

Santa Monica Daily Press

A newspaper with issues

THIS WEEK IS NATIONAL FRIENDSHIP WEEK

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS

3 4 5 7 36
Meganumber: 16
Jackpot: \$51M

SUPER LOTTO

11 14 23 28 43
Meganumber: 18
Jackpot: \$60M

FANTASY 5

10 13 20 32 34

DAILY 3

MIDDAY: 5 7 7
EVENING: 3 3 0

DAILY DERBY

1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 07 Eureka!
RACE TIME: 1:44.24

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

Police in Groningen, Netherlands, announced that a 40-year-old man whom they had previously counseled had once again resumed his compulsion to rummage through garbage seeking discarded tampons (and leaving notes for the discards) (July). And Paul Zakszewski, 54, was arrested in Salem, Mass., for having allegedly made audio recordings from women's restroom stalls (July). And Denver schoolteacher Mark Asimus was arrested and charged with offering to pay one teenage girl to bloodily beat up another, merely so that he could watch (June).

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 237th day of 2006.
There are 128 days left in the year.

1944 During World War II, Paris was liberated by Allied forces after four years of Nazi occupation.
1875 Captain Matthew Webb became the first person to swim across the English Channel, getting from Dover, England, to Calais, France, in 22 hours.
1921 The United States signed a peace treaty with Germany.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Literature is news that stays news."
EZRA POUND
AMERICAN POET AND CRITIC (1885-1972)

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Housing climate cools



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

SELLING OUT An apartment building on Fourth and Bay Streets is up for sale. Despite the fact that the housing market has slowed throughout the country, Santa Monica doesn't appear to be losing any steam.

BUYERS' MARKET: Dip in sales nationwide doesn't pop SM bubble

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE — While the housing market here may be experiencing a slight cooling trend, fears that an imminent implosion of the housing bubble are unwarranted, at least when it comes to the city by the sea, local real estate experts said.

Reports released this week by the National Association of Realtors and other industry analysts show sales of pre-owned homes, which account for about 85 percent of the housing market nationwide, dropped to levels not seen since 2003. Compared to this time last year, sales fell 11.2 percent across the U.S.

But not in Santa Monica, where 151 homes were sold in the first half of this year, according to The Kirshner Group, a Westside residential real estate team affiliated with Coldwell Banker Previews.

The Kirshner report showed the total dollar value of those transactions was slightly more than \$259 million, an 18 percent increase over the same period last year.

"The median prices of homes also appreciated," said Wendy Kirshner, vice president of the Kirshner Group. "In June 2005, the median price was \$1,835,000. At the end of June this year, that had risen

to \$2,345,000, a gain of approximately 27 percent, indicating a continuing strong market."

However, that's not to say that perceptions are changing. Realtors specializing in Santa Monica sales said homes are staying on the market longer than they did last year. In 2005, a seller could put his home on the market and receive multiple offers within a day's time. But now homes are lingering on the market for 40 days or more.

The blowback is due largely to the rising interest rates, higher mortgage rates and the tightening of lending qualifications, real estate experts said.

August is a slow month for real estate transactions as sellers are trying to squeeze another vacation in before the end of summer. Others simply do not want to deal with the hassle of moving so close to the start of school.

That may seem like bad news for some buyers, but those who are financially secure with good credit and determination are now finding it easier to drop a down payment.

"Buyers can negotiate a little bit, whereas before there was no wiggle room," said Tica O'Neill, a broker with Molloy Realtors, Inc. in Santa Monica. "Buyers were paying much

See **SALES DROP**, page 12



Fabian Lewkowicz/Daily Press

BARGAIN HUNTERS Jivanto Van Hemert, 13, a Police Activities League volunteer, (right) mans the counter as Jesus Torres, 14 (left) checks out the goods during PAL's 'Dollars For Deeds' event on Thursday.

SM kids cash in on their good deeds

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Daily Press Staff Writer

MEMORIAL PARK — Kids here learned the value of a dollar Thursday as they hustled for bargains at the Police Activities League's end-of-summer sale, a one-day event in which youth could spend their hard-earned cash on everything from school supplies and remote control cars, to jewelry, sweatshirts — even a portable DVD

player and an iPod Nano.

The sale, which drew roughly 15 kids ranging in age from 6 to 17, was the grand finale of "Deeds for Dollars," an eight-week program in which youth participating in PAL earned money for performing chores around the recreational center.

Some volunteered to wash dishes and sweep floors while others helped PAL staff run programs, including

See **PAL SALE**, page 11



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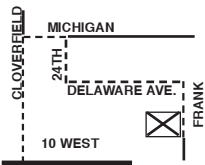
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Horoscopes

2 FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2006

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Have a heart-to-heart, Libra

Santa Monica Daily Press

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★DYNAMIC ★★★★★ POSITIVE ★★★ AVERAGE ★★SO-SO ★DIFFICULT





ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ The quality of your work or how you live your life could be under scrutiny. Don't be defensive; rather, be willing to make positive changes. News could be distorted. Check out the validity of information before you act. Tonight: Off for a workout.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Your creativity peaks, as does a tendency to be flirtatious. You might find a loved one or associate put off by your focus. Remember what is ultimately key to your life, and you will be on cruise control. Tonight: No risking, please.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You have an inkling or a desire to make major changes on the home front. For some, it could be rearranging furniture; for others, a paint job might be on the docket. Some of you will be checking on an investment or new property. Tonight: Homeward bound.



CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You have the right words for the right moment. If work seems heavy or difficult, you might want to focus on another direction or postpone your efforts. Schedule meetings; return calls. Buzz around. Tonight: TGIF.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Be careful where you plunk down your money. You might see funds dissipate quicker than you think. A risk is a no-no, at least for today. A child or loved one could be quite difficult. Know when to distance yourself. Tonight: Gather your bills.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Others prove to be more disruptive than you thought. How do you nicely pull back yet allow your associations to stay intact? If you succeed with this "mission" today, ultimately you will gain. Take a walk and clear out an abundance of energy. Tonight: Just wish upon a star.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Misunderstanding plagues your decisions and actions. Be wary of what you think is going on, which might be quite different from what is actually going on. Get physical in order to release frustration, or center and work through anger. Tonight: How about a heart-to-heart talk?



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Knowing where you are heading is step number one. Enlisting others in a project is step number two. Put a limit on your spending. Otherwise, you could be upset by your waning funds. Take charge. Tonight: Celebrate the weekend.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Others push to get you to do something they want. Assume responsibility, but only for what interests you. Your leadership might be very important to many, but ultimately it has to work for you. Tonight: Out late.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You could sabotage the best of ideas if you aren't careful. The little voice in your head works overtime. It would be better to detach and eye a situation as an outsider. Then you'll get your answers. Check out facts. Tonight: Go for the different plans.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ A partner is strong-willed and determined to have events fall into place. You know what you need and what works for you. It appears that so does a specific partner (or so he thinks). Bypass a meeting, which could be frustrating at best! Tonight: Be a duo.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Others could be combative. You might be asking yourself why you need to tolerate this behavior. The truth is, you don't need to — although you might decide to. A boss also could be touchy. Tonight: Be thankful it is the weekend.

BORN TODAY Model **Claudia Schiffer** (1970), conductor, composer **Leonard Bernstein** (1918)

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CIRCULATION AUDIT BY
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Here kitty kitty

By Daily Press staff

Local cat-lovers can get your fill this weekend at the Santa Monica Cat Show. Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 26 and 27, the 40th Anniversary Cat Show will take place in the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, located at 1855 Main St. Hosted by the Santa Monica Cat Club, the show will feature six rings, including all breeds and household pets. There also will be cat-catering vendors for owner and pet needs.

Rosettes will be awarded in accordance with Cat Fanciers Association show rules. Copies of the show rules may be obtained from CFA, 1805 Atlantic Ave., Manasquan, NJ., 08736. The Donna Norris Award will be awarded to the highest scoring household pet in the show. There will be a special rosette awarded for the best decorated cage in the show following the theme of “tiki time.”

The show hall is non-smoking, temperature controlled and is handicap accessible. On Saturday, check-in is from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Judging begins promptly at 10 a.m. and ends at 6 p.m. On Sunday, judging begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m.

SMC gets oversight from residents

By Daily Press staff

The SMC Board of Trustees has appointed four new members and reappointed another to the college’s Citizen’s Bond Oversight Committee. The 10-member committee oversees the implementation of Measures U and S, the 2002 and 2004 bond measures that are funding capital improvement projects at the college.

Appointed to two-year terms were Belinda Phillips of Santa Monica’s Pico neighborhood and an SMC student. Phillips is a former SMC student trustee and current Associated Students Director of Financial Support; Sylvia Rose of Santa Monica, a volunteer tutor who has been an active supporter of SMC; Lorraine Sanchez of Santa Monica, a health care administrator and Sunset Park resident; and retired judge Ralph Erickson of Malibu. Reappointed to a two-year term was Clarence Chapman, a retired UCLA administrator.

