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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2008

Volume 7 Issue 253

Santa Monica Daily Press

HOT WHEELS
SEE PAGE 18

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE MAJOR SNUB ISSUE

Dems make endorsements

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

WILSHIRE BOULEVARD City Council incumbent Bobby Shriver, whose famous political family long served as the face of the Democratic Party, failed to secure an endorsement from the local chapter despite receiving the nod from its executive committee last month.

ELECTION 2008

The decision, or indecision, came on Tuesday when the Santa Monica Democratic Club voted on the candidates they would back for the four local races in November, eventually supporting City Council incumbents Ken Genser and Richard Bloom.

That left two open seats on the council without the club's stamp of approval.

Under the club's bylaws, candidates must receive at least 60 percent of votes cast by members in order to be endorsed. Those who didn't meet the threshold but garnered at least 20 percent were eligible for a second round and if unsuccessful again, for a final third round.

Airport Commissioner Susan Hartley,

SEE ENDORSEMENTS PAGE 10

MAJOR WAIT

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Bathers shower at Santa Monica Beach on Saturday while a long line forms. The weekend was the last chance to enjoy the summer for many.

Parking in focus

Police consider technology to track parked vehicles

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Wiping chalk marks off the tires of cars being watched by parking enforcement officers could one day be a lost cause.

The Santa Monica Police Department is considering adopting a relatively new technology that would allow officers to keep track of parked vehicles by scanning and recording their license plates and later determining whether they have exceeded the allowable time.

The system, which would eliminate the inefficiencies of monitoring vehicles by marking tires, has been put into place in cities like West Hollywood and Davis, both of which use equipment by Canada-based Genetec.

Police departments in these cities mounted a camera on top of select enforcement vehicles, scouring parking-restricted areas and scanning license plates. After setting a time limit, the vehicles return and scan the area once again, ticketing any vehicles that remain.

City officials in Santa Monica have met with West Hollywood to see how their system has operated. Representatives with West Hollywood were not available for comment.

SEE PARKING PAGE 11

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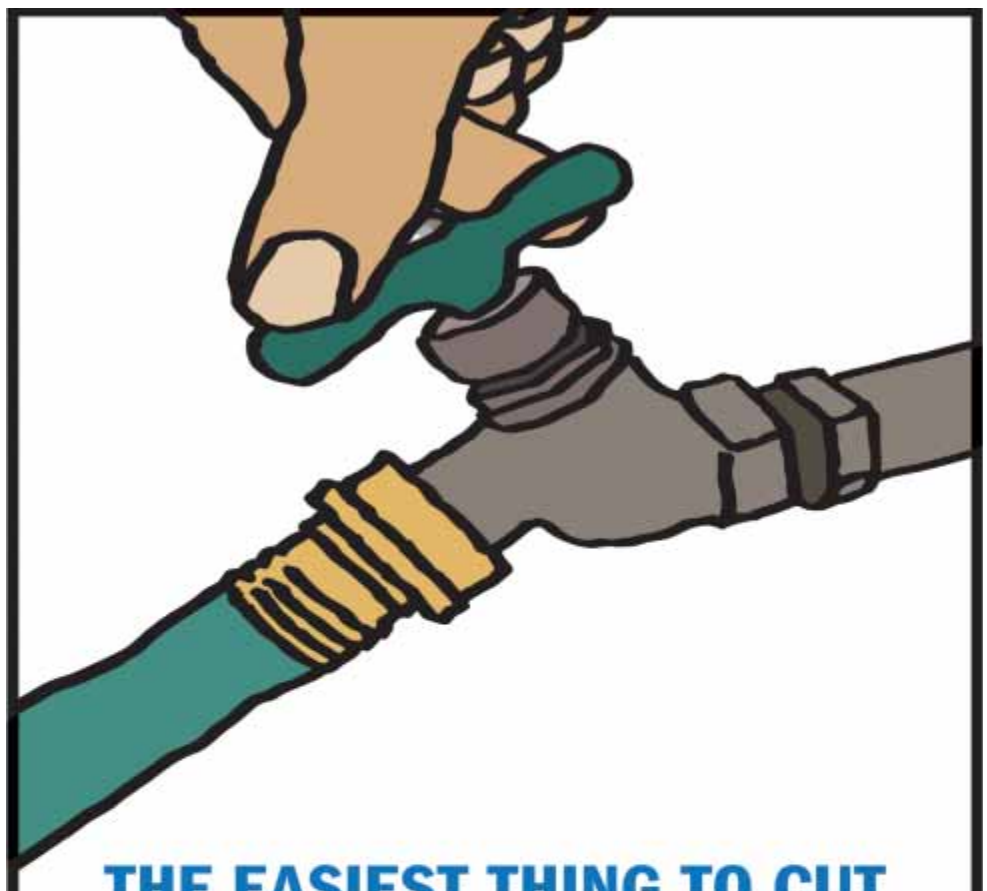

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WHAT'S UP
WESTSIDE
OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

What's new this week?
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Join us for a free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories, at home and abroad -- politics, the economy, society, and culture. Discussion moderator, Jack Nordhaus, is a former college history professor. For more information regarding this event at the Fairview Branch Library, call (310) 450-0443.

Workouts for teens
3026 Nebraska Ave., 3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
02 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.

Magical night of improvisation
4455 Overland Ave. Culver City, 8 p.m. — 9 p.m.
The Magic Meathands perform an hour of fully improvised hilarity based on audience suggestions and participation, returning every Thursday to the Spot Cafe & Lounge. Presented by director Bill Johnson, in a great cafe that offers delicious coffee, food, and drink. They make it up as they go, and their best material comes from you. Admission is $5, and you get 20 percent off the Comedy Features Menu. For questions and more information, call (310) 559-8868 or e-mail nikki@magicmeathands.com.

Friday, Aug. 5, 2008

Join the mass
Santa Monica Pier (entrance), 6:30 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Critical Mass touts itself as a alternative to car culture. Come cruise the streets of Santa Monica and Venice. For information, e-mail zackbeatty@yahoo.com

Salsa the night away
1334 Lincoln Blvd, 7:15 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Beginners and experienced salseros alike can pick up new moves at Isabelle Pampillo's Friday Socials in Santa Monica. The night consists of a 90-minute class followed by a social hour of drinks and dancing where dancers can practice their dips and turns. There is a $20 charge for the class, dancing and drinks. For information, call (310) 392-3493.

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.

'Peanuts' animator Melendez dies at 91

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA MONICA Bill Melendez, the animator who gave life to Snoopy, Charlie Brown and other Peanuts characters on scores of movies and television specials, has died. He was 91.

Melendez died Tuesday at St. John's Hospital, according to publicist Amy Goldsmith.

Melendez's nearly seven decades as a professional animator began in 1938 when he was hired by Walt Disney Studios and worked on Mickey Mouse cartoons and classic animated features such as "Pinocchio" and "Fantasia."

He went on to animate Peanuts specials such as "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and was the voice of Snoopy, who never spoke intelligible words but issued expressive howls, sighs and sobs.

Melendez was born in 1916 in Hermosillo in the Mexican state of Sonora. He moved with his family to Arizona in 1928 and then to Los Angeles in the 1930s, attending the Chouinard Art Institute.

Melendez took part in a strike that led to the unionization of Disney artists in 1941. He later moved to Warner Bros., where he worked on Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig and Daffy Duck shorts.

In 1948, Melendez left Warner Bros. and over the next 15 years worked as a director and producer on more than 1,000 commercials and movies for United Productions of America, Playhouse Pictures and John Sutherland Productions.

At UPA, he helped animate the "Gerald McBoing-Boing," which won the 1951 Academy Award for best cartoon short.

Melendez met Peanuts creator Charles M. Schulz in 1959 while creating Ford Motor Co. TV commercials featuring Peanuts characters.

The two became friends and Melendez became the only person Schulz authorized to animate his characters.

Melendez founded his own production company in 1964 and with his partner Lee Mendelson went on to produce, direct or animate some 70 Peanuts television specials, four movies and hundreds of commercials.

The first Peanuts special was 1965's "A Charlie Brown Christmas." The show reportedly worried CBS television networks because it broke so much new ground for a cartoon: It lacked a laugh track, used real children as voice actors, had a jazz score and included a scene in which Linus recited lines from the New Testament.

However, the show was a ratings success and has gone on to become a Christmastime perennial.

Melendez created Emmy-winning specials based on the cartoon characters Cathy and Garfield the cat. He was involved in animated versions of the Babar the elephant books and the C.S. Lewis book, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

He also was co-nominee for an Academy Award in 1971 for the music for "A Boy Named Charlie Brown."

In all, his productions earned some 19 Emmy nominations, including six awards.

Melendez is survived by his wife Helen; sons Steven Melendez and (Ret.) Navy Rear Admiral Rodrigo Melendez, six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Calling out lawmakers

Budget impasse leads Gov. Schwarzenegger to ask the public for help

BY JUDY LIN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger made a unique appeal to Californians on Wednesday, saying they must do their part to prod lawmakers into passing a budget because the state is not run by a dictator.

Schwarzenegger said he needs the public's help in coaxing lawmakers out of their ideological corners and ending a record-long stalemate that shows no sign of ending. He joked by making a reference to his native Austria, which he said was surrounded by totalitarian governments when he came to America in the late 1960s.

"I left because of that," Schwarzenegger said to a crowd of health care providers, school administrators and public safety officials outside a medical center in Placerville, a Gold Rush-era town in the Sierra foothills.

The state has been unable to pay make billions of dollars in payments to schools, hospitals and other programs without a budget, which is more than two months overdue.

