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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 259

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE THAT'S NO WAY TO BEHAVE ISSUE

BYE, SUMMER
SEE PAGE 5



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

TIME TO RIDE: **Santa Monica College students enter onto a Big Blue Bus in front of the main campus on Pico Boulevard on Thursday.**

Neighbors complain of traffic near SMC

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC An unusual surge in enrollment at the local community college because of the economic downturn might be evident in not just the crowds on campus but the traffic off of it.

That's what neighbors near Santa Monica College have seen in the first few weeks of classes, reportedly observing a higher volume of buses and cars on the road.

"I've been home from work the past few days and I have always known it's bad from the past 10 years of living here but it's not until you're here all day that you see (the traffic) is amazing," Jeff Bender, who lives on Pearl Street, said. "There's a lot of traffic and I don't see that SMC has done too much to mitigate any of it."

SMC officials said recently that enrollment figures in the first few days of classes indicate that there are 8 percent more students this semester than the same time last year, a result of a combination of factors including an overflow of students denied from the tapped out University of California and California State University systems and an increase in the recently unemployed who want to return to school to add to their credentials.

But during an August Board of Trustees meeting, Dr. Chui Tsang, the superintendent and president of Santa Monica College, said that for the fall semester, there was a 24 percent increase in the number of applicants as of the end of July compared to 2008.

The college has taken steps to address the issue over the past several years, including entering a partnership with Big Blue Bus in which students and staff are allowed to ride any line at any time for free, and shuttling students between satellite lots and the main campus.

The college did respond to the anticipated influx of students and resulting congestion around the campus by instituting a plan for the start of the new semester, deploying traffic control officers and for the heaviest periods, stopping all vehicles exiting Structure 4 from entering the Business Loop, which is a paved small circle shared by both pedestrians and cars, sitting just next to the Santa Monica Swim Center and the Business Building.

Cutting off vehicle access to the Business Loop was expected to allow for an uninhibited flow of pedestrians in the crosswalks and decrease delays for vehicle traffic entering the campus from Pico Boulevard.

The Big Blue Bus on Monday began dispatching more buses on select routes that

SEE TRAFFIC PAGE 10

Man bites off finger during demonstration

SHAYA TAYEFE MOHAJER
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES One man bit off part of another man's finger when a health care reform demonstration turned violent.

William Rice said doctors did not reattach the bitten-off part of his left pinky after he got in the middle of a Southern California rally Wednesday night that he said was "very scary."

"I didn't go out to demonstrate my beliefs, I happened to be driving by and I stopped to ask people what their purpose was," Rice, 65, said in a telephone interview Thursday. "I had no signs, I was not part of the demonstration."

About 100 demonstrators in favor of health care reform had gathered on a Thousand Oaks street corner for an event organized by MoveOn.org. About 25 counterdemonstrators gathered across the street.

Rice declined to say Thursday which side of the debate he falls on.

Ventura County sheriff's spokesman Eric Buschow said a confrontation erupted after the biter crossed from the MoveOn.org side of the street to the counterprotest, where Rice was standing.

A loud scuffle ensued, punches were thrown, and the tip of Rice's finger was bitten off, Buschow said.

The biter fled before authorities arrived. He could face felony mayhem charges.

"We don't know the identity of the man who bit the finger off," Buschow said. "We want to contact him and get his side of the story."

Buschow said authorities are piecing together the events from witness interviews.

There are conflicting accounts of who started the fight, Buschow said. "There's a question about blurring the line between self-defense and who the primary aggressor was," he said.

Rice was treated at Los Robles Hospital and Medical Center. The top joint of his pinky, including his whole fingernail, was severed, hospital spokeswoman Kris Carraway-Bowman said.

She said his treatment was covered by Medicare.

Rice said he and his attacker did not have a conversation about health care unless "you want to call him screaming in my face that I'm an idiot a conversation."

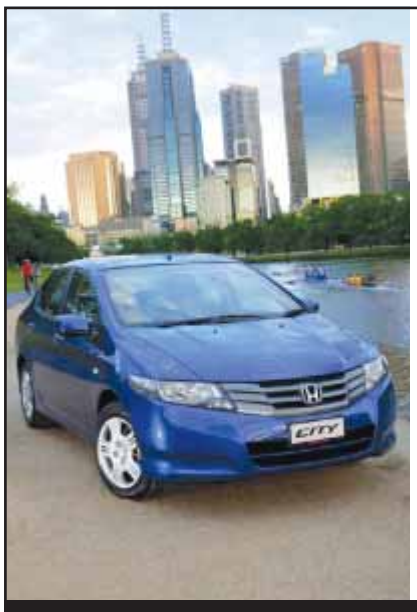

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Films for the planet

Various locations
Friday to Sunday; call for times
The Blue Planet Film Fest puts the focus on the environment. Screenings will be held at the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club and the Santa Monica Playhouse.
For more information, call (310) 574-0911.

Pet healing

Crescent Bay Park
Intersection of Bichnell and Ocean Avenue, time TBA
Tong Ren is an energy healing modality that is based on acupuncture, but without the needles. Let your pet experience a free healing session. Animals are extremely receptive to energy. Visit www.tongrenla.com for more information and
to set up a private session.

Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009

Back to the fair

Pomona Fairplex
1101 W. McKinley Ave., 10 a.m. — 11:30 p.m.
The L.A. County Fair opens Labor Day weekend and offers visitors an endless assortment of new exhibits and entertainment possibilities. With the state of the economy, the fair is a great value with admission including a ton of fun activities such as animated dinosaurs, the Extreme Canine Stunt Dog Show at Bark Park, the pig races and learning about rainforests and how to adopt a more eco-friendly lifestyle. Families can also visit magical FairView Farms to see animals, taste organic foods, try their hands at cow and goat milking, as well as witness the birth of baby animals and enjoy fireworks. Opening day admission is $1. Call (909) 623-3111 for more information
or visit www.lacountyfair.com.