The committee was established in spring 2002, as required by state law, to oversee the implementation of Measure U, the \$160 million bond passed by 70 percent of Santa Monica-Malibu voters. The committee’s responsibility was expanded to include oversight of Measure S. The bond measures are funding a wide range of projects, including replacement buildings, seismic retrofitting and safety and technology upgrades.

Shots for tots and teens

By Daily Press staff

In partnership with Saint John’s Health Center, Westside Family Health Center’s Shots for Tots & Teens will provide free immunizations and TB skin tests to all infants, adolescents and teenagers under 18 years old.

The free immunizations will be provided on Sept. 9 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Westside Family Health Center, located at 1711 Ocean Park Blvd. They can be reached at (310) 450-2191.

California law requires that all children must have up-to-date shot records to attend school or child care centers. The immunizations will protect against diphtheria, hepatitis B, measles, rubella, hemophilus influenza, mumps, polio, tetanus and whooping cough — diseases known to infect small children, as well as teenagers.

For more information contact Rosemary Regalbuto or Kevin McNulty at (310) 394-5133.

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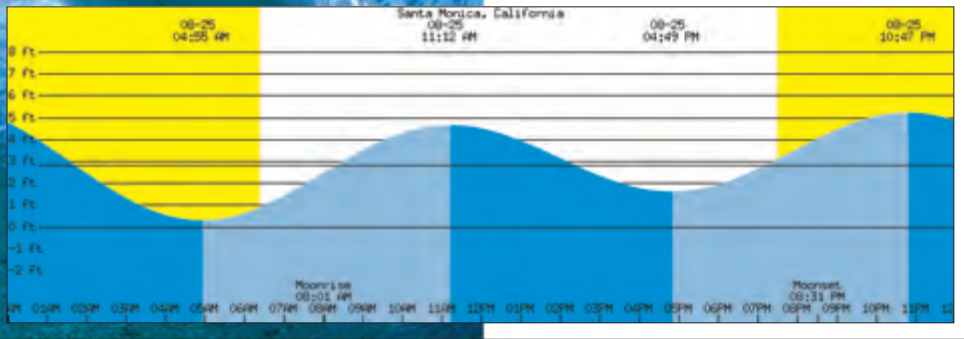


WATER TEMP: 66°

SWELL FORECAST (5-8 FT)
The peak day for the southern hemi swell that's filling in today. We also have some swell coming in from hurricane Ileana that should hit the coast by late morning. In the early AM, the southern hemi energy, coming in from 200-210 degrees with 16 second periods should produce sets at most south facing breaks consistently in the chest to head high zone with standouts seeing sets running a foot or so overhead.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
SOUTHERN HEMI SWELL BUILDS TODAY...

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



Time	Tide Level (Feet)
06:00 AM	4.5
07:00 AM	3.5
08:00 AM	2.5
09:00 AM	1.5
10:00 AM	0.5
11:00 AM	0.0
12:00 PM	0.5
01:00 PM	1.5
02:00 PM	2.5
03:00 PM	3.5
04:00 PM	4.5
05:00 PM	5.5
06:00 PM	6.5
07:00 PM	7.5
08:00 PM	8.0
09:00 PM	7.5
10:00 PM	6.5
11:00 PM	5.5
12:00 AM	4.5

The **Q**Line

City officials are seriously considering restoring commercial boating by building a gangway at the Santa Monica Pier, where visitors would be able to embark on sight-seeing boat tours and sport fishing excursions. The concept is to revitalize the pier so it can stay competitive with other cities and tourist destinations.

So this week’s Q-Line wants to know:
“Do you support revitalized water activities off the pier? Why or why not?”
Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we’ll print your responses in the weekend edition. Please try to limit your comments to a minute or less. It might help to think first about the wording of your response.

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EDITORIAL

Postal problems persist

 Apparently Santa Monicans aren't the only ones getting the run-around from the postal service. Congressman Henry Waxman (D-Los Angeles) has been pressuring the United Postal Service since December to fix the delays in mail deliveries. But his efforts have so far been in vain — minimal improvement has been made, despite USPS officials saying the problem has been fixed.

In response to numerous complaints from his constituents, Waxman wrote a letter earlier this month to the USPS' inspector general asking him to conduct an investigation as to why mail delivery in Santa Monica is so slow. He also called on the USPS to come up with solutions to rectify poor mail service.

The problem was supposed to be solved by hiring more postal workers to help sort the mail and get it to carriers quicker. Post offices in Santa Monica were consolidated and mail routes were realigned. Those actions have reduced some complaints but there are still people who are not getting their mail.

The problem may boil down to one carrier in the Sunset Park neighborhood who apparently is being dealt with. Talk about one bad apple spoiling the whole bunch.

Just the other day a resident lamented (SMDP, Aug. 23, page 4) that her son missed out on attending the school of engineering at Vanderbilt University because the priority package announcing his acceptance — postmarked on March 23 — showed up in her mailbox on Aug. 21. The parent had just returned home from delivering her son to UC Berkeley.

That same parent said that another college acceptance letter had been delivered a few months ago to the wrong address. Fortunately, her neighbors brought the letter to her front doorstep.

We agree with her that there are many important documents that the post office should deliver reliably and in a timely manner. It is a basic community service and we shouldn't have to rely upon Fed-Ex for it.

The USPS needs to reign in its personnel issues and get back to the task at hand: Delivering the mail on time. Our lives depend upon it.

Mass exodus should be seen as an opportunity

 Change is difficult but inevitable. And once it's embraced, it should be used as an opportunity.

And that is exactly what City Manager Lamont Ewell is doing. New to the job himself, Ewell is dealing with several key positions within city government that have become vacant. Filling them with the right people while trying to get up to speed on the city's pressing issues is certainly a daunting task. But Ewell is up for the challenge and believes it's a great opportunity to be able to hire a new planning director, a new finance director, a new spokesperson at City Hall and a chief of police.

Not many managers are able in their first year to assemble their own team and Ewell recognizes that and feels fortunate that he can. Ewell has embraced the changing of the guard and we are confident he will hire the right people. Why? Because he is reaching out to the community to help him. Three panels comprised of residents, business leaders and high-ranking city officials will be assembled to help select a new police chief. A similar method was done in selecting a new assistant to the city manager, a key person in relating information to the public.

Change isn't just occurring at City Hall. The leadership at Santa Monica College and at the Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District has recently changed as well. A new college president was hired earlier this year and a new schools superintendent was hired last month.

There is great opportunity in this community right now to harness the new energy from those who have recently come to Santa Monica and those who will be coming here soon. It's an opportunity to start fresh — to let go of some of the old baggage and resentment between City Hall and the schools on issues of funding and development here.

So our suggestions to the incoming regime ... To the new president at SMC: Do a better job of following up with the community regarding the institution's growth and traffic plans. To the superintendent of schools: Her staff and school board need to provide more readily available information to the public and be upfront about the content of that information. To the new planning director: The rewriting of the general plan that is currently underway should not lose steam and needs to focus on how Santa Monica can be more creative in development while not losing our small-town character. Future development also needs to address the loss of the middle class in Santa Monica. To the police chief: While Santa Monica is experiencing a record low crime rate, quality-of-life issues pertaining to our vagrant population are serious and need to be addressed.

We look forward to seeing what these newcomers have up their sleeves and how they will make Santa Monica an even better place to live, play and work.

W stands for 'worst'

THE SOAP BOX

BY BENNET KELLEY



The question has echoed in alternative media for months. As coverage of the spiraling violence in Iraq and the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina shines a spotlight on the Bush administration's two biggest failures and Joe Scarborough has the nation buzzing over whether the president is "an idiot," people increasingly are beginning to wonder whether George W. Bush is the worst president in history. While President Bush has some stiff competition, this is one race Bush can win without the intervention of the Supreme Court or an unscrupulous Secretary of State.

Recent surveys have shown that historians overwhelmingly rate the Bush presidency as a failure — but is it the worst? Bush's principal competitors for this title are all failed one-term presidents defined by several key deficiencies — leading the nation toward or failing to avoid a major calamity, economic mismanagement, lack of credibility or competence, intransigence, opposing civil rights and corruption.

Presidents William Tyler (1841-45), Millard Fillmore (1850-53), Franklin Pierce (1854-57) and James Buchanan (1857-61) are each condemned for failing to prevent and/or increasing the likelihood of the Civil War, with President Buchanan's failure to oppose efforts by southern states to secede from the Union being rated as the greatest presidential blunder of all time.

While it is hard to match the devastation of the Civil War, President Bush will be remembered not only for failing to act despite warnings prior to both Sept. 11 and Hurricane Katrina, but for leading the nation into an unnecessary and failed war in Iraq that diverted attention from the war against Al Qaeda and seriously damaged our global standing.

It should be no surprise that President Bush is a distant cousin of President Pierce. Just as Pierce left office with very little credibility, today nearly 60 percent of Americans consider Bush to be dishonest and untrustworthy since, as one historian noted, he has "systematically lied to the American public about almost every policy that his administration promotes."

President Andrew Johnson's (1865-69) intransigence and opposition to civil rights legislation led to his impeachment and earned his spot in the hall of shame. Senator Sumner noted that Johnson was "his own worst counselor (who believed) that following counsel and making concessions were a display of weakness." This description could

easily be applied to the "my way or the high-way" philosophy of the Bush administration.