Schwarzenegger said he has offered a compromise plan to dig the state out of its $15.2 billion deficit. His proposal combines more than $11 billion in spending cuts over two years with a temporary, 1 cent increase in the state sales tax.

He urged California voters to start pressuring their lawmakers and use the November election as a referendum on

SEE BUDGET PAGE 12

BUSTED Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

Santa Monica Treesaver Jerry Rubin talks with a member of the Santa Monica Police Department on Wednesday about his decision to chain himself to a ficus tree on Fourth Street that is scheduled to be relocated to Palisades Garden Walk adjacent to the RAND Corp. Rubin, who is running for City Council on a pro-tree platform, was arrested and transported to the Santa Monica Jail. His bail was set at $10,000. The Treesavers formed in response to a plan by City Hall to cut down 23 trees and relocate a few as part of a Downtown streetscape improvement project.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Sending Mitt's troops into battle

Editor:

Well, well. Now that Mitt Romney is out of the presidential and vice presidential race, I guess we'll see all five of his sons in uniform going to Iraq to fight the war the Republicans think is such a just war.

After all, when Mitt was running for president, and was asked why his sons weren't going to Iraq, he laughed jovially and said they had to help him run his campaign.

Well, the campaign is finally over for Mitt so I guess the boys are off to Iraq. Joe Biden's son, Beau, is leaving for Iraq, so I can't wait to see the Romney boys in uniform. I guess that will happen when the Bush twins don theirs.

I think it should be a rule that if you lie to get the country in a war, or vote for a war, you have to send your own kids.

Marilyn Brennan
Santa Monica

McCain the magician

Editor:

John McCain betrayed his claim to the presidency by selecting Sarah Palin as his vice presidential running mate. Not only because Palin has zero relevant experience. And certainly not because Palin's teenage daughter is pregnant; the latter is a personal matter that shouldn't concern anyone other than the family. What is truly alarming is that McCain saw fit only to consult himself before choosing her. True, ultimately the buck stops with presidents. But in this dangerous world I'll feel a lot more secure with a president who will conduct thorough investigations before making crucial decisions, and that requires consultation. If McCain's experience has taught him that pulling rabbits out of hats is as acceptable for presidents as for magicians, then experience is a sorry teacher indeed.

Paul Bergman
Santa Monica

Tell it like it is

Editor:

I have been reading the letters to the editor for years and finally the letter from Barry Barker ("What we're really voting for," page 4, Sept. 3) was brilliant!

Finally! Someone in Santa Monica who is not [a] Democrat, who isn't blaming Bush for every wrong that has happened in the world. Yes, I am talking to you Ron Lowe and you, Jack Neworth. Get a life.

[Finally,] someone who can see that Obama who says he is for "change" but doesn't say what that change will be and isn't fooled by all the slick talk. Thank you Barry Barker for writing in your thoughts. Let this be an encouragement to other Republicans to write in and give your views.

I am so tired of hearing the constant "whining" of the Democrats, Democrats who are so proud that the World Trade Center was bombed when Clinton was in office and he did nothing but maybe talk to some people and then we were hit again. Oops.

Don't ask what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. Tip: Being a complainer isn't it.

Linda Shockley
Malibu

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Patricia Hoffman — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Defending an endorsement

I WOULD LIKE TO RESPOND TO CRAIG Hamilton's comments in a recent letter to the editor ("Our community deserves better, page 4, Aug. 27) by first sharing my personal viewpoint and then adding background and comments from the perspective of my role as the co-chair of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights.

I agree with Craig Hamilton in his letter that the special education group was within its rights to organize and show up and vote as a block at the SMRR convention. Special education needs all of the advocacy that it can get since it has, over the years, often been treated poorly within the [school] district. Kids with special needs require special resources.

I want to apologize to Craig. He and his family have spent many years advocating for the needs of special education. I am sorry that our actions as the SMRR Steering Committee have caused pain to him, and by extension, others.

I have been involved with special education since the early '80s. One of my sons was a special education student many years and another received services for 3 years. Even when I was a member of the Board of Education I found going through the process of identification and placement battering. …

There were some particularly bad practices in the district with the requirement of secrecy clauses. Parents are the chief advocates for their children. This requires diligence, persistence, and the freedom to talk to any and everyone that can be of help. It is often difficult and painful to advocate for the needs of your child. It makes you feel exposed and vulnerable. My heart goes out to all of the families who still have to fight for their children.

It was certainly not the intention of the Steering Committee to make special education parents feel maligned, marginalized or diminished in any way. Our Special Education DAC, and our district as a whole, has benefited from the talent and expertise among its members.

However, I do believe that our action in supporting [board member and school board candidate] Jose [Escarce] was correct. He has done an excellent job as a school board member, though relying on the former deputy superintendent was a mistake. Jose has apologized publicly, more than once, for that mistake. The value of that apology will be judged by how he moves forward.

Our by-laws are adopted in a democratic process by a vote of our membership. The SMRR Steering Committee acted within our by-laws by adding him to our list of supported candidates.

In fact, a large majority of those voting at the convention agreed with us — he received 54.9 percent of the vote. He was 1/10th of a percent short. Our by-laws require 55 percent at the convention; the very same document allows the Steering Committee to add positions on candidates or initiatives.

Often it is the case that a group of members organize to support or oppose one of the candidates seeking our endorsement. Sometimes they are successful and sometimes they are not.

That is all part of our organization and how we do business. The addition of a candidate or ballot measure by the Steering Committee is also part of our organization and how we do business. I find it difficult to criticize one practice without criticizing the other.

THERE WERE SOME PARTICULARLY BAD PRACTICES IN THE DISTRICT WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF SECRECY CLAUSES.

SMRR members and leadership have been deeply committed to our children and our schools for many years. SMRR came into being 30 years ago to protect tenants from eviction and allow them to age in place and in peace. We remain vigilant today in our attempts to protect tenants from the frequent threats like the recently defeated Proposition 98.

About 25 years ago, an education advocacy group called Committee for a Responsive School Board arose within SMRR. CRSB elected Connie Jenkins and Mary Kay Kamath as our first school board members in April of 1981. At the time, the college and the [school district] were under the governance of one board.

CRSB and SMRR were the earliest advocates for money from the city going to the [schools]. Denny Zane, Judy Abdo, Connie Jenkins and Ralph Mechur helped create the rationale used to show that the well being of the city was dependent on the education of its children.

Education became the second plank of the SMRR platform. Since that time SMRR and its leadership have participated in every general obligation bond and parcel tax issue. Families politically identified with SMRR have been part of every Santa Monica PTSA and PTA and on most if not all of the district advisory committees.

We are also an organization with mass meetings, a Steering Committee and a set of by-laws. Our by-laws empower the Steering Committee to support candidates and issues that are not endorsed at the conventions. We have done it before and will, undoubtedly, do it again.

PATRICIA HOFFMAN is the co-chair of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights.

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The Libertarian Perspective

Fred E. Foldvary
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A new drinking age?

IN 1984, BIG BROTHER DECREED THAT young adults be prohibited from ingesting alcohol. That year, Congress passed the "National Uniform 21 Minimum Drinking Age Act." Before 1984, the drinking age had been set by the states, which have the Constitutional authority to legislate criminal law. There is no Constitutional authority for the federal government to set a legal drinking age.

The states had various alcohol minimum-age drinking laws, ranging from 18 to 21 years of age. During the Vietnam War, more states lowered the drinking age to 18 in response to the new voting amendment letting 18-year-olds vote, and the complaint that young men who were old enough to be drafted into the army were not allowed to drink.

I grew up in California, where the drinking age was 21. When I was 18, a friend and I traveled around the Southwest by car. In Colorado, the drinking age was 18. We toured a beer brewery and drank our first legal beers, courtesy of the brewery. We did not rush out and drive recklessly. We each enjoyed one glass of beer, and then we drove responsibly, as we had been doing. I have had a fondness for that beer brand ever since.

But the anti-alcohol lobby was alarmed by the various drinking ages. They said we needed a national standard so that teens such as my friend and I would not drive to another state to drink legally. Anti-drinking interests such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) also claim that the 21 minimum age law has saved thousands of lives.

Now there is a movement to eliminate the federal minimum age requirement. A group of college chancellors and presidents have recognized that the law fails to stop teenage drinking, just as the general prohibition of alcohol during the 1920s failed to eliminate drinking among adults. As long as students do not drive when under the influence, drinking a beer is a victimless crime, and victimless crime laws that go against the prevailing culture are bound to fail, just like the alcohol prohibition of the 1920s.

There are several arguments against the minimum drinking age of 21.

First, the federal mandate violates the 10th Amendment, which restricts federal authority to those powers specifically granted to it by the Constitution. The federal government routinely gets around this constraint by offering conditional grants to the states. A states loses 10 percent of its federal highway grant money if it does not have a 21-year minimum age law. It seems to me that this bypass should be declared unconstitutional, since in effect it erases the 10th Amendment.

Second, even if the age-21 law has reduced traffic accidents, that utilitarian argument does not justify the law.

If the drinking age were increased to 30 years and strictly enforced, that would reduce accidents too, yet few people would favor such a rule because it would be offset by the decrease in the pursuit of happiness by those who enjoy their drinks, and it would violate the rights of adults to the liberty of choosing how to live.

Moreover, there are alternative ways to reduce traffic accidents, including better education and focusing law enforcement to apply strict and stiff penalties to anyone who endangers others.

Our federal and state constitutions declare that we have rights and freedoms that would be voided if utilitarian rationales prevail. Ultimately, the greatest social utility is liberty, which trumps lesser utilitarian arguments, so even utilitarianism favors maximizing liberty.