Heal yourself

Sacred Healing Arts Studio
220 Pier Ave., 4:30 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.
Did you know your hands can heal you? Invite your friends and loved ones to experience Pranic Healing. Learn how to use Prana/life force to accelerate your body's ability to heal itself. You will also have the opportunity to experience intense peace, stillness and bliss through the meditation on twin hearts. Cost is free. Call (310) 488-4388 for more information or e-mail intro.pranichealing@yahoo.com.

Yoga in the park

Palisades Park
Ocean Avenue and Palisades Avenue, 10 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
Come each Saturday and start your weekend off right with an energizing and rejuvenating yoga class in Palisades Park, overlooking the ocean. Beginners and all levels are welcome. All you need to bring is your yoga mat and an open heart. If you've always wanted to try yoga, this class is for you. All classes are run by a suggested donation of $12. Call (310) 560-4317 or e-mail jonathan@alignmentforlife.com
for more information.

'Cinderella: The Musical'

Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Audiences help romance bloom in this delightful Rudie-DeCarlo musical for all ages, featuring a charming prince, a zany fairy godmother, silly stepsisters and a zealously well-meaning stepmother. Birthday and tea parties are available with
every performance of Cinderella. Cost is $10.50 — $12.50.
Call (310) 394-9779 ext. 2 for more information.

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.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BROAD STAGE

Baryshnikov dances into town

The latest addition to the Westside performing arts scene kicks off its sophomore season today with sold-out shows featuring world renown dancers Ana Laguna and Mikhail Baryshnikov.

Titled "Three Solos and a Duet," the show will not only mark the beginning of The Broad Stage's 2009-10 season but also the 2009 U.S. Tour for both 54-year-old Laguna and 61-year-old Baryshnikov, who is also known for playing the part of Aleksandr Petrovsky, the Russian beau of Sarah Jessica Parker's Carrie Bradshaw on the hit HBO show, "Sex and the City."

The native of Riga, Latvia, Baryshnikov began studying ballet at the age of 9, later attending the Kirov Ballet school from where he graduated in 1969. He traveled with modern companies around the world before landing in New York City in 1979 as the principal dancer for the American Ballet Theater. He has also been the artistic director for the American Ballet Theater and director and dancer for the White Oak Dance Project.

He is currently with the Baryshnikov Arts Center.

Born in Spain, Laguna joined the Cullberg Ballet in Stockholm in 1974 and has performed on every major stage in the world. She is currently teaching and coaching the works of Mats Ek, who is one of the choreographers for the show.

The show will run through Saturday night.

DAILY PRESS

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bringing the library to you

Today, people send more text messages than cell phone calls are made. As society retreats behind their tiny screens, librarians are taking their services to them.

Santa Monica Public Library customers can now text any question they have to (309) 222-7740 with the code "SMP" included in their message. A librarian will respond to the query within minutes. While standard texting rates apply, this service, Text 4 Answers, is free of any additional charge.

"Text reference service is the next big thing to hit libraries," said Kitty Pope, executive director of the Alliance Library System. "It is important because it augments traditional core reference services and meets library customers where they live."

Though people are welcome to text any question they have, such a resource will typically be most useful in regards to quick trivia or reference questions.

"It's really quick answers just because of the nature of texting," said Wright Rix, principal librarian.

He added people who ask questions such as "what is the meaning of life" will generally be asked to conduct research at the library via some other method.

The service is the first collaborative text messaging reference service operated by libraries. California partners include the Santa Monica Public Library, Buena Park Library District, Contra Costa County Public Library, Sacramento Public Library and San Jose State University's Graduate School Library. Text 4 Answers is led by the Alliance Library System of Illinois.

The hours of service for this pilot project are Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Saturday, 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.

DP



Photo courtesy Dr. Reese Halter

ONE HECK OF A SIGHT: **The Station fire is the largest blaze in Los Angeles County's modern history.**

The long dry run is here

BY DR. REESE HALTER
Special to the Daily Press

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST As firefighters battle to bring the gigantic Station fire and others under control, Angelenos are left to wonder what the state can do to protect homeowners from the next hellacious conflagration.

Our ancient forests in California are living museums, rich with detailed records from the past. All the vegetation in Southern California has evolved and adapted to the regular occurrence of lightning-induced fire.

What we are finding out is just how dry California has been over the past 45 centuries. Tree rings from bristlecone pines living at 11,000 feet above sea-level on the White Mountains of east-central California show the climate over the past four millennia. In fact, California has just experienced the third- or fourth-wettest century in the past 4,000 years.

This finding is of great concern considering the bone-dry conditions enveloping the chaparral and pine forests of Southern California, especially because we are in the worst drought in modern times.

Where does California get its water? About 90 percent of the fresh water in our state — which is the eighth mightiest economy and the most intensive agriculture system in the world — comes from the slow spring-time melt of the snowpack that accumulates each year across the 400-mile long Sierra Nevada's. The mighty Colorado River also feeds water to Southern California and in particular Los Angeles and San Diego.

This past winter the snowpack was about 61 percent of its average depth in the Sierras. The state will deliver just 15 percent of its water contracts — short changing farmers by billions of dollars — because of low reservoir levels, starving the threatened fish of the Sacramento and San Joaquin deltas.

SEE **FIRE** PAGE 11

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It's not every man for themselves

Editor:

Selfish, greedy, self-destructively shortsighted. What am I talking about? Well, the governor of course, but me, you, Bill Bauer, Carlos Pineiro, the citizens of Santa Monica, the United States of America and planet Earth.

A rich man went before the gates of heaven and St. Peter looked over his record. "Not much here, my friend" said St. Peter. "I don't see how you can stay."

