGURE IT OUT FOR YOURSELF. IT'S A FUN PLAY AND WELL WORTH THE CONFUSION!

And another gag with a telephone that keeps ringing even after it's been answered. And finally, there is Mandi Smith, the "fake" stage manager, who keeps rushing back and forth supplying props that aren't where they were supposed to be. Smith also plays Mira, Chops' girlfriend. Obviously a last-minute substitute in the play within a play for the actress who was supposed to play Mira, Smith comes onstage carrying a huge notebook, from which she reads Mira's lines.

When props are missing, the actors improvise: R.S. Bailey, playing the detective hot on Chops and Louie's trail, and his sidekick Beck (Eric Porzadek) talk into their fists when communicating

over the police radio.

When lines are forgotten, the players turn to each other for prompts. When Chops' gun isn't available, he points his finger and says "Pow! I shot you!"

"Suffer the Long Night" is produced by Brandon Alexander, who also plays Dirk, Mary's gum-chewing football player boyfriend. Co-producer Greg Glienna, who plays Louie, also co-wrote the play (with Mary Ruth Clarke) and directs it.

In keeping with the farcical nature of the play, there are two sets of cast biographies, one real (maybe) and the other with silly bios and fake names, plus a full-page addendum of last-minute cast changes, since most of the players seem to have come down with the flu. So if I've identified the wrong people in this review, I accept no responsibility for it. Go see the play and figure it out for yourself. It's a fun play and well worth the confusion!

"Suffer the Long Night" will run Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 8 p.m. at the Meta Theatre, 7801 Melrose Ave. in Los Angeles through Sept. 14. Call (323) 960-7745 for reservations.

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



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BOOKREVIEW

BY DANE ROBERT SWANSON



'My Heart Remembers'

Kim Vogel Sawyer • Bethany House Publishers

Another historical novel set in the early days of New York.

The time period between 1854 and 1929 saw as many as 250,000 children from New York and other Eastern cities sent by trains to towns in midwestern and western states. They were called the orphan trains. Families interested in the orphans would show up and view the orphans on display in local train stations and they were placed often with little or no investigation or oversight.

It is the time period between 1886 to 1903 that the action in this book takes place. Author Kim Vogel Sawyer has concentrated on a family of three Irish children orphaned by a fire in their New York tenement when their parents were killed and they were rescued by the New York Children's Society, and placed on an orphan train headed to Missouri.

They are separated at the platform in

Missouri. Maelle, the oldest, age 8, made a promise to her father that she would take care of the little ones. Also she was handed three family heirlooms by her father: the family Bible, the family picture, and the love letters. She is able to hand the family Bible to Molly, the 1 year old and the family that took her. Maelle gets taken by a photographer who needs an apprentice. The brother is taken by another couple. The brother is given the family picture to hold on to. Maelle keeps the letters. She hopes to be able to relocate them by the items given out.

Often the orphan's were not treated well. They were used as cheap labor. Some became foster children. Some were used as indentured servants or were abused. Most ended up as homeless street kids.

The story is told from three view points, one for each child. After the placement of all three the story shifts from

1886 to 1902. Their names have been changed. Molly becomes Isabelle. Maelle becomes Mike.

Mattie becomes Matthew. The reader is able to follow because each time the point of view shifts in the beginning Sawyer notes who is who with the Irish name.

The main plot has to do with misuse of children and the need for child labor laws. The sub plot is the hunt for what is lost and reunited.

In this book, Sawyer follows one street kid named Petey, a newsboy, who becomes the link between all three of the main characters. In one way or another all three interface with him. Mike takes his picture as an example of the ill treatment and misuse of the immigrant children in the labor force. Matthew rescues Petey from the ill treatment of his sponsor and takes him under his wing. Isabel houses Petey and a group of street children.

There is tension as each main character comes close to discovering each other but doesn't. Matthew knows Isabelle and he introduces her to the lawyer who will help pass legislation which will lead to child labor laws.

Matthew also knows Petey. Mike/Maelle, has taken Petey's picture and also from time to time runs into Isabelle. Yet they don't connect. It is not until the family heirlooms are revealed that Maelle is able to find that which was lost. It is estimated that one million Americans are descendants of the 150,000 children who were sent on the orphan trains. This book helps us to remember that time in history.