Finally, the 21 minimum age law is in conflict with the legal concept of a "bright line." Teenagers gradually become more mature, so any age of adulthood is arbitrary, but it is beneficial to have some "bright line" at which all persons are recognized as adults with full rights, unless there are well-reasoned exceptions for specific persons or groups such as those in prison. An adult may enter into contracts, vote, serve on juries, and join the armed forces. Thus the bright line should also include the legal right to drink alcohol. In addition, criminalizing harmless acts instills greater disrespect for the law.

Congress should repeal the "National Uniform 21 Minimum Drinking Age Act" and stop interfering with the constitutional authority of the states to enact criminal law. If a state government keeps the age at 21, it would still violate the liberty of young adults, but at least it would not violate the spirit and grandeur of the Constitution of the United States of America.

FRED E. FOLDVARY teaches economics at Santa Clara University, where he is also an associate of the Civil Society Institute. His main areas of research include public finance, public choice, social ethics, and the economics of real estate.

The Q Line

Cheers

The Amethyst Initiative, a group of college and university presidents from around the country, claim the current legal age to drink needs to be lowered. It has sparked a nationwide debate regarding the controversial subject.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:
How would lowering the legal drinking age play out? Do you think it would lead to more problems or make young adults more responsible when it comes to binge drinking?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. Please limit responses to a minute or less.

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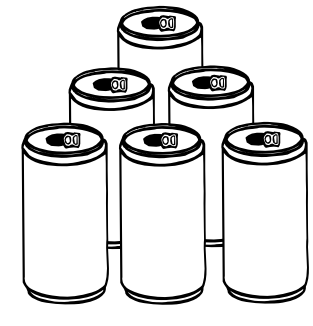
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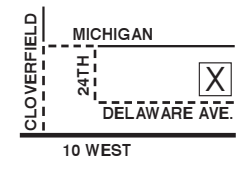

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Simple Real Food

Amanda Cushman
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Keeping you on the go

I AM ALWAYS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GET my vitamins and minerals without having to necessarily eat them in the form of food. I don't have time when I am running out the door to the gym or for a bike ride to eat something nor do I want to have food in my stomach right before exercising, so I have discovered a few products that can substitute for food and give you energy without caffeine or added sugar.

One of the drinks I have recently discovered is carpe diem kombucha ice tea and often drink it instead of water. It is a delicious blend of hibiscus bloom, rose hips, blackberry leaf, elder bloom, peppermint lefaf, lemon balm leaf and other herbs. Carpe diem kombucha's unique fermentation gives this complex tea a slightly fruity taste.

As a bit of background information, since kombucha was discovered around 200 B.C. as the "immortal health elixir" to the Qin Dynasty in China, this ancient tea has been associated with a holistic sense of well being and inner harmony between mind and body. With the trend gaining steam, many companies are jumping on board to create their own kombucha tea-based drinks made from this ancient elixir. Still, Whole Foods currently carries eight different brands of kombucha based drinks.

Fermented with pro-biotic-rich lactobacilli on a base of herbal tea, Carpe Diem kombucha's active enzyme culture is believed to stimulate the metabolism, increase blood circulation and strengthen the immune system.

When I am on the go and rushing around, water is not always enough for me. Sometimes I need that boost of energy but don't want caffeine or sugar as this leaves me feeling down within an hour.

Emergen-C is another great product which can be added to water as a flavoring and you can then get your vitamin C in without taking it in pill form. It can also be mixed into a smoothie with fresh fruit and is delicious.

Available in most markets and food stores, Emergen-C is available in a large variety of flavors such as lemon, tangerine, super orange and cranberry.

I often carry it with me when I travel to insure I have a healthy amount of C in my system.

I have a friend who recently completed a triathlon and introduced me to Shot Blok chews which are a semi-solid, easily chewable source of carbohydrates, your body's preferred source of fuel during activity

Made by the company that makes CLIF bars, the bloks are all about delivering great-tasting, scientifically-backed products to performance athletes. In other words, energy food can taste great and be made from good-for-the-planet ingredients.

All of the Shot Blok chews contain at least 70 mg of sodium and 20mg of potassium per serving (3 pieces). Shot Blok chews were designed for endurance athletes like cyclists, runners, mountain bikers, triathletes, adventure racers who were looking for increased eating options in their sports nutrition products. I must confess they are yummy and have a texture like Gummy Bears, so they are quite enjoyable.

I am not some kind of health freak, but I do like to get out there and exercise, and find mornings are the time to get it done.

I am not someone who enjoys eating when I just got up so if I am going to work out in whatever form, I often make a smoothie before leaving the house or enjoy one of the products mentioned above.

Here's how to make a smoothie of your own to keep you going.

Amanda's Favorite Smoothie
Serves 2

Ingredients:
1 packet of Emergen C fruit flavored powder
1 1/2 cups organic Almond milk
1 scoop protein powder
1 cup frozen organic fruit such as blueberries, strawberries or mixed fruit
1 ripe banana

Procedure:
Blend the above in a blender until smooth and pour into two glasses. Serve cold.

WHEN I AM ON THE GO AND RUSHING AROUND, WATER IS NOT ALWAYS ENOUGH FOR ME. SOMETIMES I NEED THAT BOOST OF ENERGY BUT DON'T WANT CAFFEINE OR SUGAR AS THIS LEAVES ME FEELING DOWN WITHIN AN HOUR.

AMANDA CUSHMAN is a culinary educator who has cooked professionally for 25 years. She teaches privately for groups of two to 20 students. She has developed hundreds of recipes for cookbooks as well as food magazines and Web sites. She can be reached amandascooking@gmail.com.

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Restaurant Snapshot

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Merv Hecht *news@smdp.com*

A CUT ABOVE: **Sushi chefs prepare meals at Wokcano, a hip new eatery that specializes in various forms of Asian cuisine.**

Wokcano erupts with creatively Asian cuisine

WOKCANO IS A GREAT FIND. A GOOD sushi bar, great Chinese food, a beautiful ambiance and a great late night venue. When the world discovers this place it is going to be packed. The outside walled-in patio is spectacular and a great place to sit under the sky on summer nights.

WHERE: 1413 Fifth St., just south of Santa Monica Boulevard.

WHEN: Lunch and dinner, seven days a week. Open until 2 a.m.

BEST DISHES: The sushi bar downstairs is as good as any except those few gourmet Japanese restaurants, such as Kiriko on Sawtelle and Olympic. There is a great selection of exotic rolls. As is usually the case, I prefer the spicy tuna and the yellowtail rolls. But don't ignore the Chinese dishes. I found the black pepper beef mignon delicious, and a great bargain at $12. I took enough home for another meal. The steak was cut into tender pieces with sautéed onions and just the right amount of pepper in the brown sauce. The Peking Duck ($26) was a bit of a disappointment because I prefer the steamed buns instead of pancakes, but the quality of the duck was excellent. The spicy seafood soup was wonderful.

BEST FEATURES: Just having a good Chinese restaurant in Downtown Santa Monica is wonderful. But this one has the added feature of a broad menu of excellent Chinese food, a sushi bar, and a place to go for music and a late night drink and snack. Finally, the prices are very reasonable, and we dined like kings for about $25 per person.

WORST FEATURE: I didn't find any negatives here.

WHAT TO DRINK: This is a chance to try well known sake brands. I had the Nigori unfiltered sake last time I was there. This tastes similar to unsweetened coconut milk, and looks the same. The wine list has all the usual suspects on it without a lot of discrimination, but it has the advantages of breadth of selection, and a variety of wines by the glass, which is a big plus for me, because I like to try three or four different wines at a restaurant like this with a great selection of different foods.

BOTTOM LINE: Get there soon, because in time, even though it's a very large restaurant, it will be standing room only.

Red, white and food

HEY KIDS! DID YOU KNOW THAT pizza, burritos, tacos and sushi were not authentic American foods? Even "French fries," sorry, "American fries," come from Belgium. Who knows what is American food? Well, when I was a kid in the Midwest we ate hamburgers, fried chicken, BBQ and apple pie! Where can you get that strange stuff now? Hooters!

WHERE: 321 Santa Monica Blvd.

WHEN: Open at 11 a.m., seven days a week, to 11 p.m. on Sundays, to midnight Monday through Thursday, and until 1 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

BEST DISHES: The fried chicken wings are good, primarily because there's a terrific selection of dipping sauces. The burgers are good. But for me the pulled BBQ pork sandwich is the winner. It's a big menu and there's something for everyone.

BEST FEATURE: Take a break from sushi. Watch sports on the big screen TV's, or sit on the quiet outside patio and watch the world go by.

WORST FEATURE: The waitresses seem a bit uncomfortable in their unnecessarily scanty clothing, and when they bend down to serve the food it can distract from any intellectual conversation. The sex-ploitation is a bit of a turnoff, but sometimes it seems like good fun.

WHAT TO DRINK: Anything you want. Try sangria for a change.

BOTTOM LINE: This is surprisingly good, traditionally American food in a convenient location. It's also a great place to sit outside in the heart of Santa Monica for people watching.

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

Metro Briefs
WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

Find Out About Measure R

Residents of LA County may be asked to vote on Measure R this November. If passed, Measure R is projected to generate $40 billion for countywide congestion relief projects over the next 30 years through a half-cent sales tax. For complete details on Measure R, please check the website at *metro.net/measureR*.

Metro Never Looked So Good

Metro Rail ridership is up 20% this summer to nearly 325,000 daily and riders on Metro buses increased 6.5% to more than 1.2 million a day. For little more than the price of a gallon of gas, the Metro Day Pass lets you ride Metro all day. Find out more at *metro.net*.