"Now hold on, now," said the rich man. "I think if you check, you'll see that in September, 15 years ago, I gave a dime to a beggar."

St. Peter checked, and indeed it was true.

"OK, so what?"

"Well, 10 years ago in January, I gave 15 cents to a homeless lady."

"Yes, that's true" said St. Peter.

"And then," the man went on, "five years ago I gave a quarter to a homeless man, in November, I think."

St. Peter looked and indeed it was so. "So what's your point?" asked the saint.

"Well, I think you can see I've established a pattern of philanthropy," replied the man. St. Peter was confused, so he turned to God for help.

"What should we do with this guy, Lord?"

In his wisdom the Lord replied, "Give him back his 50 cents and tell him to go to hell."

So we're all good people who pay our taxes, buy our groceries and don't see why we should be bothered. The deed to our homes says we own it, as long as we pay our mortgage if we have one, or our rent, which means we can do whatever we want. We're free. We forget.

If we leave a gardener in charge of our grounds and he starts to think he owns the place — messes with the plantings, lets it go, tries a bunch of different chemicals until it's rundown and the soil no longer produces, what does grow is a jumbled up mess — we would not be happy with the results.

Despite what Ronald Reagan told us, it's not every man (or woman) for themselves. We are one society, and when we don't act that way, it shows. Whether it's confused Birthers blathering against health care reform, the governor balancing the budget on the backs of the poor, students, nurses and firefighters in order not to tax himself, his rich friends or make the oil companies pay the same extraction fee they pay Oklahoma and Texas, Bauer telling us the ACLU has no right to file a lawsuit against City Hall in defense of the homeless, or Pineiro saying that because he gave a can to a shelter once it makes sense that homeless people automatically become lawbreakers when the sun goes down (and if a tree older than he is has the temerity to drop pine cones, by all means chop it down), all I see is stupidity run amok.

As far as I can tell, whether morally, politically or socially, the only edge we have over people of other cities, states, nations, and the natural world, is an inflated sense of self-importance. That's not good for any of us.

Charles Fredricks
Santa Monica





Write Rachel

Rachel Iverson — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Exiting the friend zone

Q: DEAR RACHEL,

I've been spending time with an incredible woman who works at my chiropractor's office. We're both huge Los Angeles Lakers fans and I initially asked her out on a date to go to a game. Unfortunately, she's seeing someone, or should I say sleeping with some guy, so we went to the game as friends. She says it's casual with the guy she's seeing, so I thought I had a chance. However, we've spent the last four weekends hanging out together, talking, laughing, we even hold hands, but several times I've tried to kiss her and she always repeats, "I just want to be friends." What are my chances?

— Signed, Mixed Signals

A: Dear Mixed Signals,

Your predicament is not unusual. Unfortunately, it sounds like this female friend of yours has got you in the woman's version of a booty call. Just like some men consistently have sex with women who they don't want to date, some women go on dates with men they don't want to have sex with. This is one of the fundamental communication differences between men and women and the source of much heartache between the two sexes. Men tend to show their feelings for a woman outside the bedroom, while women show their feelings for a man inside the bedroom.

It's mind boggling to women that some men can have sex with them on an ongoing basis without eventually desiring a monogamous relationship. Women don't understand how a man can have sex without developing an emotional attachment because sex is how women express romantic feelings*. It's similarly mind-boggling to a man that a women can have deep talks and participate in date-like activities, such as dinner, the movies and even long walks on the beach without sharing his romantic feelings.

However, women don't necessarily associate romantic feelings with these activities because that's how they bond with their girlfriends. In this case, women see their male friend as a girlfriend with the added benefit of an ego boost because they get to bask in their male friend's adoration. Most women can have platonic bonding with just about anyone, but they only sleep with men they want to date. Some men can sleep with almost anyone, but they generally spend time outside the bedroom, on date-like activities (dinner and the movies) with the women they want to date. I've heard many men say, "I don't know why she thought we were dating just because we were sleeping together, it's not like I took her to dinner or anything."

Meanwhile, women tend to say, "I don't know why he thought we were dating just because we've gone to dinner, it's not like I kissed him or anything." In both scenarios, one person is getting something they want until someone better comes along, with little effort on their part.

My advice to you is to let go of your desire to date this woman and proceed with your dating life. If there's a chance that she has latent romantic/sexual feelings for you, they will surface as soon as she feels (and she will feel it) that you've let go. If it's meant to be, she'll miss you and have The Epiphany Moment, where she'll realize that she wants to date you. As the situation stands now, she has no motivation to change anything because she's getting the best of both worlds: she's getting hot sex from that other guy and she's getting the intimacy of a relationship from you. You're not doing any favor to yourself by continuing things as they are, you're only prolonging your own frustration and taking the chance that she may give in and kiss you on your next try, only to call you the next day to say that it was a mistake, at your emotional expense. Reclaim your self-respect by letting her go. You'll show her that she can't use you emotionally to have her cake and eat it too. If she suddenly has a change of heart — great. If not, then you'll know you saved yourself time and heartache because it was never going to happen. Either way, you'll be available to enjoy a relationship with someone who wants to date you without limitations.

**As a disclaimer, here, I'll state that some women can have one-night stands with men they don't want to date, but this is the exception to the rule since most women won't consistently sleep with a man unless they're hoping for a relationship with him.*

RACHEL IVERSON is a freelance writer, dating coach and author, who lives with her husband in Venice Beach. Her book, "Don't Help A Man Be A Man: How To Avoid 12 Dating Time Bombs," has been endorsed by Dr. John Gray, author of "Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus." For more information on Rachel or her book, visit: www.rebelgirlpublishing.com. For dating advice, contact rachel@rebelgirlpublishing.com.