Books are important. They help us remember things, even fiction. I will keep on writing the reviews and you keep on corresponding at smdp_review@yahoo.com.

Rosalind Belben, Rosemary Hill win literary award

BY RAPHAEL G. SATTER

Associated Press Writer

LONDON Novelist Rosalind Belben and first-time biographer Rosemary Hill have won Britain's oldest literary award, the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes.

Belben won the fiction prize for "Our

Horses in Egypt," which tells the story of a young war widow who travels to the Middle East to retrieve her mare in the aftermath of World War I – and follows the horse itself as it struggles to survive conflict and privation.

Hill took the best biography award for her first book: "God's Architect: Pugin and

the Building of Romantic Britain," a study of Augustus Pugin, one of Victorian Britain's leading architects.

The James Tait Black Memorial Prizes, announced Friday, are awarded annually by the University of Edinburgh for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous year.

Both prizes are worth \$18,500.

"Rosalind Belben's novel was innovatively plotted and convincingly executed, while Rosemary Hill's first book is a biography that does justice to the many facets of the man Augustus Pugin and his work," said Colin Nicholson, the awards' manager.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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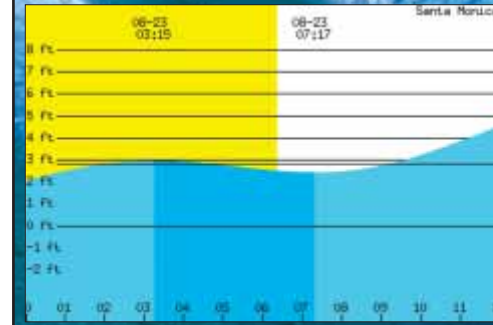
SWELL FORECAST (1-2 FT)

Saturday the 23rd should still see some of this NW swell, but anything above waist high would be rare at west facing breaks. South facing breaks will likely be just knee to waist. Weather looks rather nice with an early burn-off. Winds should be light to calm in the AM, and max out at only 12 mph in the afternoon. Tide on Saturday looks moderate for the AM, and 5+ feet in the afternoon. Sunday the 24th looks smaller.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

MONDAY THE 25TH LOOKS DEPRESSINGLY SMALL ...

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, 2008**

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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 -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 55

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 8 / 55

The Beach Report Card is made possible by **simplehuman**

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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 Closures and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Siquit Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Del Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Palga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
El Pescadero State Beach, between Luchessa and Las Aliso creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Morado State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chantreaga)	A	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	F	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	C	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kanter storm drain	A+	ns
Escandido Creek, just east of Escandido State Beach	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	A	ns
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	ns
Selkirk Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	C	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Sunridge Beach at Malibu Colony fences	A+	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	B	ns
Sunridge Beach (beach location)- daily	C	ns	Venice Beach- projection of Tappan St.	D	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	A	ns	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	D	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain	B	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Pine Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns	Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17260 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns			

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken



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

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ODDS OF A CHILD BEING DIAGNOSED WITH AUTISM: 1 in 166