Metro Takes Pasadena, Downtown To Eastside

The tracks are being laid this month joining the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension with the existing Gold Line to Pasadena as construction nears an end. The six-mile extension of the line that will link downtown LA with Little Tokyo/Arts District, Boyle Heights and East LA opens in 2009.

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If you'd like to know more, please call us at 1.800.464.2111, or visit *metro.net*.

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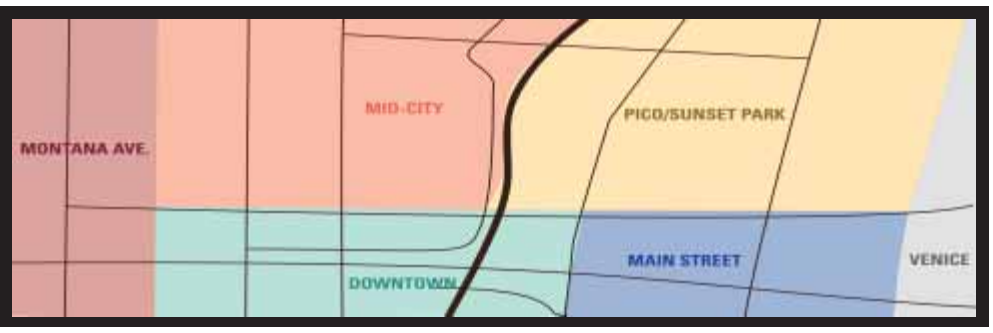
YOUR GUIDE TO DINING IN Santa Monica, Brentwood, West LA and Venice Beach



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westside DISH

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Shriver fails to receive endorsement

FROM **ENDORSEMENTS** PAGE 1

Recreation and Parks Commissioner Ted Winter, and Shriver all received at least 20 percent and requested a second round of voting. Both Winterer and Shriver went onto the third round where they again failed to get at least 60 percent.

The outcome came as a surprise considering that the club's executive committee just a few weeks ago voted to recommend Shriver for an endorsement.

Shriver said he had spent the past four years working on causes that he considered values to the Democratic Party, including advocating for homeless and veterans' rights and fighting to clean the polluted Santa Monica Bay.

He added that he doesn't know any other group of Democrats who would've failed to endorse him, stressing that he would've received support based on his work and not his name or background.

Shriver is the nephew of late President John F. Kennedy and is the brother-in-law to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

"I think it's pretty shocking to me as a Democrat," he said.

There are 13 candidates who qualified to run for the council but only eight were considered for endorsements. Mayor Herb Katz, who is a member of the club, was not present because he wasn't feeling well. Linda Armstrong, who has run for the council in the past and is also a club member, was also absent.

Those in the mix included newcomers Michael Kovac and Herbert Silverstein, and Jerry Rubin, who co-founded the Santa Monica Treesavers with Hartley, who is an attorney.

> **"THEY'RE SUPPORTING MORE GROWTH AND DENSITY AND HEIGHT AND TRAFFIC AS WELL AS DESTRUCTION OF OUR URBAN FOREST."**
>
> **Susan Hartley**
> City Council candidate

Sitting amongst signs that call for the end of the war and the election of Barack Obama, more than 60 local Democrats heard from candidates for the Board of Education, the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees and the Rent Control Board.

Incumbent Joel Koury and Christopher Braun, who are running for the Rent Control Board, received endorsements by acclimation. College board incumbents Margaret Q. Quiñónez-Pérez, Susan Aminoff and Rob Rader also received the nod.

School board candidates Ralph Mechur, who is running to fill the remaining two years on former member Emily Bloomfield's seat, former UC Regent Ben Allen, and incumbents Maria Leon-Vazquez and Jose Escarce received endorsements. Escarce went through a second round of voting after narrowly missing the 60 percent mark and came out successful.

It was a difference from when Escarce received the endorsement of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights last month. The two-term board member failed to secure the endorsement of the general membership during the convention by less than a percent. He later received support from the political group's Steering Committee about a week later in a move that has been criticized by some members.

Chris Bley, a school teacher in Brentwood who grew up in Santa Monica, did not receive an endorsement.

"I'm obviously disappointed, especially with all the work and history I've done with the Democratic Party," Bley said. "But I'm going to continue to work hard, continue to hit the streets and get people to know who I am and run a strong campaign."

Bley previously worked for three Democratic National Conventions from 1996-2004.

A sizable portion of the school board discussion surrounded the issues in the district's special education department, which has come under fire by a group of parents and city officials over the past year.

One member asked Escarce to talk about his involvement with the controversy, to which he apologized for previous decisions that he had made.

"There are a number of policy decisions the board made and implemented by staff that have been misguided and should not have been implemented," Escarce said. "My main goal right now is to contribute as much as I can and forcefully can to make special education better."

As expected, the City Council discussion touched on matters related to development and City Hall's tree policy.

Development has been a hot topic as of late. Residents this fall will be asked to vote on Proposition T, which seeks to limit commercial development in the city to 75,000 square feet a year.

Among the most outspoken on both the ficus tree and development issues has been Hartley, who said she was disappointed to see the democratic club be "same ol', same ol'" in endorsing two incumbents.

"They're supporting more growth and density and height and traffic as well as destruction of our urban forest," she said.

While the city's residents tilt toward liberalism, the Democratic Club nomination could carry some weight in what could be a tight election.

"For a lot of people in Santa Monica, one of the first questions you hear is are you a Democrat or a Republican?" Bloom said. "This is a heavily democratic city and (the endorsement) is very helpful, I'm happy to say."

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

ON THE PROWL: **A Parking Enforcement vehicle patrols the streets in search of parking violators.**

City considers beefing up parking enforcement

FROM **PARKING** PAGE 1

"It's much more efficient," Lt. Kathy Keane with the Traffic Services Division at SMPD said. "We don't have to use personnel for chalking tire after tire and going back and finding all the work is for nothing."

The cameras are still under consideration and no final decision is close to being made.

Chalking is a common monitoring method used in the Downtown garages where drivers don't have to pull a ticket. Parking in the garages, which abut Santa Monica Place, is free for three hours.

Many drivers who park in the garage all day will check their tires every three hours, moving their cars or erasing the chalk marks by rubbing tires with the bottoms of their shoes or hands.

The city of Davis adopted the system in June 2005, placing the camera on one of the parking enforcement vehicles. The request came after the City Council placed a parking restriction in Downtown Davis, prohibiting drivers who exceed the two-hour limit from returning to the same block for another four hours.

The cameras were a collaboration of the Davis Police Department, the city of Davis, and the Davis Downtown Business Association, according to Joy Cohan, the association's administrator.

It was adopted as a way to determine whether those who used parking the most, which were the employees, actually abided by the rules, Cohan said.

The Davis City Council spent about $80,000 to purchase equipment for one parking enforcement vehicle that monitors one of four routes in the entire city. The result is fewer parking citations, according to Denny Yau, a parking enforcement officer for the Davis PD.

Whereas the department issued about 28,000 citations a year, that number has gone down to about 22,000.

While some have claimed that the system was adopted for purely financial reasons, the department has actually seen revenue stay the same.

"The threat of getting ticketed and getting a car booted has gotten folks to be compliant and they're a little more careful of paying parking tickets on time," Yau said.

Yau's referring to another effect of the cameras, which can scan license plates and find offenders who have unpaid parking tickets.

The software also allows officers to find vehicles tagged by an Amber Alert and stolen cars.

Cohan believes the system has worked well in Davis, resulting in more employees purchasing permits.

"I think overall the cameras have done what we hoped they would do," she said.

The SMPD currently has one patrol vehicle that is equipped with similar technology that is used to find stolen vehicles.

"There's a lot that can be done with the system," Keane said.

At least one issue is keeping city officials from possibly moving forward — the price. Keane said the department is considering doing a cost analysis to show that the system could pay for itself in the long run.

The news was met with disdain by Skyeler Hawkins, a Malibu resident who grew up in Santa Monica and currently works in the city.

"I think it's whack," he said while parked at the mall garage. "It's another way for the city to earn revenue and the city is wealthy enough."

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Budget has been held up for months

FROM **BUDGET** PAGE 3

their disappointing performance.

"You can have the power," the governor said. "I alone can't do the lifting."

Schwarzenegger's departure from his "no tax" pledge has received harsh criticism from his longtime political confidant, former Gov. Pete Wilson.

While attending the Republican National Convention in Minnesota this week, Wilson dismissed comparisons between Schwarzenegger's plight this year and the budget he signed in 1991. That spending plan contained a similar mix of cuts and tax increases, but it dealt with a comparatively greater shortfall.

Wilson said the recession at that time led to a deficit equaling one-third of the state's general fund budget. He also said he and the Legislature did not engage in deficit spending, which has been the common practice since then.

When neither Democrats nor Republicans were willing to go for "difficult spending cuts," Wilson said he was forced to propose $7 billion in tax hikes.

Schwarzenegger was scheduled to speak during the convention but has repeatedly said he would not attend while the budget deadlock drags on. He argued his plan is different from previous budget deals because it includes steps for long-term fiscal reforms that would prevent the state from having massive spending gaps in the future.

Schwarzenegger's proposal includes giving the governor authority to make midyear spending cuts when revenues fall and would boost the state's rainy day fund.

He noted that Democrats' plan to raise $8.2 billion by boosting taxes on corporations and wealthy Californians was voted down in the Legislature. And he expected a Republican plan to fail if it comes up for a vote later this week because it relies on borrowing.

He likened the GOP plan to the personal budget of a family that already has overextended itself but decides to take out another credit card. The Republicans' plan would leave it to a future governor and Legislature to solve the state's ongoing imbalance between spending and revenue, Schwarzenegger said.

"They call themselves fiscally conservative and fiscally responsible. I don't agree with that," the governor said. "It kicks the can down the alley."