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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Summer is finally over and none too soon

AS I WRITE THIS, LOS ANGELES IS surrounded by wildfires, there's a Category 4 hurricane headed our way, mudslides may follow the hurricane, and we're overdue for a major earthquake. Happy Labor Day, everybody!

While Labor Day was created in 1894 to honor organized labor (remember them?) instead it marks when the kiddies go back to school and the tourists leave town. All winter I practically count the days until summer but, usually around July 5, I start counting the days until fall and the return of some peace and quiet. Go figure.

Summer is actually a mixed blessing for me. For starters, the ocean is polluted. If I stay in the water too long, I get earaches. But I just read on the Heal the Bay Web site that where I sit, by Lifeguard Station no. 26, got an A-plus grade for water quality. I wonder if just knowing that will help my earaches? (Go to: Healthebay.org and click on Beach Report Card.)

And I can't totally enjoy the sun because of skin cancer. Apparently the sky has a monster hole in it that makes the sun's UV rays dangerous to all living creatures. (Perfectly safe for concrete, however.)

Not to be David Downer, but what legacy are we leaving our young people? They'd have every right to shoot us on sight, but they're too busy with i-Pods and texting. Thank God for technology, huh?

We've known about the hole in the ozone for over 30 years. I remember watching, James Watt, Reagan's controversial Secretary of the Interior, casually advising citizens to, "Just wear a hat." Watt, you may recall, held the record for protecting the fewest species on the Endangered Species list, until Bush Jr. appointee, Dirk Kempthorne, didn't protect any! (Forget Joe Dimaggio's, that's an unbreakable record.)

Years earlier Jimmy Carter had plaintively warned us that we needed to cut back on fossil fuels before it was too late. But we chose the "Wear a Hat" administration, which was also the "Government Cheese for Poor People" and "Ketchup is a Vegetable" administration. (I'll bet I get an e-mail from a reader insisting that I'm a Commie and ketchup is a vegetable.)

Polluted or not, I still go into the ocean as often as I can. After body surfing, I take a long shower to rinse off. (With the A-plus grade, however, I may take a shorter shower.) To avoid more skin cancer, I don't go to the beach until after 4 p.m. and I sit under an umbrella. At least I don't wear a hazmat suit. Not yet.

In summer, Santa Monica changes radically as the city comes alive. Some say too alive. On the beach, the pier, the promenade, with so many foreign tourists, the air is filled with the sound of exotic languages. (And perhaps a little too much cologne.) Walks on the boardwalk at sunset can inspire the soul, barring the occasional run-in with visiting gangbangers looking for some evening recreation.

Summer highlights the unspoken battle between business and residents. It's the "chicken or the egg" debate. To support a city like ours the hotel bed taxes contribute huge amounts of money. But do we residents really benefit from the new Santa Monica? On some nights, like after a concert at the pier, the answer is "absolutely." After an insane holiday weekend, the answer is "who has the earplugs?"

I even face this issue at my apartment building. I hesitate to mention it because the last time I received an e-mail from a reader who warned me that as a rent-control tenant, "You ought to be very careful before you complain." I thought maybe it was from Tony Soprano. It turns out it was a female landlord who later apologized for her choice of words. (I was just relieved I wasn't being fitted for a pair of cement shoes.)

Summer at the Shores is like living at an upscale hotel. The pool area is so crowded and noisy that it looks like a beer commercial. The other day, two attractive French women were relaxing in the jacuzzi oblivious to their four screaming children. Surprise, surprise, none of them lived here. Hey, if you're sneaking into our pool, is it too much to ask that you try to keep your kiddies from screaming? Security is so lax, the place feels like a public pool, albeit a classy one, with French accents.

In the 1997 documentary "Wild Man Blues" (I highly recommend to Woody Allen fans) Woody is asked by his wife, Soon-Yi if he's sad to be going home. He confesses ruefully, "When I'm in Europe, I miss New York. Then when I'm home, I miss Europe." My complaining aside, this fall, as soon as it turns cold, I'll probably be longing for summer. Go figure.

When he's not at the beach, Jack can be reached at Jackneworth@yahoo.com.

The Q Line

Road work

A pilot project that converted a stretch of Ocean Park Boulevard from four lanes to two is currently being studied by city officials. Some say the new configuration helps keep pedestrians safe while others believe it creates more traffic.

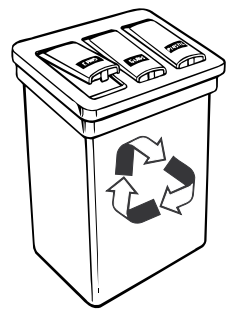
So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think Ocean Park Boulevard should be kept two lanes or should it be restored to four?

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

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA LANDMARKS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Public hearings will be held by the Landmarks Commission on the following applications:

1685 Main Street, LC-09CA-013, Zoning: CC (Civic Center) District. The City Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider Certificate of appropriateness 09CA-013 for design approval for the installation of new rooftop HVAC equipment and louvered mechanical equipment screening at the northeast portion of City Hall. In addition, an existing rooftop access door will be removed from an existing elevator shaft and refinished with cement plaster and painted to match adjacent finish. The Landmarks Commission will determine whether the proposed project is appropriate and architecturally compatible for the Landmark structure. Applicant: City of Santa Monica/Alex Parry. Owner: City of Santa Monica. ***(Continued from August 10, 2009 Meeting).***

1447 Fourth Street, LC-09CA-016, Zoning: BSC-3 (Bayside Commercial District 3). The City Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider Certificate of Appropriateness Application No. LC-09CA-016 requesting a Sign Application and Sign Adjustment for proposed signage on an existing business occupying a tenant space in the Lido Hotel building, a designated City Landmark. The Landmarks Commission will determine whether the proposed project is appropriate and architecturally compatible for this property. Applicant: Joe Machan – Bradley Sign. Owner: ASN Santa Monica, LLC.