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MOVIE TIMES

AERO THEATRE 1328 Montana Ave. (323) 466-FILM 12 Monkeys (R) 2hrs 10min 7:30 The Last Man on Earth (1964) (NR) 1hr 26min 7:30 The Omega Man 7:30	Cirque du Soleil DELIRIUM (NR) 1hr 41min 12:00 Journey to the Center of the Earth - 3-D (PG) 1hr 32min 2:45, 10:40 Tropic Thunder (R) 1hr 47min 11:05am, 12:00, 1:40, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40, 10:45 The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor, The (PG-13) 1hr 54min 11:40am, 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30 Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2, The (PG-13) 1hr 57min 11:15am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:20 The House Bunny (PG-13) 1hr 38min 11:30am, 2:10, 4:40, 7:15, 10:00	Life for A Child (NR) 12:00 Poste restante (NR) 12:00 Road to Redemption (PG) 1hr 40min 12:00 Sing Opera! (NR) 12:00 MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599 Dark Knight, The (PG-13) 2hrs 30min 12:20, 3:40, 7:10, 10:30 Cirque du Soleil DELIRIUM (NR) 1hr 41min 7:30 The Longshots (PG) 1hr 34min 11:40am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 The Pineapple Express (R) 1hr 45min 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20 Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) 1hr 38min 12:00, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50 Fly Me to The Moon 3-D (G) 1hr 30min 12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:50, 9:00 Mamma Mia! (PG-13) 1hr 48min 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:10
AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4 1441 Third Street Promenade Mirrors (R) 1hr 50min 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 Hamlet 2 (R) 1hr 32min 10:50am, 1:00, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:30 Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG-13) 1hr 36min 10:30am, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20 The Rocker (PG-13) 1hr 42min 11:05am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45	LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741 Elegy (R) 1hr 48min 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 Bottle Shock (PG-13) 1hr 50min 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:55 In Search of a Midnight Kiss (NR) 1hr 35min 1:55, 4:40, 7:15, 10:00 Tell No One (Ne le dis a personne) (NR) 2hrs 05min 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15	
AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262 WALL-E (G) 1hr 37min 1:20, 6:00, 8:20 Death Race (R) 1hr 29min 11:50am, 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:15		

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

CITY OF SANTA MONICA SEEKING
A CULTURAL AFFAIRS SUPERVISOR

ANNUAL COMPENSATION: Up to \$81,436 which includes a base salary of \$78,420 per year + cashable leave days (paid at end of the fiscal year) equaling up to \$3,016 per year.

Job Summary: Plans, develops, coordinates and promotes cultural arts programs and activities. Administers one or more cultural program areas that include City grant programs to non-profit organizations, planning and coordination of special cultural events, management of cultural event facilities and public art coordination; Supervises, assigns and reviews the work of staff and/or consultants responsible for the implementation of assigned cultural arts programs.

Requires: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, Arts Management, Theatrical Production or a closely related field. Three years of recent, paid work experience delivering cultural programs. Experience must have included grant application and management and the preparation and maintenance of financial records. At least two years of the recent, paid experience must have included supervisory responsibilities or one year of leading and coordinating the work of others and successful completion of the City of Santa Monica's Pre-Supervisory Academy at the time of application.



Apply by: 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 16, 2008.
Apply at: City of Santa Monica Human Resources Dept., 1685 Main St., P.O. Box 2200, Santa Monica, CA 90407.
Phone: (310) 458-8697
or visit www.smgov.net/hr.

Romp the night away, Aquarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Expenses could be overwhelming, especially as you are inclined to make a purchase. Even going top-of-the-line, it could backfire. Express feelings, even if you are uncomfortable. Tonight: Hang out.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You do not accept challenges easily, and right now is no exception. It will take some creativity to handle tension involving a risk between a child and a loved one. If you do not know which way to go, trust your instincts. Tonight: Your treat.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You will tend to move slowly and deliberately. The morning could be problematic if you take conversations, situations and issues personally. You get a second wind late in the day. Suddenly, a project is a piece of a cake. Tonight: As you like.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Examine motives all you want, but do not fuss too much, ignoring an invitation. Getting together with others makes you smile. A party blossoms out of a simple get-together. Know when you have had enough. Tonight: Others wonder where you are. Mystery entices.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Handle what is on your plate. You will feel much better when you let go and decide to relax and party. You could be surprised by what happens when you are less intense and more relaxed. Tonight: Aim for what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Take off this morning, if you have day plans. Read between the lines with a request, understanding the implications. You could find that sticking around could be a definite problem. Tonight: Honor a request.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ How you deal with someone might be a lot different when you get a better sense of what might be going on with him or her. Reach out for someone at a distance. A talk and get-together is long overdue. Tonight: Try very different.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Defer to others, and understand what is happening with them. As plans evolve, you can decide if you want to go your own way. Laughter and fun mix with special pals or a group of friends. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer. You won't even be given a chance to say "no."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Get a project done, knowing how good you will feel when you have opened some time. In fact, start making plans for midafternoon. Accept that invitation, or go off and join friends. Tonight: Christen your weekend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Your creativity bubbles forth and might encourage you to take a leap of faith. Use the daylight hours to the max. Kick back and relax in the late afternoon. Get together with friends and share news. Tonight: Chat with friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Handle a personal or domestic matter. Clearly, expenses feel like a runaway freight train. You will need to pull back and gain a better perspective. Let go of problems and enjoy yourself. Act like a kid again. Tonight: Romp the night away with a lively partner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Chat up a storm and share more of yourself. Your lively nature allows you greater give and take. Others feel comfortable and relaxed in your company. Lighten up with a family member. An unexpected surge of energy is contagious. Tonight: Entertain at home.