While Johnson may have opposed the expansion of freedom to freed slaves, the Bush administration has sought to roll back or deny existing liberties to citizens through its domestic spying program, use of indefinite detentions and its support for amendments prohibiting flag burning and gay marriage.

President Warren Harding (1921-23) once admitted to an aide that he was in over his head and should never have been president, while his contemporaries labeled him as "corrupt, incompetent (and) lacking the ability to speak authoritatively about public questions." Harding, however, is primarily condemned for corruption and ideological rigidity in pushing for a nostalgic return to the "normalcy" of a rural society despite the nation's transition to an urban industrialized society.

President Bush — whose competence, intellect and communications skills also have been seriously questioned — similarly came into office emphasizing a Reagan-Bush era agenda of tax cuts, regime change in Iraq and star wars missile defense, only adapting the program justifications and not the programs themselves for this new century. While the Bush administration has not been racked by corruption, this may be because it has escaped scrutiny due to its excessive secrecy and a compliant Congress that abandoned its oversight responsibility.

In terms of economic management, President Herbert Hoover (1929-32) gets the lowest marks for failing to forcefully respond to the Great Depression. Creating an economic disaster, however, is far worse than failing to alleviate one. Former Commerce Secretary Peter Peterson condemns Bush for "presid(ing) over the biggest, most reckless deterioration of America's finances in history," turning a record budget surplus into a record deficit, incurring more debt than all prior presidents combined and leaving the government bankrupt and ill prepared for the looming retirement of baby-boomers.

Even among his August one-term competitors, President Bush stands out because of the breadth of his failures and the fact that while the other presidents primarily are condemned for failing to navigate out of stormy waters, he recklessly created his own storms both at home and abroad whose damage is compounded over two terms.

President Bush once claimed that he is the "master of low expectations." In ranking the Bush presidency, historians inevitably will conclude that Bush lived up to those expectations.

(Bennet Kelley (bennet@bennetkelley.com) is the former national co-chair of the Democratic National Committee's young professional arm, publisher of BushLies.net and a Santa Monica lawyer.)

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My dog just woofed down a good book



LAUGHING MATTERS

BY JACK NEWORTH

Back in the '70s, Ocean Park was at the center of the nationwide skateboard craze. The area was known as Dogtown, as seen years later in a documentary narrated by Santa Monica High School alumnus Sean Penn, and in a 2005 feature film, "Lords of Dogtown." These days the entire city could be called dogtown as Santa Monica is experiencing a doggie boom. We have more than 5,000 registered dogs and who knows how many illegals have crossed the border. Whoops, sorry, for a second I thought I was writing for Lou Dobbs.

Actually, I don't own a dog, I just walk my neighbor's as she is disabled. And among Oscar's more human activities, he reads books, or rather, they are read to him by kids in a police afterschool program, "America Reads." Oscar's a seizure alert dog who can smell a seizure hours before it comes on so his owner can take meds. In the past I've written about our run-ins with Animal Control, "A Rebel with Four Paws," and "Oscar's Big Day in Court." Almost every night around sunset I ride my bike while Oscar trots alongside ... I'm Burgess Meredith and he's Rocky.

Since the dawn of time, give or take a few millennia, dogs have brought joy to humans, unless, of course, you deliver the mail. Anatole France said, "Until one has loved an animal a part of one's soul remains unawakened." And it's true, dogs may have a place in our hearts greater than for our fellow humans. A poll from Hurricane Katrina revealed the images that were most wrenching were of the helpless pets. Iraq war protesters, myself included, might be more persuasive focusing how many pomeranians have perished, or poodles, or whatever is the most popular dog in Iraq.

My friends adore Oscar. In 2003 — hopefully the statute of limitations has passed — my friend Margie was due to have surgery at Saint Johns and begged me to bring her

buddy Oscar for a visit. Reluctantly, I agreed. And so Oscar had on his blue and yellow medical dog vest as I nonchalantly sauntered past St. John's security. Suddenly we were stopped by a female doctor who barked — no pun intended — "You're late!" The nonchalance was over. She assumed Oscar was the therapy dog who was scheduled to visit the hospital.

So I found myself tip-toeing with Oscar into the hospital VIP room of a total stranger who was a doctor and rather ill. The room was decorated to look more like a home. The walls were floor to ceiling bookcases with a built-in TV. His grateful wife grilled me how long had I been a dog trainer. I almost said, "Oh, about 10 minutes," but went with, "Uh, not that long." I'm not terribly religious, yet I found myself praying: That the real therapy dog wouldn't show; I wouldn't be arrested for impersonating a dog trainer; and Oscar wouldn't chew on an IV tube.

To my relief, Oscar laid his head on the bed and the elderly patient petted him. Not pressing my luck, I got out of there as quickly as I could. I was perspiring so profusely that as I got up my T-shirt had stuck to the chair but no one seemed to notice. And of course, only minutes later in Margie's room, Oscar chewed up a plastic cup.

"America Reads" takes place every Wednesday at the Police Activities League Center in front of Memorial Park at 1401 Olympic Blvd. There are an average of 10 kids, from kindergarten through the third grade, three volunteers and two certified therapy dogs — Oscar and Randi, a female cocker spaniel. The kids read a page of their favorite story to the dog, who if you didn't know better, you'd swear was listening.

If you're interested in enrolling your child, or if you have a Delta Certified Therapy dog, contact Eula Fritz at (310) 458-8988 or e-mail: eula.fritz@smgov.net. The kids' smiling faces and the dogs' wagging tails will do your soul good. And if you're connected with Saint John's, Oscar is sorry about the plastic cup.

(Jack Neworth is a freelance writer who, when not posing as a dog trainer, can be reached at Jackneworth@yahoo.com.)



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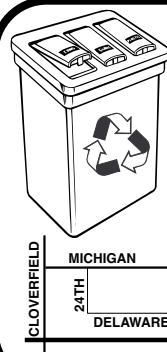
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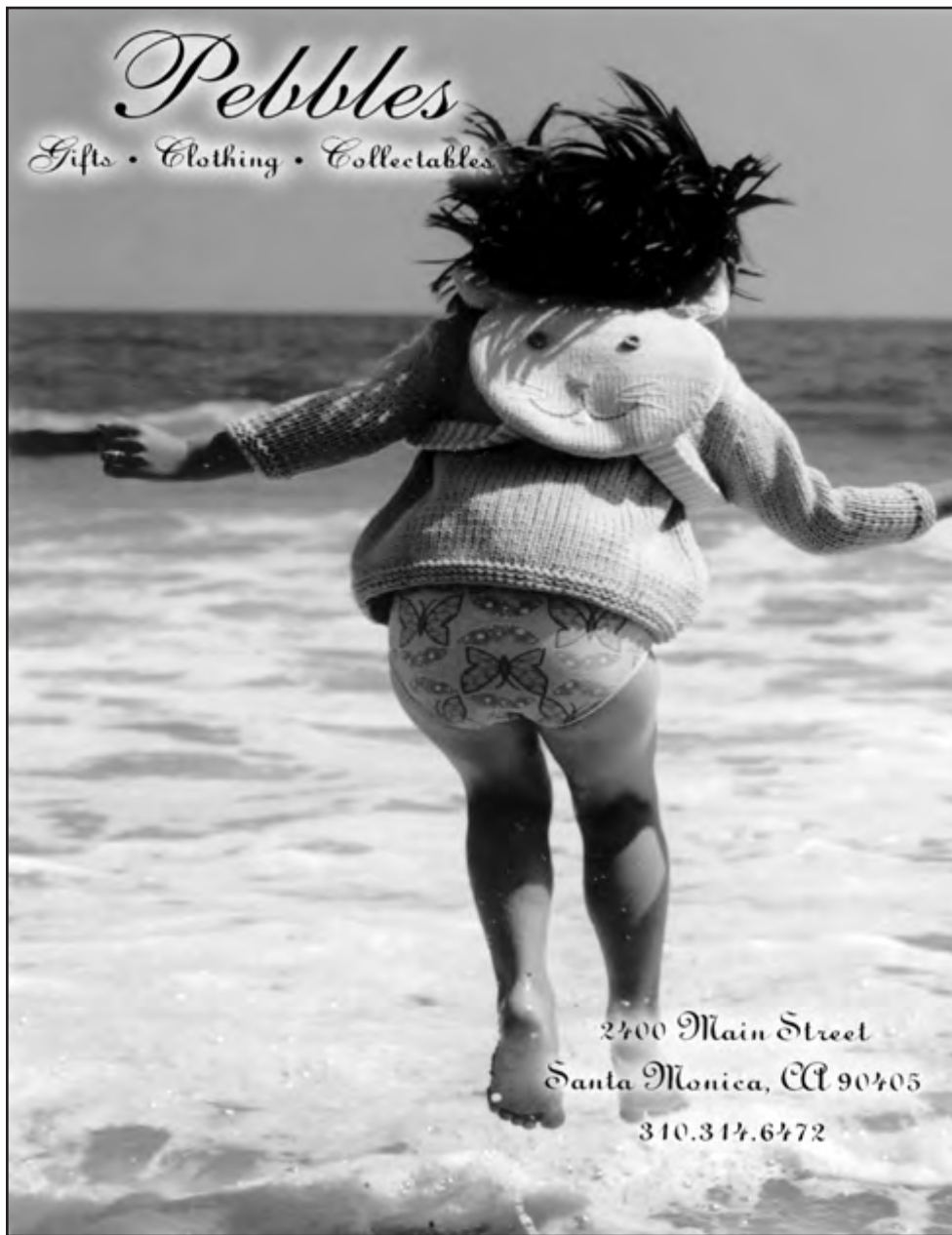


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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Drunken thief nabbed at Champs

ON SUNDAY, AUG. 20 AT 7:19 P.M., Santa Monica Police officers responded to the 1300 block of the Third Street Promenade — Champs Sports — regarding a report of a theft in progress. When officers arrived, they spoke with an employee who said he had detained a man who had allegedly stolen clothing from the store. Officers spoke with the suspect and discovered that he was intoxicated, police said. Officers also found stolen items from Champs and Old Navy, all of which was valued at roughly \$200. The suspect was arrested and booked for commercial burglary. He was identified as Aaron Lucas Romero, 19, of Brentwood. His bail was set at \$20,000.