When: **Monday, September 14, 2009 at 7:00 pm**

Where: City Council Chambers, City Hall, Room 213
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

Questions/Comments
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment on this and other projects. You or your representative, or any other persons may comment on the application at the Public Hearing, or by writing a letter addressed to Scott Albright, AICP, Senior Planner, City Planning Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, California, 90401-3295. Or, you may contact Mr. Albright by phone at (310) 458-8341 or by email at scott.albright@smgov.net.

More Information
The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation requests, please contact (310) 458-8341 or TTY (310) 458-8696 at least three days prior to the event. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Bus Lines 1, 2, 3 and 7 serve City Hall. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the Challenge may be limited only to 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.

Espanol
Este es un aviso de una audiencia publica para considerar la designación de una propiedad en la ciudad como un monumento histórico. Para mas información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Cops nab suspected bike thieves

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

SUNDAY, AUG. 30, AT 8:50 P.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to the 1300 block of 17th Street regarding a suspicious person in a subterranean garage. When officers arrived, they observed the suspect leaving the garage and walk to a waiting vehicle that contained another individual. Further investigation revealed that the suspect who left the garage had items in his possession commonly used for burglary. Officers checked out the garage and found two bikes with their locks cut. Additional information led officers to believe that the two suspects were conspiring to steal the bicycles. They were placed under arrest for burglary, conspiracy and possession of burglary tools. The suspects were identified as David Centola, 28, of Inglewood, and Daniel Pacifici, 28, of Los Angeles. Bail was set at $50,000.

SATURDAY, AUG. 29, AT 110:27 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2500 block of Santa Monica Boulevard – CVS – regarding a report of a suspicious person. When officers arrived, they found an individual sitting on the ground with his head between his legs. Officers said they tried to make contact with the individual, but he was unresponsive. A short time later, the man suddenly woke up. Officers believed he was under the influence of some narcotic. Officers conducted a consensual search and found a white powdery substance believed to be cocaine and several white pills that turned out to be generic Xanax. Police placed the suspect under arrest for drug possession. He was identified as Michael Block, 21, a transient. His bail was set at $10,000.

SATURDAY, AUG. 29, AT 5:15 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 100 block of Santa Monica Boulevard – Ye Olde King's Head – regarding a fight. When officers arrived, they made contact with the alleged victim who said the suspect punched him in the mouth. The suspect apparently had been in the bar with the victim and two others before leaving with his girlfriend. The suspect then allegedly returned and punched the victim. The suspect was placed under arrest for assault and battery. He was identified as Patrick Krull, 24, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $20,000.

THURSDAY, AUG. 27, AT 1:40 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 1700 block of Broadway regarding a car accident. When officers arrived they learned that one vehicle had struck a parked car, landing on its side. Officers contacted the driver and determined that she had been driving while drunk. The driver, Isabel Brescovici, 34, of Venice was booked for driving under the influence. Her bail was set at $25,000.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26, AT 3 P.M.,
An officer on patrol in the 3100 block of Pico Boulevard observed a man riding his bicycle on the sidewalk in violation of the law. As the officer attempted to stop the bicycle rider, the rider attempted to flee. As the rider attempted to backtrack, he struck the patrol car. The rider, Hector Castillo, 29, of Santa Monica, then allegedly tried to flee on foot. He was detained a short distance away. The rider stated he ran because he was on probation. During a search, officers located drug paraphernalia – a glass pipe – and an iPod that later turned out to have been stolen, police said. He was placed under arrest for possession of stolen property. No bail information was available.

TUESDAY, AUG. 25, AT 9:35 A.M.,
Officers stopped a truck in the 500 block of Colorado Avenue for a vehicle code violation. Inside of the bed of the truck were three bicycles. Further investigation revealed the bicycles had their serial numbers scratched off. Due to statements by the suspect, officers placed him under arrest for possession of stolen property, possession of an item with an altered or obliterated serial number and a probation violation. The suspect was identified as Martin Barker, 55, of Anaheim. His bail was set at $20,000.

MONDAY, AUG. 24, AT 9:31 A.M.,
Officers responded to the area of Fourth Street and Arizona Avenue regarding a report of a fight in progress. When officers arrived, they saw what appeared to be two witnesses detaining the suspect. The alleged victim and the witnesses told officers the suspect tried to snatch a money bag from the victim, who was making a deposit for his boss at a local bank. The victim and the suspect struggled over the bag. Witnesses observed the struggle and assisted the victim. The suspect, Ronald Houston, 22, of Los Angeles, was taken into custody and booked for attempted robbery. His bail was set at $50,000.

SUNDAY, JULY 5, AT 5:15 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2600 block of Fifth Street regarding an auto burglary. The suspects smashed the rear window and took items from inside. Officers were able to recover evidence at the scene that led them to a potential suspect. The suspect, Matthew Bravo, 37, of Santa Monica, was located last month and later booked for burglary. His bail was set at $20,000.

news@smdp.com

Editor-in-Chief **KEVIN HERRERA** compiled these reports.

Biden sidesteps probing questions on stimulus

BRETT J. BLACKLEDGE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Vice President Joe Biden proclaimed success beyond expectations Thursday for the $787 billion economic stimulus, but his glowing assessment overlooks many of the program's problems, including delays in releasing money, questionable spending priorities and project picks that are under investigation.

In a speech aimed squarely at Republican criticism and public skepticism over the costly program's effectiveness, Biden said accomplishments over the past 100 days provide proof of promises kept when he and President Barack Obama began rolling out the plan earlier this year.

"The Recovery Act is doing more, faster and more efficiently and more effectively than most people expected," he said.