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Police hunt for serial killer of 11

BY THOMAS WATKINS
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Porter Alexander last saw his youngest daughter one evening in September 1988 as the 18-year-old ran out for what was supposed to be a quick trip to the store.

Four days later, police knocked at the front door of the family home. They'd found the body of Alicia Monique Alexander in a nearby alley with a gunshot wound in the chest.

Los Angeles police detectives say Alexander was the victim of a serial killer who has claimed the lives of at least nine other women and a man in a two-part string of violence spanning more than two decades. All the victims were black and were found in or near South Los Angeles. Police believe some of the women were prostitutes.

"I said make sure you go to the store and come back. She says, 'OK,'" Porter Alexander said. "She left, and that was the last time I saw my baby."

Monique Alexander was the last known victim in the first round of killings. In a three-year period starting August 1985, six other women and a man were also murdered. All eight were killed with the same handgun.

The women had been sexually assaulted and their bodies were often dumped in the same alley in South Los Angeles.

A 13-year hiatus followed Alexander's death, police said, and investigators retired or moved on to other cases.

"What accounted for that gap, we still don't know," police Capt. Denis Cremins said at a news conference Wednesday, before the Los Angeles City Council approved a $500,000 reward in the case. "We try not to engage in conjecture."

The hiatus ended in March 2002, when 14-year-old Princess Berthomieux was found beaten and strangled in an alley in the city of Inglewood. DNA samples linked her to the suspect in the earlier murders.

Another killing came in 2003, and the most recent homicide was in January 2007 when the body of Janecia Peters, 25, was found shot and covered in a garbage bag.

The length of time between the killings prompted the LA Weekly newspaper, which first reported the case, to dub the killer the "Grim Sleeper."

Though police have a DNA sample, only one physical description of the killer exists, taken from a victim who survived a 1988 attack. She said the assailant was a black man in his 30s driving an orange Ford Pinto.

"But that's one person's account who was traumatized," Cremins said.

Investigators are poring through prison and jail records to screen prisoners with a violent history who were locked up during the break in the killings. Authorities also hope to search DNA databases to see if there are any possible matches to the killer's family members.

Parts of Los Angeles suffered extreme violence in the 1980s and '90s and many young women turned to the streets to fund new-found addictions to crack cocaine and other drugs.

Chester Turner, a pizza deliveryman, was convicted last year and sentenced to death for killing 10 women and a fetus in Los Angeles in the 1980s and '90s. Turner was serving an eight-year sentence for a 2002 rape when his DNA was linked to the murders. Nearly all his victims were impoverished women or prostitutes.

Study: New way to spot breast cancer shows promise

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Medical Writer

A radioactive tracer that "lights up" cancer hiding inside dense breasts showed promise in its first big test against mammograms, revealing more tumors and giving fewer false alarms, doctors reported Wednesday.

The experimental method — molecular breast imaging, or MBI — would not replace mammograms for women at average risk of the disease.

But it might become an additional tool for higher risk women with a lot of dense tissue that makes tumors hard to spot on mammograms, and it could be done at less cost than an MRI, or magnetic resonance imaging. About one-fourth of women 40 and older have dense breasts.

"MBI is a promising technology" that is already in advanced testing, said Carrie Hruska, a biomedical engineer at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., which has been working on it for six years.

She gave results in a telephone news briefing Wednesday and will present them later this week at an American Society of Clinical Oncology conference in Washington, D.C.

Mammograms — a type of X-ray — are the chief way now to check for breast cancer. MBI uses radiation, too, but in a different way. Women are given an intravenous dose of a short-acting tracer that is absorbed more by abnormal cells than healthy ones. Special cameras collect the "glow" these cells give off, and doctors look at the picture to spot tumors.

Researchers tried both methods, on 940 women who had dense breasts and a high risk of cancer because of family history, bad genes or other reasons.

Thirteen tumors were found in 12 women — eight by MBI alone, one by mammography alone, two by both methods and two by neither.

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STATE BRIEFS

SACRAMENTO

Single-payer health care plan passes Assembly

A universal health care plan is headed for the governor's desk again.

The bill by state Sen. Sheila Kuehl, a Santa Monica Democrat, would create a state-financed Medicare-for-all style system to cover all Californians. It cleared the state Assembly on Friday by a 43-31 vote.

The plan would be funded through state and federal appropriations, patient premiums and co-payments limited annually to $250 per person or $500 per family.

Supporters say it would rein in costs and implement a system used successfully by other developed countries. Opponents contend it would lead to delays in medical care.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed the 2006 version of the measure. His spokeswoman Lisa Page told The Associated Press that the governor does not believe Kuehl's bill is the right way to go for health care reform, and would veto it. ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

$350 million high school finally opens

A decade behind schedule, a $350 million high school has finally opened in downtown Los Angeles after years of environmental, seismic and legal troubles.

More than 2,000 students streamed into the Edward R. Roybal Learning Center on Wednesday, years after it was planned as an education showplace to relieve overcrowded classrooms.

Much of what was then called the Belmont Learning Center was already constructed before fears grew about toxic gases rising from the old oil field upon which it was built, and an earthquake fault that crosses the site.

Lengthy investigations found no criminal wrongdoing, but in 2003 District Attorney Steve Cooley labeled the project "a public works disaster of biblical proportions." AP

MADERA

Missing woman, 71, found alive in Sierra

A 71-year-old woman who disappeared after going on a walk with her dog in the Sierra National Forest has been found alive. Madera County Sheriff's officials say Ruth Elaine Terry was found Wednesday morning after her dog was spotted running down a hillside north of Wagner's Mammoth Pool resort, where she had been staying.

More than seven dog teams and 65 people on foot had been looking for Terry since she failed to return Sunday from what was supposed to be a 400-yard walk.

Authorities say Terry took a new route and became disoriented. On Wednesday morning, she found a trail and ended up on her original path. Authorities say Terry is in good condition but was taken to a hospital for a checkup. AP

SAN DIEGO

Jury says SDG&E negligent in helicopter crash

A jury has found San Diego Gas & Electric negligent in the deaths of four Marines who were killed when their helicopter hit an unlit utility tower on Camp Pendleton in 2004.

Jurors on Wednesday awarded more than $15 million in economic damages in a wrongful-death lawsuit brought by the families of the Marines.

The jury found the utility failed to install safety lights to prevent accidents. During the trial, lawyers for SDG&E said crash was not the result of negligence but rather pilot error.

Jurors were scheduled later Wednesday to consider possible punitive damages against SDG&E. AP

LOS ANGELES

Fire extinguisher goes off on bus at LAX

A fire extinguisher went off on an airport shuttle bus Wednesday, coating passengers with thick white powder but causing no injuries, authorities said. The extinguisher was set off aboard a Los Angeles International Airport FlyAway bus picking up passengers outside Terminal 1 at about 10:30 a.m., airport spokeswoman Nancy Castles said. "A passenger with a large carry-on bag accidentally discharged the on-board fire extinguisher," she said. "It caused a loud noise and it also caused a white powdery substance to be released." She said she didn't know how many people were aboard. A Fire Department hazardous materials squad was sent to the scene to clean up the extinguisher chemicals. Several lanes on the lower-level ring road in front of the terminal were briefly closed but the upper road and the terminal itself, which handles Southwest and US Airways, remained open, she said. AP

SAN DIEGO

Report: Some UCSD emergency loans fraudulent

An audit by the University of California, San Diego, has found that at least 13 percent of emergency loans granted to campus employees were based in part on fraudulent documents. The review of the UCSD Employee Emergency Loan Fund found $15,000 in questionable loans to employees who applied to borrow up to $1,000 each through the assistance program, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported Wednesday.

The newspaper reported that two university employees knowingly approved fraudulent loans between 2006 and 2007. The investigation began after a manager spotted two suspect loan applications. AP

LOS ANGELES

Phillips charged with drug possession

Former teen star Mackenzie Phillips has been charged with felony possession of drugs after she was allegedly found carrying narcotics at Los Angeles International Airport.

District Attorney's spokeswoman Jane Robison said Wednesday that Philips was charged with two felony counts of possession of a controlled substance, heroin and cocaine. She also faces a misdemeanor count of unauthorized possession of a needle or syringe. The 48-year-old Phillips is out on $20,000 bail.

Phillips was heading to New York when she failed to pass a security screening and a secondary search turned up needles and suspected drugs. Phillips is the daughter of John Phillips, founder of The Mamas and the Papas pop group. She was fired from "One Day At a Time" in 1982 for drug-related reasons. AP

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Immigration issues resurface on ballots of a number of states

BY JULIA SILVERMAN
Associated Press Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. In a high school classroom, Xavier Chavez is trying to teach a group of restless teenagers about Manifest Destiny — the 19th century belief that the United States was divinely fated to stretch from sea to shining sea.

But these students are children of immigrants, and they first have to learn English. They might soon have to learn it faster if Oregon voters approve a ballot measure in November to limit the amount of time students can spend in English-as-a-second-language classes.

The proposal, modeled after similar laws in California, Arizona and Massachusetts, is one of a handful of immigration-related ballot measures that will appear this fall on state and local ballots across the nation.

"We call it the battle of the states," said William Gheen, president of the North Carolina-based group Americans for Legal Immigration. "More people have tried to get something like this on the ballot this year than ever before."

A year ago, groups that wanted to crack down on illegal immigration had hoped to push the topic front-and-center in the presidential campaign.

But the once-explosive issue has simmered down nationally, particularly since both major presidential candidates have endorsed a "path to citizenship" for the country's estimated 12 million illegal immigrants.

Now the immigration battles in November will be fought on ballots in Oregon, Missouri and California.