ON SUNDAY, AUG. 20 AT 4:20 P.M., police responded to the 1600 block of the beach regarding a report by a lifeguard of indecent exposure. When officers arrived, they spoke with the lifeguard who said a citizen reported seeing a man standing with his pants down, exposing his penis. The citizen desired to prosecute and the man was taken into custody and booked for indecent exposure. He was identified as Keith Allen Mosher, 75, a transient.

ON SATURDAY, AUG. 19 AT 12:20 A.M., police responded to the 3000 block of Second Street regarding a report of vandalism. When officers arrived, they spoke to a witness who said they heard the sound of hissing from their residence, peaked out the window and saw a man apparently puncturing tires on more than one vehicle. In all, four tires were slashed, with damages estimated at \$700. The suspect was arrested at the scene and charged with vandalism. He was identified as Peter Naranjo, 32, of Venice. His bail was set at \$20,000.

ON SATURDAY, AUG. 19 AT MIDNIGHT, police patrolling Pico Boulevard and 20th Street pulled over their patrol car to speak with a man sitting on a park bench. Officers said they man was intoxicated. During an investigation officers found three small plastic bags containing marijuana. The man was arrested for public intoxication and possession of less than an ounce of marijuana. He was identified as Manuel Cuadros, 27, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at \$250.

ON WEDNESDAY, AUG. 16 AT 5:30 P.M., officers arrived at the PETCO store in the 2900 block of Wilshire Boulevard regarding an assault. When officers arrived, they spoke with a victim who had cuts to his face and arms, apparently injuries suffered in the fight. After receiving a description of the suspects involved, officers located them in the 2600 block of Broadway. The suspects were arrested and booked for assault. They were identified as Jonathan Daniel Hughes, 22, of Altadena, and Rashed Muhammadeena, 20. Their bail was set at \$100,000 each.

ON WEDNESDAY, AUG. 16 AT 8:31 P.M., officers responded to the 1500 block of Second Street regarding an assault and battery investigation. When officers arrived they spoke to the victim who said he confronted his alleged attacker about throwing trash on his lawn and the sidewalk near his property. The two began to argue, at which time the suspect allegedly kicked the victim in the leg twice before fleeing. The suspect was detained a short time later in the 200 block of Santa Monica Boulevard. He was arrested for assault and battery. He was identified as Daniel John Kuhn, 37, a transient. His bail was set at \$20,100.

ON MONDAY, AUG. 14 AT 7:20 P.M., officers responded to the corner of Fourth Street and Broadway regarding a fight in progress. When officers arrived, they saw two men, one black and one white, fighting in the street. One was choking the other. Officers were able to break the two apart, at which time officers learned that the black suspect attacked the other after he used a racial slur. Officers arrested the black suspect, identified as Earl Rudolph Moss, 42, a transient. His bail was set at \$36,035.

ON MONDAY, AUG. 14, officers arrested 35-year-old Jeannine Anise Jones of Inglewood for allegedly embezzling more than \$100,000 from her employer — Thomas Winter Cooke, a production company located in the 1600 block of Euclid Avenue that specializes in making commercials for advertising agencies and other companies. Police said Jones used a company credit card to make unauthorized purchases. Jones was booked for grand theft and her bail was set at \$20,000.

(Staff writer Kevin Herrera compiled this report.)

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Wetlands restored from oil field area

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press Writer

HUNTINGTON BEACH — The ocean flowed into historic wetlands for the first time in more than a century Thursday after bulldozers peeled back the last layer of an earthen dam.

Environmentalists who worked for 30 years to restore the massive Bolsa Chica area cheered and sipped champagne as the salty ocean water poured into the fragile ecosystem that had been tapped as an oil field for decades.

The event capped a two-year project that cost more than \$100 million and shunted a portion of the scenic Pacific Coast Highway onto an overpass.

The project has attracted international attention and is at the cutting edge of a new and evolving science, said Shirley Dettloff, longtime member of Amigos de Bolsa Chica and a former member of the California Coastal Commission.

"Not many wetlands have been restored in the world, especially in an oil field," said Dettloff, who's been fighting for the wetlands for three decades. "Even we locals sometimes forget that this was the second-largest functioning oil field in the state of California for years, since the 1930s."

Officials said it would take at least six hours for the 387-acre, newly restored basin to fill with ocean water after the bulldozers took down the barrier. The area had been separated from the ocean for 107 years.

The eight state and federal agencies involved in the project said it was the largest and most ambitious restoration of coastal wetlands in the history of California, where 95 percent of saltwater marshes have succumbed to development.

Bulldozers began knocking down the 20-foot-tall and 400-foot-long earthen dam at 3 a.m. and removed the last scoop of sand at 5:35 a.m. as they raced against the incoming tide, Dettloff said.

"It's been like a steeplechase. It's a very long, challenging physical event with obstacles, and we're crossing the finish line now," said Jack Fancher, construction project manager with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "This is a significant moment of achievement."

The degraded wetlands are currently home to 200 species of birds, including six that are on state or federal lists of endangered or threatened species, said Marc Stirdivant, executive director of Bolsa Chica Land Trust.

The new basin will be directly filled and drained twice a day by the tidal ebb-and-flow, restoring a natural rhythm that should replenish the fragile ecosystem and could attract more species, he said.

The area was connected to the ocean until 1899, when members of a duck-hunting club cut it off, diking ponds to make it easier to stalk their prey.

At one time, as many as 4,884 homes were proposed on 1,100 acres of the wetlands. The plan was scaled back to 3,300 homes by 1996.

A year later, the state paid \$25 million for 880 acres, and that parcel was added to 300 acres given to the state for wetlands preservation in 1973.

Now, homebuilding is confined to an upper mesa area of Bolsa Chica, with a 356-home development underway.

The restoration was funded in part by the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to make up for marine habitat destroyed during expansion. The rest of the funding came from voter-approved bonds.

The flooding of another 200-acre portion of the wetlands' original footprint is on hold for at least 30 days because oil company Aera Energy LLC believes the work could create an oil spill. Another nearly 400 acres is still being leased from the state by oil companies.



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BENIHANA—For more than 40 years Benihana chefs have been cooking up a feast on the hibachi grill. Steak, chicken, seafood and vegetables are all prepared teppan-style "right before your eyes". Start your meal with a sushi appetizer, then relax and enjoy the show while sipping exotic cocktails served in collectible ceramic mugs. Open every day for lunch and dinner, valet parking nightly at the corner of 4th and Broadway. 1447 4th St., between Broadway and Santa Monica Blvd. (310) 260-1423.

CASA ESCOBAR—This family owned institution in Santa Monica has been serving excellent food since 1965. A friendly bar and dinner house frequented by the "locals" and tourists alike. We feature the best Mexican dishes in town. Among the favorites are the crispy beef tacos, spinach enchiladas and our house-cut NY Strip steaks on the grill. Our full bar is home of the famous Casa Escobar Margarita—a winner! While at the bar, enjoy our classic piano bar along with cable TV. Valet Parking available. All major credit cards. Open lunch and dinner. 2500 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. (310) 828-1315.

BRITANNIA PUB—This English pub has a traditional charm with a Californian flair. Traditional British breakfast is served all day along with all your American favorites. Fish & Chips (our biggest seller) is a must try along with Bangers & Mash and Shepherds Pie or go American with our assortment of appetizers, burgers, salads, soups and sandwiches. We also serve our own hand cut fries. Join us after the restaurant closes for Quiz night, Karaoke, and DJ nights. We now have a late night menu available 10pm-1:30am. Outdoor patio, pool table, full bar, Gold Award from Guinness. Hours: 11am-10pm Monday-Friday, 9:30am-10pm Saturday and Sunday. 318 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica. (310) 458-5350.