The stimulus program includes tax cuts, billions for Medicaid and unemployment benefits, and a massive federal investment in education, environmental projects, technology and traditional infrastructure work. The administration has struggled to make the case that the huge spending program has delivered real economic recovery at a time when the nation's unemployment rate threatens to top 10 percent.

Biden, Obama's chief stimulus cheerleader, proudly pointed to more than 2,200 highway projects Thursday funded by the program, but didn't mention the growing frustration among contractors that infrastructure money is only trickling out and thus far hasn't delivered the needed boost in jobs.

"It is difficult to understand why more communities aren't moving to put their stimulus funds to work while they are experiencing these kinds of job losses," Stephen E. Sandherr, head of the Associated General Contractors of America, said in a statement this week. "Coping with the red tape required by the stimulus ought to be worth it to help put neighbors and friends back to work."

The problem is with money for building projects, not roads and highways, Sandherr said.

Biden noted 192 airport jobs targeted with stimulus money, but made no reference to the investigation launched after a federal watchdog raised concerns about how the projects were selected.

Transportation Department Inspector General Calvin Scovel said last month he will examine the Federal Aviation Administration's process for selecting programs for the $1.1 billion in grant money. His announcement came after his office discovered that the Obama administration used stimulus money to pay for 50 airport projects that didn't meet the grant criteria and approved projects at four airports with a history of mismanaging federal grants.

And Biden praised the more than 2,400 military construction projects paid for with stimulus money, but ignored the millions of dollars in savings the Defense Department lost because it hasn't competitively bid many of the jobs.

The Defense Department frequently awards no-bid work to small contractors for repairs at military bases under the stimulus, costing taxpayers millions of dollars more than when businesses compete for the work, an Associated Press analysis of 570 such contracts found.

Biden exercised some restraint in his praise for the stimulus' impact. He took a more cautious approach, for example, when asked if his declaration of stimulus success means Americans can now rethink the common view that government is wasteful and inefficient.

"I think it's too early to make that decision, to be very blunt about it," he said.

> **"IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY MORE COMMUNITIES AREN'T MOVING TO PUT THEIR STIMULUS FUNDS TO WORK WHILE THEY ARE EXPERIENCING THESE KINDS OF JOB LOSSES."**
>
> **Stephen E. Sandherr**
> head of the Associated General Contractors of America

And Biden didn't attempt to credit the stimulus alone for signs of broad economic recovery, saying it was one of several government actions that are helping.

"Had we done just this and not done the incredibly unpopular thing of bailing out the banks, had we had done this and tried to deal with stabilizing the housing market, had we done only this we would not be where we are," he said.

But most of Biden's remarks focused on what he argued is evidence of success with the stimulus, even if his examples were questionable.

In making the case that the recovery program was not just economically sound but also good policy, Biden noted that transportation money was replacing unsafe bridges.

"It is worthwhile to take some of those 5,000 bridges out there that are ready to collapse, follow what happened in the upper Midwest, and fix them," he said.

But most states are spending stimulus money on bridges that are already in good shape, another AP analysis found. Of the 2,476 bridges scheduled to receive stimulus money so far, nearly half have passed inspections with high marks, according to federal data. Those 1,123 sound bridges received such high inspection ratings that they normally would not qualify for federal bridge money, yet they will share in more than $1.2 billion in stimulus money, the AP analysis published in July found.

The vice president's speech is part of a concerted White House push in advance of the 200th day of the stimulus act on Saturday. Five top administration officials also were speaking about the law's benefits on Thursday in appearances in Arkansas, Virginia, Illinois, California and Minnesota.





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Candidates begin to line up for Kennedy's seat

GLEN JOHNSON
AP Political Writer

BOSTON Attorney General Martha Coakley announced Thursday she will run as a Democratic candidate in the special election to succeed the late Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

The 20-year prosecutor said she can continue to be "an effective voice for the people of Massachusetts."

Kennedy died last week of brain cancer at age 77.

Coakley said at a news conference the state has had a "crisis of confidence" following Kennedy's death and she wants to pick up his mantle.

"We've depended on him here in the Commonwealth and in Washington, and we will miss his strength and leadership and his sense of humor. As some have noted, no one can fill his shoes, but we must strive to follow in his footsteps," she told supporters at a downtown Boston hotel.

Coakley sidestepped a question from reporters whether she favored changing state law to allow the governor to appoint an interim senator, as Kennedy had requested in a letter before his death. Legislators have planned a hearing on the matter for next week.

"For me, personally, I am fully focused on the race," she said, adding she trusted legislators "will make the right decision."

The 56-year-old Coakley becomes the most prominent candidate to officially declare. Several others are waiting for Kennedy's nephew, former Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II, to decide if he will run.

Coakley said in response to a question that she decided to commit to the race without waiting to see whether a Kennedy family member would run because the senator had declared, in his letter seeking an interim appointment, that the state needs strong and effective representation in Washington.

In a follow-up interview with The Associated Press, she said:

— Growing up in the Vietnam era has made her wary of President Barack Obama getting dragged into a protracted military engagement in Afghanistan, but "I trust him for now."

— She has focused on health care cost containment as attorney general, since Massachusetts has the nation's first universal health insurance law, and is in favor of it being included in any overhaul law the president signs. — She dismissed as "frivolous" a Massachusetts Republican Party complaint that she used $24,000 in state campaign money to pay Washington-based consultants as she considered a federal campaign. She said all her actions have been in compliance with state and federal ethics laws.

"I believe now is the time to move beyond the idea of, well, 'It's good enough for government work,' and demand a new standard of excellence. And I know that I need to prove to voters across the commonwealth that I am the best candidate and that I would be the best new senator from Massachusetts," Coakley said.

Coakley described her humble roots in western Massachusetts and her career as a prosecutor, both as Middlesex District Attorney in a large district that includes populous suburbs of Boston, and since, 2007, as the state's attorney general.