Happy birthday

Basics play a dominant role in your life and birthday year. The unexpected occurs frequently, and as a result, you learn to work with different situations. You will flex far more than in the past, as others often seem to come to you with surprises. Share more of your opinions and be willing to share more of yourself. Learn to detach and look at the whole picture. If you are single, you could meet someone quite exotic in the next few months. Though this person might not be your life mate, he or she could open many doors. It is also possible that he or she could be "Mr. or Ms. Right." GEMINI pushes you into the limelight.

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

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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 ★★★★★

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

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

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

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By Adrian Raeside

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By Jim Davis

Jim Davis 8-23

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Dog eat Doug

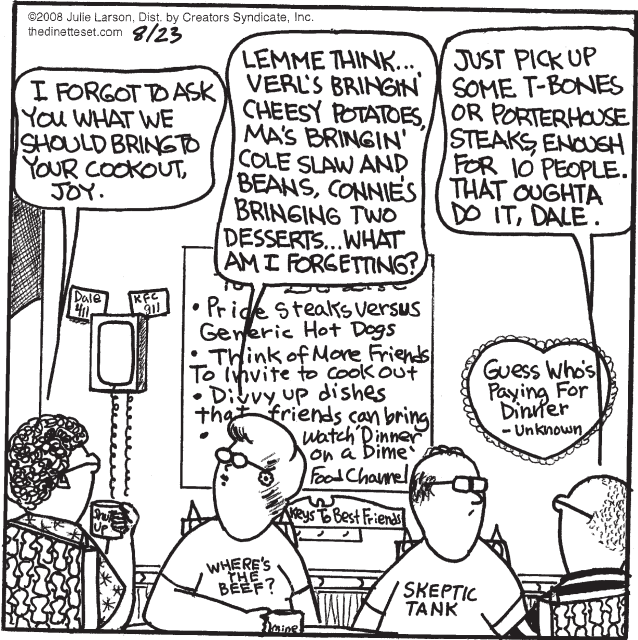
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Alexandra Bissonnette news@smdp.com

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hollows
 - 5 Greek letters
 - 9 Kidney-related
 - 10 — slipper (orchid variety)
 - 12 Bowl
 - 13 IRS worker
 - 14 Surrendered
 - 16 — loss
 - 17 Abel's mother
 - 18 Sirius
 - 20 Worked for
 - 22 Speech copy
 - 23 Happen
 - 25 Relaxing places
 - 28 Light breeze
 - 32 Break for a bit
 - 34 Debt note
 - 35 Giant Manning
 - 36 Numbers in additions
 - 38 Bugs bugs him
 - 40 Singing group
 - 41 Android's cousin
- DOWN**
- 2 Russian range
 - 43 Flag creator
 - 44 Chiding sounds
 - 1 Obtain
 - 2 Indignant cry
 - 3 Window part
 - 4 Libel's kin
 - 5 Trolley sound
 - 6 Crone
 - 7 Think
 - 8 Grammar concern
 - 9 Fads
 - 11 Kick in

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

Yesterday's answer

- 15 Like much salt
- 19 Rung
- 21 Bud holder
- 24 Emit
- 25 Ranch head
- 26 Lack of color
- 27 Hands on hips
- 29 Suggest
- 30 Alpine calls
- 31 Shows disuse
- 33 Dessert tray
- 37 Stocking color
- 39 Dawn goddess

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				

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
9 18 19 26 40
Meganumber: 38
Jackpot: \$95M

Super LOTTO
3 8 10 30 37
Meganumber: 13
Jackpot: \$11M

Fantasy 5
4 13 15 20 24

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 9 9 8
EVENING: 6 8 1

DAILY DERBY
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 07 Eureka
RACE TIME: 1:47.21