VIOLET—At Violet restaurant the atmosphere is casual, comfortable, and, like its cuisine, is uncluttered. Chef Jared Simons' flavorful small plate fare has something to suit everyone, from light eaters to those with a taste for a more robust fare. The Braised Short Ribs with Shallot Potatoes (\$14.50) melt apart while the Multi-Colored Beet Salad with Eel delights with Kumquat and Ginger Vinaigrette (\$9) and the favorite among the regulars is the Baked Macaroni and Gruyere Cheese with Serrano Ham (\$7.50). Unique selection of new and old world wines by the bottle, glass or flight as well as an impressive list of domestic & imported artisan beers. Hours: Lunch: Tuesday-Friday, 11:30am-2pm. Dinner: Tuesday-Friday, 6pm-10pm & Saturday and Sunday, 5:30pm-10pm. 3221 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica. www.violetrestaurant.com (310) 453-9113.

THE SLICE—A true neighborhood pizzeria serving authentic New York pizza & buffalo wings. We also offer a selection of hot & cold subs, pastas and salads. You can also create your own calzone. Eat in, take out, or delivery. Catering is available. Hours: open daily 11am-9pm. Visit one of our three locations: 915 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 451-7542, 1622 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica (310) 399-4060, 13151 Fountain Park Drive, Playa Vista (310) 437-7499.

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Worst red tide in years hits Puget Sound

BY CURT WOODWARD

Associated Press Writer

OLYMPIA, Wash. — The worst red tide in years has shut down shellfish beds in much of Puget Sound and prompted serious public health worries, state officials said Wednesday.

Expanded beach closures have not reached the heart of Washington state's large farmed shellfish industry, and the state said commercial shellfish on the market have been tested and should be safe to eat.

But industry officials worried that more bad

news could further damage businesses already reeling from a separate bacterial outbreak.

The state Health Department said the newest round of beach closures means virtually the entire shoreline from Everett south to just north of Olympia is off-limits for shellfish harvesting.

The eastern Kitsap Peninsula also has been affected, along with areas near Port Gamble, Port Ludlow and along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, said Frank Cox, a Health Department marine biotoxin coordinator.

"I don't think we've ever had anything

quite to this scale," Cox said Wednesday.

Scientists say toxic organisms called Alexandrium, which produce powerful neurotoxins that cause paralytic shellfish poisoning in humans, are present in very high levels. The organisms are present in blooms of algae that thrive in warm, calm summer weather.

The state closes shellfish-growing areas when measurements of the toxins reach 80 micrograms. But many areas are showing levels of 1,000 micrograms or more, with mussels at Port Ludlow in Jefferson County containing nearly 10,000 micrograms.

"I'm concerned if people ignore these warnings, we could wind up with people with illness, if not worse," Cox said.

Paralytic shellfish poisoning can be fatal, but the last deaths in Washington state were in 1942. The latest serious illnesses were in 2000, when several people were sickened — some even paralyzed — after eating contaminated shellfish near Gig Harbor, Cox said.

Cooking does not eliminate the toxins, and people should be extremely careful when harvesting shellfish on public or private tidelands, officials said.

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Astronomers strip Pluto of planetary status

BY WILLIAM J. KOLE

Associated Press Writer

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — Leading astronomers declared Thursday that Pluto is no longer a planet under historic new guidelines that downsize the solar system from nine planets to eight.

After a tumultuous week of clashing over the essence of the cosmos, the International Astronomical Union stripped Pluto of the planetary status it has held since its discovery in 1930. The new definition of what is — and isn't — a planet fills a centuries-old black hole for scientists who have labored since Copernicus without one.

Although astronomers applauded after the vote, Jocelyn Bell Burnell — a specialist in neutron stars from Northern Ireland who oversaw the proceedings — urged those who might be "quite disappointed" to look on the bright side.

"It could be argued that we are creating an umbrella called 'planet' under which the dwarf planets exist," she said, drawing laughter by waving a stuffed Pluto of Walt Disney fame beneath a real umbrella.

Experts said there could be dozens of dwarf planets catalogued across the solar system in the next few years.

"Many more Plutos wait to be discovered," added Richard Binzel, a professor of planetary science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The decision by the prestigious international group spells out the basic tests that celestial objects will have to meet before they can be considered for admission to the elite cosmic club.

For now, membership will be restricted to the eight "classical" planets in the solar system: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

Much-maligned Pluto doesn't make the grade under the new rules for a planet: "a celestial body that is in orbit around the sun, has sufficient mass for its self-gravity to overcome rigid body forces so that it assumes a ... nearly round shape, and has cleared the neighborhood around its orbit."

Pluto is automatically disqualified because its oblong orbit overlaps with Neptune's.

Instead, it will be reclassified in a new category of "dwarf planets," similar to what long have been termed "minor planets." The definition also lays out a third class of lesser objects that orbit the sun — "small solar system bodies," a term that will apply to numerous asteroids, comets and other natural satellites.

It was unclear how Pluto's demotion might affect the mission of NASA's New Horizons spacecraft, which earlier this year began a 9 1/2-year journey to the oddball object to unearth more of its secrets.

The decision at a conference of 2,500 astronomers from 75 countries was a dramatic shift from just a week ago, when the group's leaders floated a proposal that would have reaffirmed Pluto's planetary status and made planets of its largest moon and two other objects.

That plan proved highly unpopular, splitting astronomers into factions and triggering days of sometimes combative debate that led to Pluto's undoing. In the end, only about 300 astronomers cast ballots.

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: A Public Hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on the following:

Land Use and Circulation Element Project – Initial Implementation. Citywide. Consideration of possible amendments to the City of Santa Monica Municipal Code, Article 9 (Planning and Zoning) to modify project design and property development standards for specified uses in certain residential, commercial and industrial districts in the City including, but not limited to standards related to permitted building heights, exceptions to the height limit, unit density, parcel coverage, floor area, architectural design review criteria, and mandatory on-site or off-site affordable housing threshold. APPLICANT: City of Santa Monica

Text Amendment to Article 9 (Planning & Zoning) of Santa Monica Municipal Code to modify the development standards and review processes in the R1 District. Text Amendment to the City of Santa Monica Zoning Ordinance to modify the development standards and review processes in the Sunset Park and North of Wilshire Boulevard R1 Districts including, but not limited to, standards and review related to setbacks, stepbacks, maximum parcel coverage, second floor parcel coverage, garages and garage doors, architectural projections, balconies and porches, and architectural review of specified structures and to clarify the second floor parcel coverage standards in the R1 District north of Montana Avenue. The Planning Commission may also consider extending these modifications to the R1 District located north of Pico and south of Exposition Boulevards. APPLICANT: City of Santa Monica.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 6, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

WHERE: Council Chambers, City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California



HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

MORE INFORMATION

If you want additional information about this project or wish to review the project, please contact Jonathan Lait, AICP, Principal Planner (310) 458-8341. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours or available on the City's web site at www.santa-monica.org. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation request, please contact (310) 458-8341, or TTY Number: (310) 458-8696 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, and #8 serve City Hall.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

Help Us Shape the Future! Be part of the effort to create new Land Use and Circulation Elements, and a new Zoning Ordinance. Help shape a twenty year vision and improve the way we get around Santa Monica.

<http://www.shapethefuture2025.net> (Land Use Element)
<http://motion.santa-monica.org> (Circulation Element)



ENTERTAINMENT BRIEFS



'Mad' musicians perform

The Mad Alsacians perform their French infused music at the free Jazz on the Lawn concert at Santa Monica City Hall on Sunday.

Photo courtesy

Feelin' Jazzy

By Daily Press staff

While the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium may be filled with the world's most beautiful cats at the LA Cat Show this Sunday, the really cool cats will be just up the street at the final free Jazz on the Lawn concert at Santa Monica City Hall. Starting at 5 p.m., the Mad Alsacians will perform jazz classics with a French flair.

The trio combines the musical tones of guitar, bass and accordion to perform a soulful repertoire consisting of timeless selections from the Hot Club era of Paris. Director Jean-Paul Monsché moved to Paris at 19-years-old to further his musical development, study jazz and support himself with his piano playing.

Joining The Mad Alsacians will be vocalist Jessica Vautor. Born on the beautiful island of Martinique in the French West Indies, Vautor was singing with her father's jazz band at age 12. After studying in Paris and winning a first prize in jazz composition at the International Jazz Festival of Martinique, she arrived in Los Angeles in 1998 where she has been performing with many of the region's top musicians ever since.

While the cool cats stretch out and groove to the sounds on the north lawn, local artist Marcus Kuiland Nazario of Participant/Observer Creative Services will lead concert-goers in games of crazy croquet on the south lawn. Kuiland-Nazario has recruited many local artists to work their magic on the traditional tools of croquet resulting in a set of wacky wickets designed by Cindy De Santis, Peter Schroff, Phranc and Kuiland-Nazario himself.

Jazz on the Lawn is funded by the city of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs Division with support from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Recording Industries Music Performance Fund.

Get 'Served' at SM playhouse

By Daily Press staff

Save the Santa Monica Playhouse by attending in the coming weeks a show featuring the trials and tribulations of a waiter's job. Or watch two funny dead men perform on stage.

As part of the Save The Playhouse Benefit Series, "Served (Gratuity Not Included)" will be performed on Sept. 14 and "Dave & Tom's: A tribute to Dave and Tom" will run Sept. 16 through Oct. 29.