There are 64,000 non-English speakers enrolled in Oregon's public schools, the vast majority of whom are Spanish speakers.

The proposal would limit high school students to two years of ESL classes, even less for younger students.

Chavez and his fellow teachers acknowledge that most of their students pick up colloquial English within two years, giving them enough fluency to poke fun at a teammate, answer a text message or order a slice of pizza.

Faculty members worry instead about academic English — the skills that will let students succeed in advanced classes, whether they are deconstructing Beowulf or reciting the principles of photosynthesis.

The Oregon initiative is "just a diversion to the real problems," Chavez said. "We are not looking at what English language learners need. We are just looking to take away. Let's talk about the quality of instruction."

Chavez's students have mixed feelings about the proposal, partly depending on future goals.

Carlos Perez, 17, took Chavez's summer history course to catch up after oversleeping and often missing his first-period class during the school year. He thought limiting ESL to just two years would be no problem for him or his friends.

But Beatriz Munoz, 16, who said she wants to be a doctor or a lawyer, sharply disagreed.

"For me, it is not enough, just two years," said Munoz, who is transferring to a private Catholic school in Portland with a strong academic reputation. "I am worried, what if I don't understand? I have to go to college."

Long-term studies have shown that full mastery of academic English takes five to seven years, said Dr. Jim Cummins, a professor at the University of Toronto who specializes in second language acquisition and literacy development.

Cummins said non-English speakers are trying to catch up to a moving target as their English-speaking classmates also improve. And complex academic language isn't something students can pick up on the streets, he said, because it's generally used only in classrooms or textbooks.

But Bill Sizemore, sponsor of the Oregon measure and a longtime anti-tax activist who was the GOP's gubernatorial nominee in 1998, said the measure was intended to help immigrants, not sideline them.

He said schools warehouse their students in ESL courses for longer than necessary to keep federal and state money flowing. If Oregonians approve the change, students will join the mainstream faster with the tools they need to compete, he said.

Voters in Arizona approved a similar measure in 2000. Since then, there's been no reduction in the dropout rate, and no evidence that ESL students are doing any better on standardized tests, said Beth Witt, who is involved in Arizona's ESL organization.

In Missouri, voters will decide whether to make English the only language of state government. Passage of the measure would affect ballots, drivers' license exams and other documents. Similar law are already in place in 30 other states.

In California, immigrant-related language is tucked into a broad-ranging crime-measure, Proposition 6, that would eliminate bail for illegal immigrants charged with violent or gang-related felonies, and require sheriffs to inform federal immigration officials when illegal immigrants are arrested.

But in another sign that the potency of the immigration issue might be waning, efforts to place anti-immigrant measures on the ballot fizzled in Arkansas and Oklahoma. A few states, including Florida, even have pro-immigrant measures on the ballot.

Gheen, the anti-illegal-immigration activist, said that once illegal immigration crackdowns make the ballot, they tend to pass. But in order to get onto the ballot, they need a benefactor who can bankroll costly signature-gathering efforts.

The Oregon initiative did have a benefactor, a wealthy medical equipment manufacturer named Loren Parks.

He lives in Nevada and has poured millions of dollars into putting conservative-leaning measures onto the Oregon ballot.

Many voters deem Palin pregnancy a private matter

BY JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

Rebecca Horvath was an undecided voter before the news broke about Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and her 17-year-old unmarried daughter's pregnancy.

The Tennessee mother of two is exactly the kind of voter who will decide this presidential election. And the news has not changed her views one iota.

"This has nothing to do with the campaign," says Horvath, 32, who as both a woman and a self-described Reagan Democrat is in two groups being wooed in this fiercely contested race. "That's been my thought from the beginning. Campaign issues are health care, education, the Iraq war — not a candidate's daughter being pregnant."

Just as Sen. John McCain's surprise choice of Palin made headlines a few days earlier, the revelation of her daughter's pregnancy has sent shock waves across the political landscape — and spawned countless Web references to "Juno from Juneau," a play on the name of last year's popular movie about a pregnant teen.

But what do voters really think? Will the pregnancy reflect negatively on Palin or on the man who chose her? Or will Palin's predicament instead humanize her and draw some sympathy votes?

Interviews across the country by The Associated Press on Tuesday found many said it should be a private matter. Yet some of these same people wondered whether Palin could be an effective vice president and deal with the obligations of parenting both her own and her children's children.

Back when teen star Jamie Lynn Spears revealed she was pregnant at 16, chatter centered on her mother — more famous for her older daughter, Britney — and whether she was somehow to blame.

But in Palin's case, voters of all political stripes expressed the view that parental guidance only goes so far.

"As a parent, you cannot be totally responsible for your child," noted Kurt Farrell, a 71-year-old Atlanta resident. "This is not a crime, and it doesn't mean she did not do her job. You can't guide your child 100 percent."

The story, he said, is simply "not our business."

Farrell, who is originally from Trinidad and is a staunch Barack Obama supporter, added he was certain Obama wouldn't use Palin's personal situation to gain political leverage, and indeed Obama has said forcefully that he believes candidates' children are off limits.

But one supporter of the Illinois senator felt the information was fair game. "It gives you insight about her," said Joanell Williams, a 37-year-old high school teacher from Hahnville, La., who fled Hurricane Gustav and was visiting relatives in Atlanta.

"What I keep asking myself is, if you can't take care of your own household, how can you take care of the nation?" said Williams. "If she is so strong on conservative values why wasn't she able to get that through at home? My mother raised seven daughters ... None of us came home pregnant."

Others expressed the view that the pregnancy says more about McCain than Palin. Though his campaign says he knew about the pregnancy beforehand, questions persist about how thoroughly McCain vetted the candidate and how much interaction they had before he announced the surprise selection last Friday.

And the question is an important one, says political scholar Steven Cohen, because the choice of a running mate is a candidate's first major presidential decision.

Whereas Obama appeared to take the long road to selecting a VP, naming a committee that included Caroline Kennedy, McCain by contrast "appears like he was a student cramming at the last minute for an exam," said Cohen, a professor of public administration at Columbia University.

Wendell Eubanks, a 46-year-old pastor from Chicago, had his doubts about Palin. "If I'm running for office, I have to lead by example," said Eubanks, a Democrat who has a Sunday gospel show on the radio. "How can you lead the country, if you can't lead your own family?"

Others argued that while Palin's problems show she's a mother with challenges like anyone else, she still has to answer for her views on sex education. She has said she opposes funding for such programs.

"No sex education in the classroom has brought results in unwanted pregnancies," said Michael Allen, a 54-year-old epidemiologist in Harrisburg, Pa., who supports Obama. As for McCain, Allen said, the episode shows that he "made a political decision without thinking much about the actual consequences."

There was also the question of whether Palin, a mother of five, should consider taking on a job like vice president given two current demands on her as a mother: a baby with Down syndrome, and a teenage daughter soon to give birth.

Claire Dent, a housewife from Marietta, Ga., said that as an opponent of abortion rights, she applauded Bristol Palin's decision to keep her baby. But she was "a little squeamish," nonetheless, at the Alaska governor seeking the vice presidency.

"Only she knows what she's capable of," said Dent, 32, a Republican. "I just know that it wouldn't be something I would do."

One feeling seemed unanimous among voters interviewed: Sympathy for Bristol Palin herself, who surely didn't seek the kind of publicity she's being subjected to.

"If I were her ... I wouldn't want to be used as an example of how people might see my mother," said Leslie Jacobs, 20, a student in the Dayton, Ohio, suburb of Oakwood who is undecided in the race. "She's not the one who is running with John McCain."

Chicagoan Jean Kohn, a self-described "proud black Republican," said that while Bristol Palin's pregnancy should have no place in the election, her mother's honesty was admirable — a sentiment that was not purely Republican.

"I think just the fact that she's supporting her daughter in her decision is admirable and commendable," said Obama supporter Damita Coats, 39, a mother of two young children in Bowie, Md.