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](http://www.calottery.com). Visit the California State Lottery web site at <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In the course of burglarizing Yaakov Kanelsky's apartment in Brooklyn, N.Y., in July, Victor Marin, 20, accidentally left his wallet (containing ID, credit cards and photos) on the bed. After Kanelsky arrived home and called 911, Marin returned and knocked on the front door. From the hallway, he begged for his billfold back and began shoving Kanelsky's money under the door, hoping to persuade him to trade. Unfortunately for Marin, \$92 of his \$217 cash haul was in \$1 bills, and the crack under the door was tiny. Marin was still busy stuffing money in by the time police arrived.

■ In July in Brisbane, the Indian-born surgeon known in Australia as "Dr. Death," Jayant Patel, was freed on bail on manslaughter charges, which seems inexplicable since he had fled to the U.S. in 2005 to avoid the charges and only recently had been extradited. Patel's medical license had been revoked in New York and Oregon before he became head of surgery in a short-staffed Australian hospital in 2003 (a job for which a background check was not performed). While Patel was there, at least 17 of his patients died under preventable circumstances, and some nurses said they took to hiding their patients from Patel, who was quoted by one nurse as saying, "Doctors don't get germs." He was also charged with falsifying patient records.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1754 France's King Louis XVI was born at Versailles.

1775 Britain's King George III proclaimed the American colonies in a state of "open and avowed rebellion."

1858 "Ten Nights in a Bar-room," a play about the tragic consequences of consuming alcohol, opened in New York.

1914 Japan declared war against Germany in World War I.

1926 silent film star Rudolph Valentino died in New York at age 31.

WORD UP!

Hobson's choice \HOB-suhnz-CHOIS/, *noun*: A choice without an alternative; the thing offered or nothing.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Obituaries

EDWARD DALE BLISS

Mr. Edward Dale Bliss of Santa Monica, CA, died on August 9, 2008 at the age of 83 years old, at the Hancock Park Health Facility after a brief illness where he had been under the care of LA Hospice. Mr. Bliss was born June 22, 1925 in Hillsdale, MI, the son of Clarence E. and Dorothy V. Bliss. Dale attended schools in Lansing, MI; attended Michigan State University where he majored in theater arts and participated in many theater productions. His family moved to Phoenix, Arizona in 1948 where he acted with the Phoenix Little Theater group. He migrated to Los Angeles in 1949 and attended and graduated from Woodbury College, Los Angeles, with degrees in Interior Design and Bachelor's of Arts. Mr. Bliss was a World War II disabled veteran having served in the US Navy as a radioman.

He was a true Renaissance man having been an accomplished artist, designer, author, cook, actor and finally after many years, an in-home private duty nurse at which position he excelled as families of prior clients have attested. He was a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous for the past 34 years for which he was grateful on a daily basis

He was predeceased by his parents and his beloved brother, David S. Bliss. He is survived by his sister, Marta K. Sills, Claremont, CA; and numerous nieces and nephews.

At his request, there were to be no services. His ashes are to be spread at sea with the aid of the Neptune Society of Los Angeles, CA.

Employment

ARE YOU looking for experience in education, psychology, and social services? Call Esperance Center in Malibu, a non-profit day program for adults with developmental disabilities. Vocational trainer position available in Santa Monica. 9am-3pm. M-F. Excellent benefits. Experience preferred. (310)457-2026

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nick@magazinec.com

DENTAL back office with experience. Santa Monica dental office PT (310) 393-9706 fax resume to (310)899-1828

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If you are:
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We require at least three years high-end retail experience in the Malibu area and we prefer a high school diploma and key-holder and/or management experience.