There are the jobs that our parents want us to aspire to — doctors, lawyers, business executives. Now comes a

show about the one job most of us seem to slip into — waiting tables. Welcome to "Served (Gratuity Not Included)," a one-man show written and performed by Scott Jones. With non-stop energy, Jones explores both sides of the table, playing both customer and waiter, giving a glimpse inside society's desire for service. Both comedic and heartbreaking, funny and angry, Jones shows us a world where people really have to rely on the kindness of strangers. And what happens when it fails.

Jones began his acting career and his comedy routines in Florida while attending Florida State University in their London theater program. Since moving to Los Angeles in 2001 he immediately began booking work on "The Ellen Show," and "Maybe It's Me." He has performed all around Los Angeles' comedy scene. In 2004, he stopped performing stand-up so he could work on a series of monologues that show the world of waiting tables. He hasn't given up acting though and this summer he can be seen as one character, Dopey, at Disneyland in "Snow White: an Enchanting Musical."

The show will start at 8 p.m. and is \$15. All proceeds benefit the Santa Monica Playhouse for the Save the Playhouse Campaign.

"Dave and Tom's: A Tribute to Dave and Tom" is a look back at the comedy sketches, characters and monologues of the team.

A poison pen letter to the tribute show, this parody of self-importance, uses the self-tribute framework to make for a fun evening with the fictitious British comedy team, Dave and Tom. "Dave and Tom's: A Tribute to Dave and Tom" is made all the more silly by the fact that they claim to have passed away long ago, before the tribute show they are performing has even premiered.

The play is written and directed by David Beeler and Tom Konkle, best known to local audiences for their collaborations in the seminal British comedy revues, "Beyond the Fringe" and "Good Evening" and the world premier of "Owl-stretching Time," original sketches by Monty Python (2001), as well as their original tribute to the dry wit and comic "stylings" of "Cook and Moore, Good Night," one hour of comedy which premiered to critical acclaim at Santa Monica Playhouse in 2003. Dave and Tom have just finished executive producing a feature length sketch film with their renowned comedy troupe, Lester McFwap, for Comedy Express, a new National Comedy Network and subsidiary of National Lampoon.

The play will be performed on Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. for seven weeks. Tickets are \$15.

The playhouse is located at 1211 Fourth St.



SANTA MONICA ART PALETTE
MAKING ARTS AND CULTURE COME ALIVE IN SANTA MONICA

JAZZ ON THE LAWN
THE MAD ALSACIANS

AUGUST 27, 5PM



SANTA MONICA CITY HALL 685 MAIN STREET

Welcome to the Santa Monica Art Palette for Aug. 25. For those of you who've been enjoying our series of Jazz on the Lawn, we've got one final treat for you this weekend when The Mad Alsacians take the stage at City Hall. For those of you who've missed these concerts, here's your last chance to experience the cool cats and crazy croquet that's made Jazz on the Lawn such a terrific success.

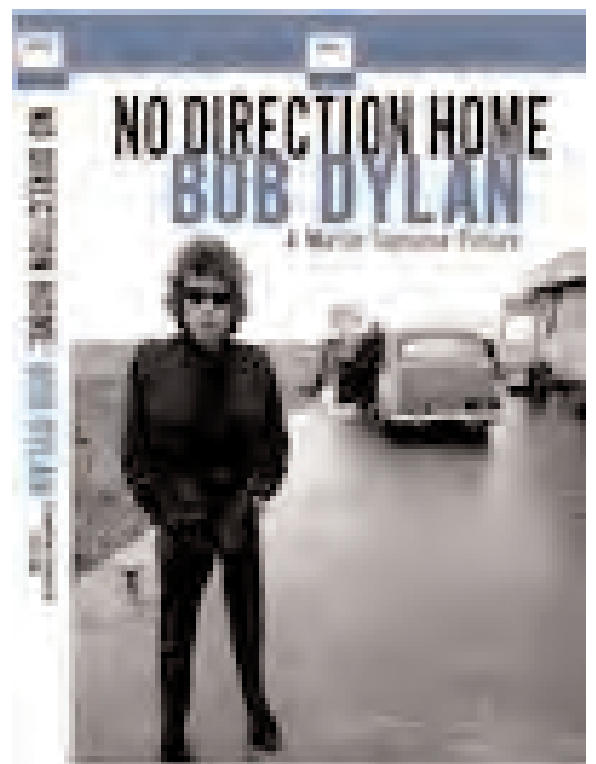


Debra Ehrhardt at the Santa Monica Playhouse

The Jamaica Cultural Alliance joins with Santa Monica Playhouse to present "Jamaica, Farewell," Debra Ehrhardt's auto-bio-solo show about the wild roller-coaster ride of suspense, intrigue, seduction and manipulation that was her journey to the USA from Jamaica. Benefit performances will take place on three Saturday nights — Aug. 26, Sept. 23 and Sept. 30. This Saturday night, a reception hosted by the Jamaican Cultural Alliance will follow the performance. Tickets are \$20 each with all proceeds benefiting the Save the Playhouse campaign.

Santa Monica Playhouse Main Stage

1211 Fourth St.
Call the playhouse box office at 1-310-394-9779, ext. 1, or purchase tickets online at <http://SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com>



No Direction Home at the Aero

After you've spent the early evening picnicking and sunning at The Mad Alsacian's Jazz on the Lawn concert, you can mosey on over to the Aero Theatre for the first Los Angeles theatrical screening of "No Direction Home," Martin Scorsese's portrait of the artist Bob Dylan as a young man. Roughly chronological, using archival footage intercut with recent interviews, a story takes shape of Bob Dylan's (b. 1941) coming of age from 1961 to 1966 as a singer, songwriter, performer and star.

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
1-310-395-4990

Deeds for Dollars pays off for PAL

PAL SALES, from page 1

art and cooking classes. For each hour of work, or each task completed, the kids earned a "Good Deed Dollar," which they deposited in a bank account at PAL, and watched their savings grow.

Kids withdrew their entire savings to buy merchandise donated by PAL employees, Santa Monica Police officers and volunteers. And the items weren't cheap. Some of the goods included \$25 gift cards to Old Navy, Foot Locker and AMC Theatres, free food at Tacos Por Favor, binoculars, sweat-shirts and mini-basketball hoops.

"From the youngest to the oldest, all of these kids worked really hard," said PAL volunteer Judy LaPatka, who gives cooking lessons to kids, ages 6 through 10. "It's so wonderful to see them having so much fun shopping. Most of them have never had the opportunity to even buy things on their own or to save any money. This gives them the opportunity to learn about what it takes to make money, how hard it is to save it and how important it is to spend wisely."

PAL volunteers said the Deeds for Dollars program, in its first year of existence, caught on so fast that volunteer Jeff Rochlin had to go back to his personal mint and print several series of deed dollars. Some kids managed to raise more than \$100 doing deeds around PAL.

Karina Ortiz was one of them. She said she took advantage of every opportunity she could to rake in the dough.

"This has been really cool," Ortiz said. "We learned a lot about the value of money, how to save for what you want, and we got to see what it's like to actually have a job, well, sort of."

The somewhat shy, but intelligent 13-year-old wore a smile a mile wide as she clutched her deed dollars and browsed the various tables loaded with merchandise. A few notebooks and binders caught her eye as did the portable DVD player, which, along with the iPod digital music player, were prizes offered to the winners of a raffle.

"I want to win that DVD player," Ortiz said. "But I've got to get my mom something first."

Amado Sernes had his eyes on the DVD player as well. Sernes said he earned more than \$50 cleaning up after art classes.

"This is awesome," he said as he surveyed the room, contemplating his first purchase. "There's a lot of great stuff here. I can't believe so many people donated this."

While splurging during the shopping spree is allowed, Sernes said the deeds program taught him that saving money is important to achieve future goals. He's also looking forward to putting some of his allowance away for a rainy day.

"You can't overspend," he said. "You can't go out and party, just throwing money around. You've got to conserve."

Lt. Natalie Dewberry, a PAL staff member who helped initiate the program, said she would like to see kids do good deeds all year long, but if PAL can offer a little something in return, why not.

"It's more than just paying them to do something," Dewberry said. "We are teaching them the importance of helping others while at the same time given them skills to open up their own bank account, manage their money while collaborating with others to get the job done."

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A child is calling for help.

SM location ensures sales

SALES DROP, from page 1

more than the asking price because they wanted to beat the competition.

"It's not completely a buyer's market, but now is the time to start looking for those who have been sitting on the sidelines, waiting for prices to stabilize."

Realtors said the market is now correcting itself after two years of double-digit appreciation, in which the value of some homes increased by 40 percent.

"We are seeing in Santa Monica, as with everywhere, that the housing market is slowing down, but that's in comparison to two years of unstable appreciation rates," said Delores Conway, Ph.D., director of the USC Lusk Center for Real Estate and co-author of the Casden Real Estate Economics Forecast.

"Trees don't grow to the sky and we can't have 20 percent or double digit price increases year after year," Conway added. "That's just not sustainable. I think we're coming back down to Earth."