Feds approve fish farming plan

CAIN BURDEAU
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS President Barack Obama's administration on Thursday allowed fish farming in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico, a move criticized by environmentalists fearful of pollution and threats to wild stocks.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration declined to oppose the plans, but said it would work to make sure future farms in the Gulf are clean and safe. The agency also said it would push to develop a national policy for offshore aquaculture, a practice of raising fish in large pens and cages.

"We are interested in aquaculture done correctly," said Jim Balsiger, the acting NOAA assistant administrator for fisheries.

Still, it could be months or even years before fish farms sprout in the Gulf.

The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, one of eight regional boards that oversee fishing in U.S. waters, needs to draw up regulations and federal regulators must approve them.

Also, Balsiger said the Gulf's regulations would have to abide by national guidelines the agency hopes to draw up within months.

"A national framework will be a higher level document, it will stress environmentally friendly aquaculture, a clear permitting process," Balsiger said. But he said there would most likely be "very few differences between the national plan and the Gulf of Mexico plan."

Producing more seafood under stringent U.S. guidelines would help the nation, he said.

"Eighty percent of the seafood we eat is imported, and about half of that is farmed," Balsiger said. "We have no control over the circumstances under which that seafood is produced, we have no control over what happens to the environment in the other parts of the world where that seafood is produced."

The National Fisheries Institute, a national seafood industry group based in McLean, Va., praised NOAA's decision.

"Safe and effective fish farming serves as a compliment to wild capture fisheries, acting as a release valve that takes pressure off stocks while still providing Americans with healthy affordable seafood," the group said in a statement.

Environmentalists called NOAA's decision misguided.

"The risks of escaped fish, fish waste, release of drugs and chemicals, and perhaps most importantly, the proliferation of disease simply cannot be adequately addressed by a piecemeal approach," said George H. Leonard, an expert on aquaculture at the Ocean Conservancy.

"Our council did a thorough job of looking at all the implications of aquaculture in the Gulf," said Rick Leard, the deputy executive director of the Gulf council.

Glen Brooks, the president of the Gulf Fishermen's Association, said by telephone from a boat yard in Cortez, Fla., that fishermen have mixed feelings about raising fish offshore.

"It's split 50/50," Brooks said.

Stocks end slide ahead of unemployment report

TIM PARADIS
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Investors moved back into stocks after a four-day slide on hopes that a key government report on unemployment will confirm that the economy is gaining strength.

The Dow Jones industrial average tacked on 64 points Thursday after sliding 300 points since Friday. Stocks held to a tight range for much of the day in light trading as some investors squeezed in late-summer vacations. Those remaining braced for the August jobs report, which is due before the opening bell Friday.

The biggest gains came in the final half-hour, with the Dow doubling its advance, as some traders looked to buy ahead of the jobs data. Economists expect the unemployment rate to edge up to 9.5 percent from 9.4 percent, while the number of layoffs is expected to slow to 225,000 from 247,000. Some economists have raised their expectations in recent weeks but the sunnier forecasts leave the market more vulnerable to disappointment.

The latest snapshot on employment Thursday offered investors little to go on ahead of Friday's report. The Labor Department said the number of people filing for unemployment claims fell last week by 4,000 to 570,000 while the number of people receiving benefits rose. Economists had been expecting a bigger drop, and the report served as a reminder of how difficult a recovery in employment will be.

Reports from retailers offered more insight into consumers' troubles. Many remain focused on necessities, though some are starting to open their wallets. Overall sales were still weak but many companies including Gap Inc. and Costco Wholesale Corp. posted results that topped investors' expectations.

Trading has been jittery in the past two weeks because some investors who have placed big bets on a recovery are worried that unemployment will make it hard for the economy to pull out of the longest recession since World War II. Consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity.

By last month, major stock indicators like the Standard & Poor's 500 index had jumped more than 50 percent from 12-year lows in early March. Analysts say the latest slide was a necessary adjustment for the market, even though it erased only about two weeks worth of gains. Traders become nervous if stocks climb too quickly without a break, which is seen as an indicator of indiscriminate buying.

"We had a bit of reality catching up with expectations," said Bill Stone, chief investment strategist at PNC Wealth Management.

Retail sales slump in August

MAE ANDERSON
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK Shoppers limited their back-to-school purchases and stayed focused on necessities in August, resulting in the 12th straight month of declining sales for retailers. But there were signs the holiday season could be less dismal than feared.

Despite the weakness many reported, retailers overall did better in August than analysts expected. Some lower-priced chains, such as TJMaxx and Old Navy, even saw sales rise compared with a year earlier, though upscale stores' sales slipped.

"It does seem like the consumer is willing to spend if given a great deal," said Carl Steidtmann, an economist at Deloitte Research. "That reflects a consumer that is slowly coming out of their bunker."

There have been encouraging reports from the housing and manufacturing sectors that the economy is stabilizing, but any recovery will have to include an uptick in consumer spending because it accounts for about 70 percent of economic activity.

"It's still weak in the broad trend, but it is considerably stronger than it has been in some time," said Michael Niemira, International Council of Shopping Centers' chief economist.

A monthly compilation of 32 retailers' sales by The ICSC and Goldman Sachs showed sales in established stores fell 2 percent this August compared with August 2008. That was better than the 3.5 percent to 4 percent drop analysts forecast. About half of retailers reporting did worse than analysts polled by Thomson Reuters expected while half did better.

ShopperTrak RCT, a Chicago-based research company that tracks customer traffic at more than 45,000 stores, said foot traffic figures for back-to-school are in line with its forecast of a 10 percent drop from last year.

The better-than-expected sales results eased some analysts' concern that the holiday season will be as bad as last year.