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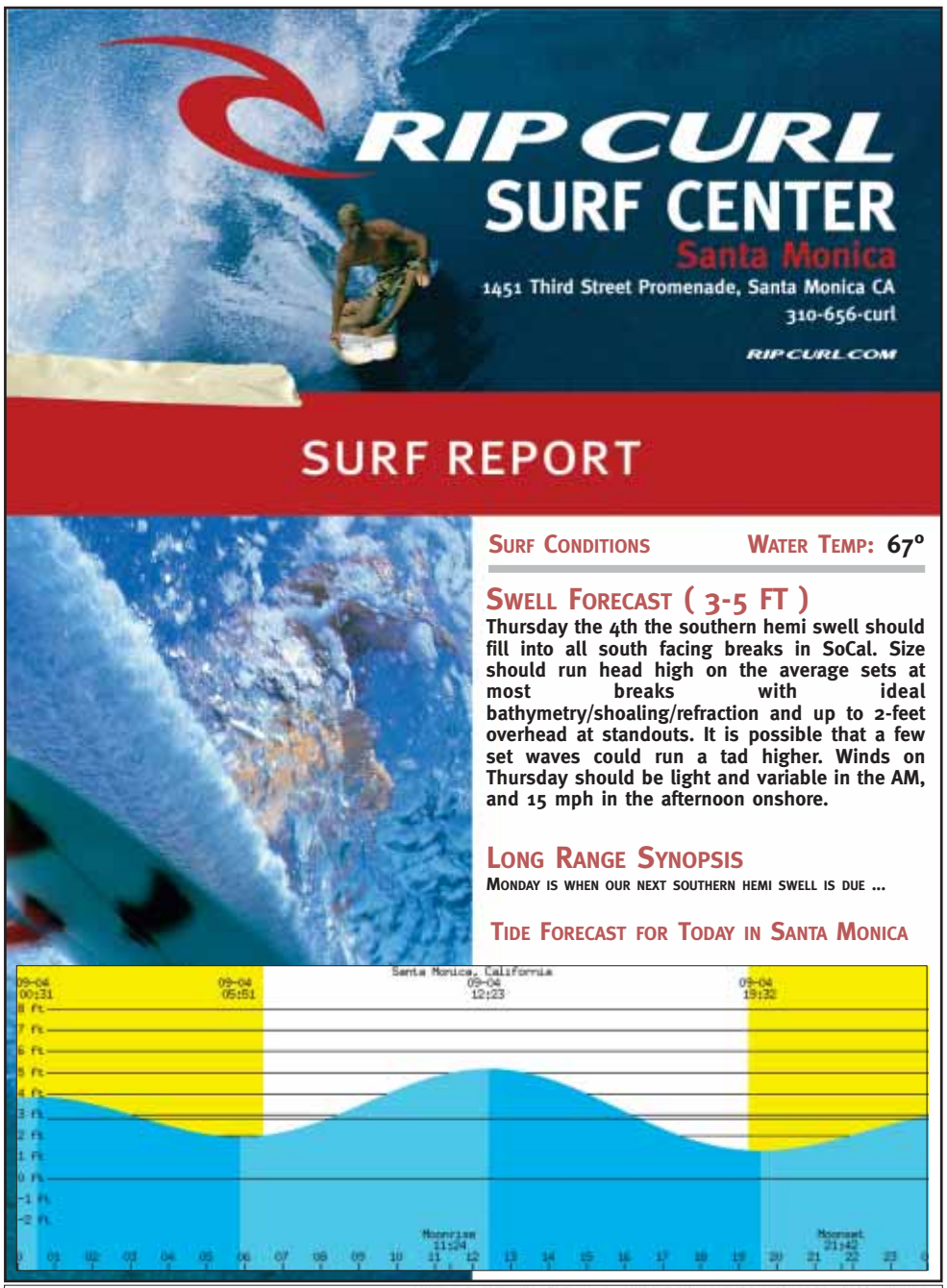

AUTO RACING

Private club puts wealthy drivers on the fast track

BY MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press Writer

MONTICELLO, N.Y. Bill McMichael braked his new Ferrari F430 Scuderia into the turn, downshifting as he went into the corner. Then he punched it on the straightaway. Pedal down, engine whining an octave higher, the sleek, black car closed in on 140 mph within seconds.

Acting like a lead-foot is OK here at the Monticello Motor Club. Actually, speeding is pretty much the reason the exclusive club opened this summer in the Catskills.

Down the road, gasoline goes for around $3.70 a gallon and drivers think twice before making errands. But at this private club, work is going ahead full throttle to transform an old airport into a playground with pit stops for people who can pony up the $125,000 entry fee. If Monticello's operators worry about launching a luxury club as the economy sputters, they don't show it.

They offer what they hope is a recession-proof offer to wealthy people with a Lamborghini or Lotus in their garage: Come and drive as fast as you can whenever you want.

"It's the most exciting thing I've ever done," said McMichael, an entrepreneur who is a partner and chief executive officer at Monticello. "I've played almost every sport you can imagine. Nothing gives me the same sensation, the excitement, the thrill of driving a really fast car on a track."

The Monticello track had a "soft" opening June 29 amid the hills and lakes of the old Borscht Belt northwest of New York City. Right now, business is conducted mostly out of an elaborate two-story tent, but the club is building a spa, condominiums and a fancy restaurant.

Monticello essentially is a high-end, for-profit country club where members tool around in performance cars instead of golf carts. The vibe here — with its helipad and storage garage loaded with European sports cars — is more Formula One than NASCAR, even though racer Jeff Gordon is a member.

The club's centerpiece, a 4.1-mile track that pretzels around the hilly landscape, is already in use. Chief operating officer and partner Ari Strauss said the special surface is "grippier" than normal roads, all the better for fast turns. McMichael was like a proud father as he recently gave a high-speed tour in his $290,000 Ferrari.

"This is one of the nicest turns on the whole course," he said, easing the steering wheel slightly. "It's an eight-degree bank, a very long, left-hand sweeper. It's one of our signature turns. It's like famous golf courses have signature holes."

Worried about spinning out? The club has that covered.

Onsite driving instructors have a "skid pad" to teach members what to do when their precious cars start moving sideways at 120 mph. Strauss demonstrated skid techniques in his Ford GT, calmly spinning doughnuts as his tire treads squealed and, literally, went up in smoke.

Drivers who pay the $125,000 entry fee still must pay $7,500 in annual dues. Monticello's application form asks would-be members to check one of three boxes indicating their net worth. There is no category below $5 million. This is clearly a club aimed at Wall Street types, executives and high-end professionals. Members are generally "north of $20 million," McMichael said.

Members include James Glickenhaus, an investment manager who made a splash a couple of years ago for spending an estimated $4 million on a custom Ferrari P4/5 by Pininfarina, and New York City businessman Harry Schessel. Both are fans of the squiggling turns and long straightaways.

"It's probably the most unique driving experience in the world right now," Schessel said.

There are other tracks in the nation that cater to people who want to drive fast, though often at cheaper rates. MotorSport Ranch near Dallas, for instance, was established in 1996 and advertises initiation fees of $3,400 and $12,000, depending on membership level.

A big selling point for Monticello is that it's 90 minutes from the stop-and-go streets of Manhattan. And it's for members only (except for corporate events on the southern section). That's a different business model from Lime Rock Park in neighboring Connecticut, which hosts racing events and rents out to car clubs.

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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 -- 37 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 9 / ns

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	C	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	C	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	C	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (paint zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	D	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	C	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	D	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	D	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	B	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DBW jetty)	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns

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

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

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

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

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MOVIE TIMES

AERO THEATRE
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Call theatre for information.

AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

College (R) 1hr 34min
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

Hamlet 2 (R) 1hr 32min
1:00, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:30

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG-13) 1hr 36min
12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20

The Rocker (PG-13) 1hr 42min
1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:45

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Disaster Movie (PG-13) 1hr 30min
12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00

Death Race (R) 1hr 29min
12:20, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:35

Fly Me to The Moon 3-D (G) 1hr 30min
12:30, 2:45, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30

Tropic Thunder (R) 1hr 47min
12:05, 1:40, 2:40, 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 7:50, 9:50, 10:25

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor, The (PG-13) 1hr 54min
4:55, 10:30

Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2, The (PG-13) 1hr 57min
1:50, 7:40

The House Bunny (PG-13) 1hr 38min
12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

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

Trouble the Water (NR) 1hr 36min
1:40, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

Tell No One (Ne le dis a personne) (NR) 2hrs 05min
1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15

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

The Longshots (PG) 1hr 34min
11:40am, 4:30, 9:30

Traitor (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:00am, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

The Pineapple Express (R) 1hr 45min
11:30am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) 1hr 38min
1:50, 6:50

Babylon A.D. (PG-13) 1hr 30min
12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00

Mamma Mia! (PG-13) 1hr 48min
11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10

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

Accept an invitation, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Work with a partner or associate directly. This person might be more earthy in his or her presentation than you would like, but don't dismiss his or her ideas. Listen and open up if possible. For some, a new business venture becomes possible. Tonight: Continue with this teamwork.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Others flex their muscles, letting you know they would like an opportunity to run the show. You can decide yes or no when you are ready. Don't wait too long, or else you could miss out on some fun. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You can accomplish a lot, although you might have a unique and more grounded quality than in the past. If you feel as if you have had enough, say so to a co-worker or someone who punctuates your daily life. Tonight: Easy does it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might surprise yourself, as you come up with one idea after another, and they all seem to work. You certainly are on a roll. Do not allow someone to slow you down. The world is your oyster. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Others respect you. How they take your suggestions reflects their opinion of you. If you have a home-based business, you will want to stay at home. Check out an investment carefully before giving the high sign. Tonight: Order in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Do not hold back. You just might be surprised at how receptive your audience is. Nearly anything can happen if you only relax. Understanding builds between you and a child or loved one. Tonight: A discussion over dinner might take some of the heaviness away.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Be aware of how much you have to offer, and do not put yourself down. Others often wonder why you pull back so much or develop such a strong attitude. You can handle it all. You are enormously resourceful. Tonight: Your treat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Ask and you shall receive – well, nearly. For some of you, you will find that you have just to wish and, like magic, your desire appears. Be aware of your strength, supporters and strong style of communication. Tonight: Tell it like it is or as you see it!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Your willingness to step up to the plate defines your success. Others admire your clarity and directness. A boss might be hard on you, but he or she is very much aware of your assets. Tonight: Do for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Give that extra effort or push to a project. If you see a better way that has been overlooked, let others know. Think outside the box, and unusual success will greet you. Trust in your abilities. Tonight: Where people are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Others look up to you. Your instincts often tell you which way to go. You are smart enough to follow those feelings but at the same time listen to a trusted adviser. Someone has many good ideas. Listen. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You could be questioning a situation far more than you need to. The answers will come, but not exactly as you would like or how you think they should. A meeting or a consensus with associates is important. Tonight: Try to detach and revisit at a situation.

Happy birthday

This year you become more instrumental than you realize. Work, home, friendships and partnerships in general reflect your interests and get your attention. Express your high creativity in a manner that others can hear and join in. Two minds generally are better than one. Your ability to move through daily life and enjoy yourself starts evolving. If you are single, a relationship will pop into your life. Please take your time getting to know this person. It might take a full year to do so. If you are attached, treat your significant other more like you did when you first met. The embers of love will reignite with your care and attention! SCORPIO is easy to talk to.