Santa Monica is somewhat immune to factors that affect housing markets nationwide. With its seaside location, clear skies and cool breezes, good schools, not to mention its location to UCLA, LAX and Hollywood, Santa Monica is more than just a place to live, it's an ideal destination to raise a family, realtors said.

The strong economy also protects the city from fluctuations in the market. With large employers like Google and Yahoo, not to mention Saint John's Hospital and the scores of post production houses, there is a steady flow of affluent workers looking for a place to rest their heads.

"People want to live here more than anywhere else," said Simon Salloom, a realtor at Coldwell Banker who specializes in Santa Monica and Malibu. "Whenever I meet with a client, they want to buy in Santa Monica. Many end up somewhere else because they just can't afford it."

With strict laws governing development and a lack of land available for new home construction, inventory is low while demand remains at an all time high, driving up prices.

Rent is also extremely high, so much so that it often match the cost of a mortgage, Salloom said. This forces many people to cut back on spending and save.

That has shielded Santa Monica as well from market fluctuations.

"It definitely takes a lot longer for the national trends to start showing up here because we are near the beach. We are in an affluent community and we do have a shortage of housing," said Melissa MacFayden, a broker with Keller Williams Santa Monica. "Anytime you have that shortage with the kind of demand we have, you are not going to see a significant dip anytime soon."

INTERNATIONAL

Germany says Iranian nuclear response appears unsatisfactory; missing resources

BY GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press Writer

BERLIN — Germany said Thursday that Iran's response to a package of incentives for halting its nuclear program appears unsatisfactory because it is missing a reference to whether Tehran will suspend uranium enrichment.

"We are still examining it, but from everything that I hear we cannot be satisfied," Chancellor Angela Merkel said in an interview with N24 television.

Tehran on Tuesday presented its response to the package of incentives, drawn up by the five permanent U.N. Security Council members and Germany. It did not publicly disclose full details of its response.

The Security Council has set an Aug. 31 deadline for Iran to halt enrichment or face the possibility of economic and political sanctions.

Merkel said Germany and its partners had hoped for Tehran to say, "We are suspending our uranium enrichment, we are coming to the negotiating table and we will then talk about the chances and possibilities for Iran."

"That unfortunately is not the case," she said. "We will call for this to happen in the coming days, but the decisive sentence is missing in this answer," she added.

Tehran says its enrichment, which can produce reactor fuel or fissile material for a bomb, is for purely peaceful purposes. The U.S. and some allies suspects that the program is cover for making atomic weapons.

Iran maintains it has offered "positive and clear signals" to resolve the dispute over its nuclear program.

French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy has said Iran must suspend uranium enrichment if it wants to return to negotiations, but Russia's foreign ministry has said it would continue to seek a negotiated solution and China has appealed for patience and more dialogue.

The State Department has acknowledged that Iran considered its proposal to be a serious one and promised to "review it."

But a U.S. statement issued Wednesday went on to say that Iran's response to a joint offer of U.S. and European trade and other benefits in exchange for halting the enrichment program "falls short of the conditions set by the Security Council" — full and verifiable suspension of all uranium-enrichment activity.

The benefits include the possibility of U.S. help for civilian nuclear programs.

"We are consulting closely, including with other members of the Security Council, on next steps," the U.S. statement said.

President Bush met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice at the White House and then discussed Iran's proposal in a telephone call from U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Rice also spoke with Javier Solana, the senior European Union diplomat who oversees exchanges with Iran.

No account of either telephone conversation, nor of Rice's meeting with the president, was provided.

The administration has told Iran that it will seek unspecified sanctions in the Security Council if Tehran does not step enriching uranium.

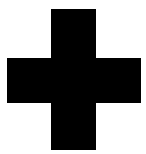
But by not rejecting Iran's proposal outright, the administration indicated there may be a basis for dealing with long-held concerns that Tehran is developing nuclear weapons, an allegation the Iranians deny.

"The diplomats are continuing to look at it," said White House spokeswoman Dana Perino. "We're working with our allies."

The Iranians' offer, which they portrayed as a major advance, appeared to be aimed at least in part at dividing the Security Council members with vetoes — the U.S., Britain and France on one side and Russia and China on the other.

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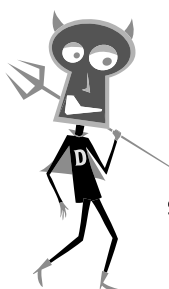
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Brit exposed in Japan

Tokyo's subway authority will allow a station advertisement featuring a nude and pregnant **BRITNEY SPEARS**, officials said, dropping an earlier plan to censor the photo.

HB Japan Inc., publisher of the Japanese edition of Harper's Bazaar, plans to rent ad space at the posh Omotesando station next week to promote its October issue with Spears pos-

ing naked on the cover.

The ad, in which Spears bares her belly but covers her breasts with her hands, is the same one used on the cover of the August issue of the magazine's U.S. edition. The 24-year-old pop star is pregnant with her second child.

Tokyo Metro Co.'s obscenity screening team had initially raised objections to the nudity and asked HB Japan to modify

the photograph during negotiations last month.

The publisher reluctantly agreed to blacken out the image from the waist down — covering most of the singer's belly and thighs — but had planned to write in the black space: "in this place we are not allowed to exercise the same level of freedom of expression as the original Harper's Bazaar."

But on Thursday, Tokyo Metro said it would allow full presentation of the photo as an exception to its obscenity rule, saying it understood the publisher's intention was to portray a happy mother — not to be sexually explicit.

The magazine's deputy chief editor, Kayoko Higashino, welcomed the move. "I'm glad the subway officials understood the meaning of the photo," she said.

In principle, nudity is not accepted in ads in subway cars and stations, said Tokyo Metro spokesman Tatsuya Edakubo.

"Our earlier request to cover the photo from the waist down was because of nudity, not because we had anything against pregnant women," he said, adding that officials later decided that censoring the photo would be inappropriate.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARLEY'S HEAVY METAL

BOB MARLEY'S records long ago went platinum.

Now the Bank of Jamaica is releasing commemorative coins in gold and silver with the late reggae superstar's dreadlocked likeness.

The 1,000 coins, produced by the British Royal Mint, are being sold for \$100 each, bank spokeswoman Jacqueline Morgan said Wednesday.

"We've received quite a bit of interest already," Morgan said.

Though the coins were intended to mark the 60th anniversary of Marley's birth, which was celebrated in 2005, the bank is just now offering them for sale, said Morgan, who didn't offer a further explanation.

It is the second time the Bank of Jamaica has issued coins bearing Marley's likeness. "The coins to commemorate his 50th birthday have totally sold out," Morgan said.

Born in Jamaica's rural St. Ann parish, Marley rose from the gritty shantytowns of Kingston to global stardom in the 1970s with hits such as "No Woman No Cry" and "I Shot the Sheriff." His lyrics promoting "one love" and social revolution made him an icon in developing countries worldwide.

Marley, who died of cancer in Miami at age 36 in 1981, remains one of Jamaica's most beloved national heroes.

AP

A hero's welcome addition

JESSICA LYNCH, the former prisoner of war whose 2003 rescue in Iraq made her an instant celebrity, is pregnant.

She and boyfriend Wes Robinson are expecting their first child in January, publicist Aly Goodwin Gregg said Thursday.

"I was not sure if this could ever happen for me," Lynch, 23, said in a statement. "Learning to walk again and coping with the internal injuries that I still deal with pale in comparison to the

tremendous joy of carrying this child."

The former Army supply clerk suffered spinal fractures, nerve damage, and a shattered arm, foot and leg when her Humvee crashed during a fire fight in March 2003 in Nasiriyah, Iraq.

Eleven American soldiers were killed and six were captured, including Lynch.

She was rescued nine days later during a special-forces raid

on an Iraqi hospital that was videotaped, transforming the soft-spoken young woman into a hero at a time when the U.S. war effort seemed bogged down. It also stirred complaints of U.S. government media manipulation.

Lynch returned to West Virginia after being released from a military hospital and was briefly engaged to Army Sgt. Ruben Contreras Jr.

Family friends introduced her

to Robinson, who lives in Vienna, W.Va., and works at a manufacturing plant.

"I am very blessed to have his love and support in my life," she said.

Lynch, who joined the Army at 18 to earn money for college, said recently that she was transferring from West Virginia University's main campus in Morgantown to the Parkersburg center, closer to home.

AP

Rice dances around reality

Once again, **JERRY RICE** sees his route. And the NFL receiving great hopes this one will play a part in his life after football.

Rice, a native of Crawford, is shopping a reality show concept to several networks. "The Underdog" would focus on Rice helping to motivate people and communities.

"You never think that it will come to an end," Rice, 43, said of his football career in speak-

ing to The Associated Press this week.

He says being a contestant on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars," which pairs competitors of sometimes dubious celebrity and varying skill with professional dancer-partners, helped raise his profile outside football.

"I reached a whole different audience by being on that show — people that might have not been into sports or anything like

that," he said. "I hear a lot that I am a dancer. I am a football player. It's amazing how many people tuned into that show. It took me to a whole different level."