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No phone calls, please.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20081277927 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as DEPAZ FILMS, 2011 N. VERMONT AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90027, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES; 1299 OCEAN AVE, #333, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : DEPAZ MANAGEMENT, INC., 2011 N. VERMONT AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90027 This Business is being conducted by, a corporation. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)7/3/2008. /s/: DEPAZ MANAGEMENT, INC., PRESIDENT, IVAN DEPAZ
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/7/2008. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation

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of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 8/16/2008, 8/23/2008, 8/30/2008, 9/6/2008

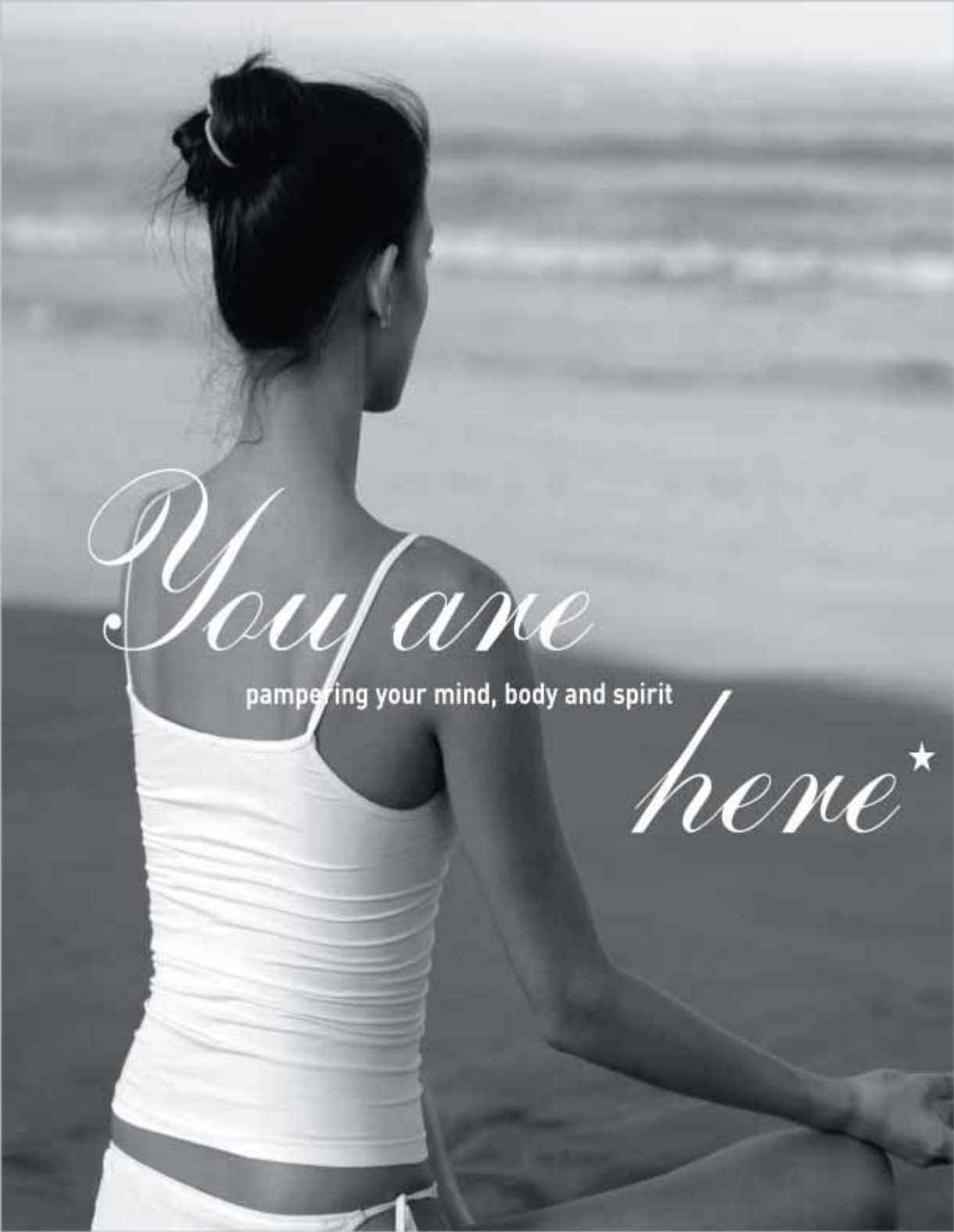
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North of Montana	=	\$ 4,043,783	\$ 2,081,679
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	\$ 3,640,875	\$ 1,017,856
South of Wilshire	=	\$ 1,103,217	\$ 714,058
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