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 ★★★

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

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

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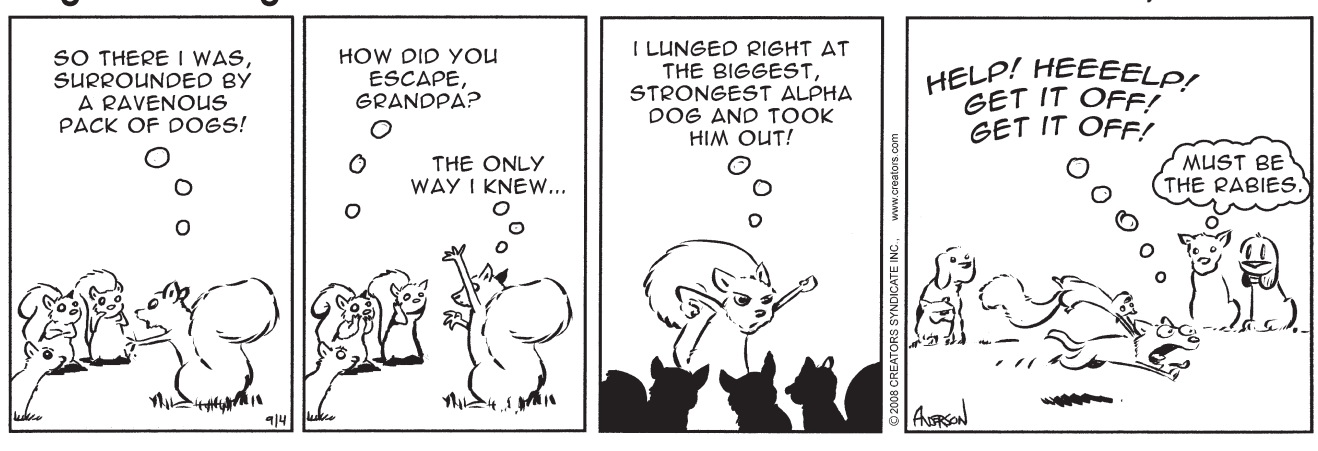
By Jim Davis

Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



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Alexandra Bissonnette *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Sushi base
5 Some stock
11 Flat
12 Transportation in an Ellington song
13 Lisa's brother
14 Publicity acts
15 1862 battle site
17 1040 org.
18 No-no on some diets
22 Casual eateries
24 Ring
25 Ring legend
26 Stage prompt
27 Lusty looks
30 Lugged
32 Corpsman
33 Yale student
34 Terrible
38 Thoreau work
41 Galileo's home
42 Banished
43 Bassoon part
44 Common dice rolls
45 Partner of 35-Down

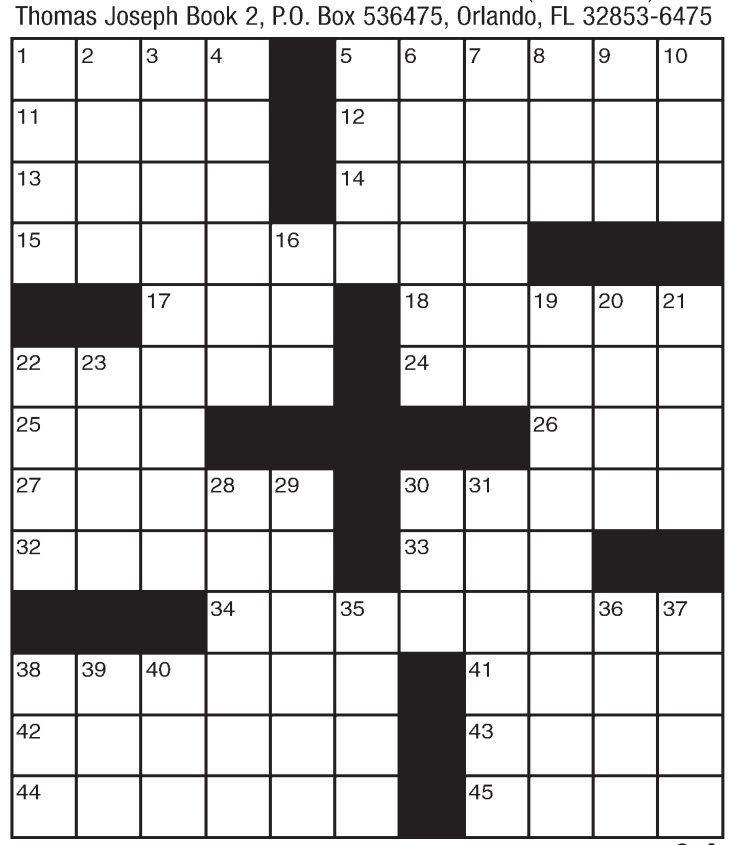
DOWN

1 Singer McEntire
2 Tennis great Lendl
3 Like some accountants
4 Complete
5 Group of players
6 Assail
7 Roosevelt's successor
8 Salon offering
9 A bit sloshed
10 Print units
16 Snaky shape
19 Put right
20 Down
21 Winter glider
22 Placid
23 Away from the wind
28 Conundrum
29 Movie theater fixture
30 Brit's brew
31 Expert
35 Partner of 45-Across
36 Previously owned
37 Young fellows
38 Director Craven
39 Log chopper
40 Tyler of "Armageddon"

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

Yesterday's answer

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



9-4

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 14 23 43 44 54
Meganumber: 39
Jackpot: $16M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 2 4 13 20 41
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: $17M

Fantasy 5: 15 17 19 38 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 6 6 9
EVENING: 7 6 9

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1:45.06

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

■ Victor Rodriguez, 21, about to be arrested on a domestic assault charge in Bridgeport, Conn., in June, turned to his 9-foot-long pet python and, as police approached, shouted to the snake, "Get them!" (It remained motionless.) In July, Josef Fritzl, the man who imprisoned his daughter and her children for 24 years in a dungeon in their home in Amstetten, Austria, told his own jail's officials that he needs daily exercise outside because he hates being cooped up in his cell.

■ While most major opera houses provide sign-language interpreters at the side of the stage, producer Marita Barber recently staged the opera "The Hunt of King Charles" in a version in which all performers sign as they sing, with only a two-piece orchestra in the background, for patrons with hearing. At Barber's venue, the Theatre Totti on a Finnish island, actual baritones and sopranos were sought for their respective roles, even though they would all sign their lyrics, because, said Barber, "(W)e need facial expressions and gestures to get the feeling and the atmosphere across" to the deaf audience, for example, when lyrics call for elongating a word to fit the music.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1888 George Eastman received a patent for his roll-film box camera, and registered his trademark: "Kodak."

1893 English author Beatrix Potter first told the story of Peter Rabbit in the form of a "picture letter" to Noel Moore, the son of Potter's former governess.

1908 Author Richard Wright was born.

1917 the American Expeditionary Forces in France suffered their first fatalities during World War I when a German plane attacked a British-run base hospital.

1948 Queen Wilhelmina abdicated the Dutch throne for health reasons.

1951 President Truman addressed the nation from the Japanese peace treaty conference in San Francisco in the first live, coast-to-coast television broadcast.

WORD UP!

glower \GLAU-uhr\, *intransitive verb*:
1. To look or stare angrily or with a scowl.

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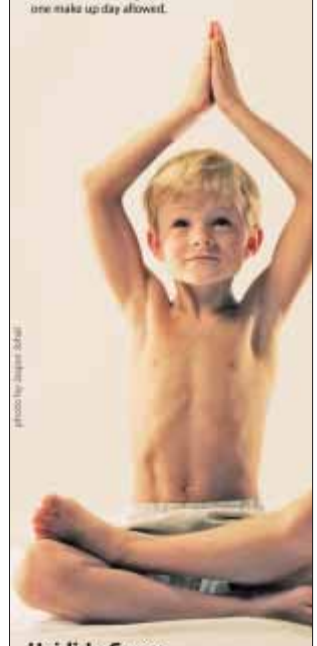

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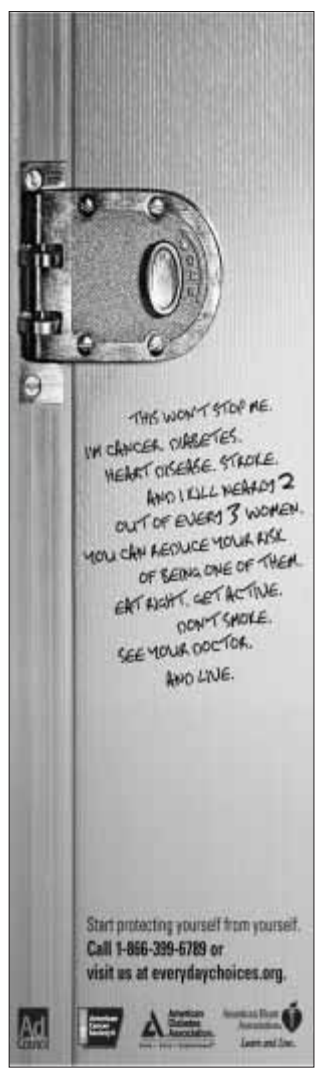

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Listed for Sale As of Early September 2008

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North of Montana	$ 4,028,632	$ 2,067,625
Between Wilshire & Montana	$ 3,640,875	$ 1,010,927
South of Wilshire	$ 1,139,439	$ 718,171
Sunset Park	$ 1,390,224	$ 678,273
Ocean Park	$ 1,627,538	$ 1,128,805

Statistics Updated Every Monday

Kate Bransfield
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$62,829,398 of Real Estate Sold in 2007

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