Showing the same commitment to dancing on the show as he did during 20 years in pro football, Rice and his dance partner, Anna Trebunskaya, came in second to Drew Lachey and Cheryl Burke.

"I almost pulled it off," Rice said Tuesday while attending the unveiling of the Xbox 360 game "Madden NFL '07" in rural Madden.

The third season of "Dancing With the Stars" premieres Sept. 12. Contestants will include Tucker Carlson of MSNBC, talk-show host Jerry Springer and three-time Super Bowl champion Emmitt Smith.

AP

Miss India is Gere's new pretty woman

It's another pretty woman for **RICHARD GERE**.

Bollywood star and former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen will co-star with Gere in a new movie titled "The Expat," the 30-year-old actress told the Times of India newspaper in an interview published Thursday.

"I have already signed (to do) the film. And yes, Richard Gere plays the male lead," Sen told the newspaper. She did not say when shooting was set to start.

The movie, to be shot in Argentina, is a Miramax production and will be directed by U.S.-based Sutapa Ghosh, she said.

"I am looking forward to working with Sutapa and Richard," said Sen, who says she will play the role of a foreigner living abroad.

Sen was crowned Miss India in 1994 and went on to win the Miss Universe pageant. She has since acted in more than 25 films in Bollywood, India's prolific and pop-

ular Hindi-language film industry.

Gere starred with Julia Roberts in 1990's "Pretty Woman." The 56-year-old actor's screen credits also include "An Officer and a Gentleman," "Chicago" and the upcoming "The Hoax," starring as Clifford Irving.

AP

Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIEGUIDE

SHOWTIMES: FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2006

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Avenue
(310) 395-4990

Friday

The Day the Earth Caught Fire / Last Man on Earth 7:30

Saturday

Beach Party / The Girls on the Beach 7:30

Sunday

Viva Las Vegas / King Creole 7:30

AMC7 SANTA MONICA
1310 3rd Street
(310) 289-4262



SNAKES ON A PLANE

Accepted (PG-13)

11:45, 2:10, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40, 11:30

Snakes on a Plane (R)

11:00, 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30, 12:00

Step Up (PG-13)

11:55, 2:30, 4:55, 7:35, 10:05

Barnyard: The Original Party Animals (PG)

11:30, 2:00, 4:35, 7:05, 9:20

Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby (PG-13)

11:40, 2:20, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (PG-13)

11:50, 3:20, 6:45, 10:00

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 3rd Street
(310) 458-6232



YOU ME AND DUPREE

Miami Vice (R)

11:30, 3:00, 10:05

You, Me and Dupree (PG-13)

11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 10:00

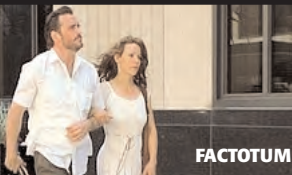
Scoop (PG-13)

11:45, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:15

The Devil Wears Prada (PG-13)

11:55, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30

LANDMARK NUWILSHIRE
1314 Wilshire Blvd
(310) 281-8228



FACTOTUM

Factotum (R, No Passes)

11:15, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

The Illusionist (PG-13, No Passes)

11:00, 1:40, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50

LAEMMLE'S MONICA
1332 2nd Street
(310) 394-9741

Trust the Man (R)

1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9:45

Quinceanera (R)

1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

Little Miss Sunshine (R)

1:45, 2:45, 4:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30

An Inconvenient Truth (PG)

12:15, 5:20

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

Material Girls (PG)

11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:40

Pulse (PG-13)

12:00, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10

Zoom (PG)

11:40, 2:10, 7:00, 9:20

World Trade Center (PG-13)

12:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30

The Descent (R)

12:10, 2:30, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50

Monster House (PG, No Passes)

11:30, 2:00, 4:40

This Is No "Bull"

"If you're gonna play the game you're gonna need the energy"

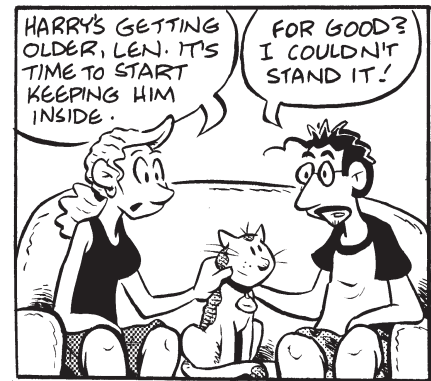
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LIQUID ICE ENERGY DRINK

The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



edge city by TERRY & PATTY LABAN



Natural Selection® By Russ Wallace



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By THOMAS JOSEPH

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- 9 Kind of committee
- 11 Site of "bombs bursting"
- 13 New Zealand native
- 14 Recital piece
- 15 "I" strain
- 16 Helium, for one
- 18 Shows
- 20 Sellout
- 21 Walk like a crab
- 22 Needle sources
- 23 Maiden name
- 24 Pro opposer
- 25 Long tale
- 27 Hunger reminders
- 29 Curved path
- 30 Becomes furious
- 32 January stones
- 34 Puppy sound
- 35 Contact, in a way

36 Designer

Simpson

38 As of

39 Freshen

40 Spots

41 Bankrolls

DOWN

- 1 Well-known
- 2 Wise sayings
- 3 Large white bird
- 4 Postal-oath word
- 5 Fishing spots
- 6 Cost of a hand
- 7 African pack animal

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Yesterday's answer

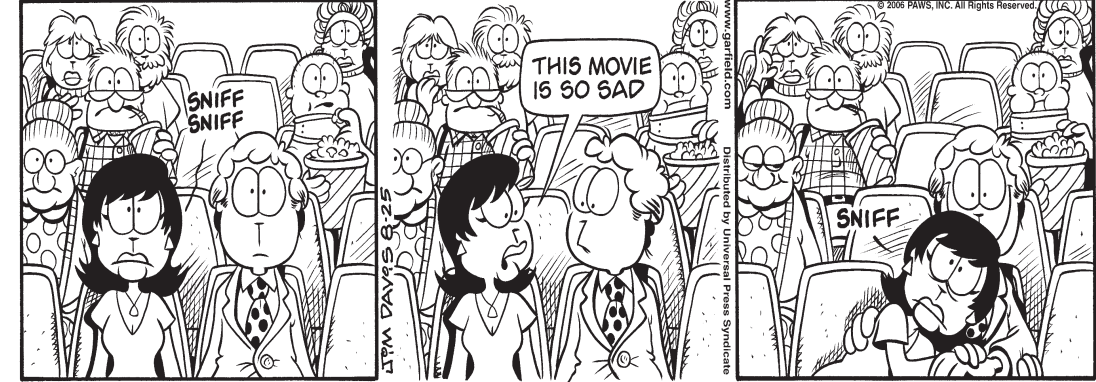
- 8 In-flight
- 10 Compass creation
- 12 Takes five
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- 19 Notion
- 22 Word processor
- 24 Senate victim
- 25 Wise guys
- 26 Friend of Athos
- 27 Sulky state
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- 37 Grass coat

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8-25

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Trustee Sale No. 06-244 Loan No. 0086849494 Title Order No. 260514392 APN 4267-021-080 TRA No. NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 5/6/2005, UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 9/1/2006 at 11:30AM, Marin Conveyancing Corp as the duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 05/13/2005 as Instrument No. 05 1133811 of Official Records in the Office of the Recorder of Los Angeles County, California, executed by: Cornelio S. Del Rosario, a single man, as Trustor, "MERS" Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. (MIN#100013800868494945), acting solely as a nominee for Greenpoint Mortgage Funding, Inc., as Beneficiary, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States, by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). at: At the front entrance to the Pomona Superior Courts Building, 350 West Mission Blvd., Pomona, CA, all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California describing the land therein: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 1420 Princeton Street No. 2, Santa Monica, CA 90404. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: \$537,208.54 (Estimated) Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused and Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the County where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. "CHECKS NOT PAYABLE TO MARIN CONVEYANCING CORPORATION MUST BE EXCHANGED WITH THE AUCTIONEER WITHIN ONE BUSINESS DAY." Dated: 8/7/2006 Marin Conveyancing Corp ATTN: Trustee Dept 981 Airway Court, Suite-E Santa Rosa, CA 95403 (800) 930-7455 / (707) 521-2087 Automated Sale Number (714) 573-1965 www.priorityposting.com Roberta Thomas, Authorized Agent Marin Conveyancing Corporation, is a Debt Collector attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose. P253770 8/11, 8/18, 08/25/2006.

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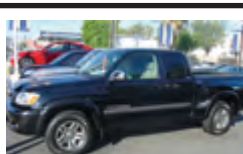
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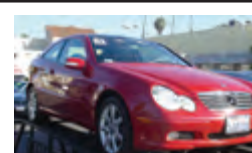
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Stock #: L15433
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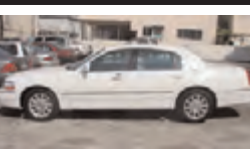
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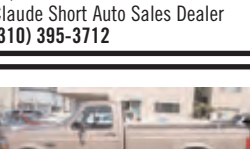
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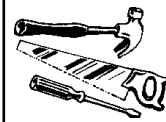
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