"The core issue here is pent-up demand; that's what we'll be talking about this holiday season," Niemira said. "I think August is the start of this transition to better times for the industry."

The retail industry's monthly report comes more than a week before the U.S. Department of Commerce's monthly retail tally, due Sept. 15, which includes a much broader range of businesses such as auto, gasoline and building materials retailers. With Wal-Mart no longer participating in the industry roundup, it shows more about discretionary spending than the economy overall. The industry tally is sometimes seen as a better gauge of retailers' viability, however, because it compares established stores from one year to the next, while the government figure is for total sales.

Discounters performed best as consumers remained focused on bargains. Target Corp.'s sales at established stores dropped 2.9 percent, better than the 5.1 percent drop analysts expected. The 5 percent increase at TJX Cos., which operates Marshall's and TJMaxx, also beat expectations.

Upscale retailer Saks Inc. reported a 19.6 percent drop, even larger than analysts expected. And department stores overall remained weak. Macy's Inc. reported an 8.1 percent decline in sales at established stores.

Gap Inc. reported lower sales but beat expectations, boosted by its low-priced Old Navy chain.

The teen sector was weak. The Buckle Inc., which has been doing better than others in the sector, reported higher sales than a year ago but missed analyst expectations. And Abercrombie & Fitch Co., which has kept prices higher than most competitors, reported a 29 percent drop.



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:

Appeal 08-016 of Fence, Wall, Hedge Modification 08-0004, 227 Bay Street. The appellant is appealing the Zoning Administrator approval of a hedge modification to permit a 67-inch hedge within the front yard setback area where a maximum of 42-inches is permitted by Code. On December 11, 2008 the Zoning Administrator approved the modification pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.10.02.080(e). An appeal of the Zoning Administrator determination was filed on December 23, 2008. [Planner: Gina Szilak] Appellant: Hali Parlar. Applicant/Property Owner: Anne E. Biege-Pearson.

Appeal 09-008, 149-151 Ocean Park Boulevard. The appellants are appealing the Zoning Administrator's approval of Variance Application 08-014 that allowed the re-construction of a nonconforming deck, at the rear of an existing single-family residential building in the R2R (Low Density Duplex) District. The proposed deck will have a width of 22 feet and a depth of 14 feet, with a maximum area of 308 square feet and a minimum of 9 feet rear yard setback as conditioned in the Zoning Administrator's determination. Pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.20.10.030(d)(1), the Zoning Administrator and the Planning Commission on appeal, may approve modification of yard setbacks and parcel coverage on parcels having a depth of ninety feet or less or width of thirty-nine feet or less, provided certain criteria are met. The subject property has a width of thirty-seven and one-half feet. [Planner: Lily Yegazu] **Appellants: Mary Marlow and Mark Kreher. Applicant/Property Owner: Audrey Ickovits.**

Conditional Use Permit 08-015, Variance 08-021, 1519 Wilshire Boulevard. The applicant is requesting a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow an expansion of an existing restaurant with on-site consumption of alcoholic beverages located in the C6/ N (Boulevard Commercial / Neighborhood Overlay) zoning district. The 4,973 square foot restaurant includes seating for 225 customers. To comply with off-street parking requirements, the applicant requests a parking variance to modify the number of spaces required for the restaurant. Pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Section 9.04.10.18.020, a Conditional Use Permit is required for the on-site sale and dispensation of alcohol. Parking Variances are allowed pursuant to SMMC Section 9.04.20.10.030. **Applicant: 1519 Wilshire Boulevard LP. Property Owner: .John Makhani.**

Development Review Permit 08-001, Design Compatibility Permit 09-001, Vesting Tentative Tract Map 08-005 and Variance 09-002; 1217-1231 Sixteenth Street. An application for a Design Compatibility Permit, Development Review Permit, Vesting Tentative Tract Map and Variance for the construction of a three story, 45 foot high, 45,000 square-foot out-patient surgery and oncology center with a 250 space, six level subterranean automated parking garage. A variance is requested to allow the design of the parking to be a fully automated. The Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project was certified on May 20, 2009. The EIR has concluded that there will be significant unavoidable impacts to transportation/traffic, construction effects and neighborhood effects. All other potential impacts can be mitigated to a less than significant level. Adoption of a Mitigation Monitoring Program and Statement of Overriding Considerations will be necessary to approve the project. [Planner: Scott Albright, AICP] **Applicant: Arnon Development Group. Property Owner: Sixteenth Street Medical Center, LLC.**

WHEN: **Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

City of Santa Monica

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 the Project 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.smgov.net. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation request, please contact (310) 458-8341, or TYY Number: (310) 458-8696 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #7, #8, #9 and the Tide Ride service the 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.

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SMC takes steps to mitigate increased enrollment traffic

FROM **TRAFFIC** PAGE 1

serve students of SMC, including the Line 7 and Rapid 7, both of which stop at the college. The increase in service will go for about another week.

About 35 percent of Big Blue Bus riders last year were students.

Students save an estimated $700 a year by riding the bus instead of driving to school, Linda Gamberg, spokeswoman for the Big Blue Bus, said, quoting estimates from Publictransportation.org.

While bus ridership is expected to increase, the number of parking permits purchased in the first few days of school have declined.

There were 234 permits sold from the Bursar's Office on the first day of school, down from 255 on the first day in 2008 and 286 in 2007. The trend continues more dramatically on the second day — 422 sold this year, 531 in 2008 and 719 in 2007.

The figures don't include the number of permits sold online.

"We do have a sense that overall the sale of parking permits and the number of permits is going down," Bruce Smith, spokesman for SMC, said.

He said that it's a combination of reasons, including increased ridership on the Big Blue Bus through "Any Line, Any Time," and a similar hike in the number of students who park at the satellite lots.

Smith added that low-income students who received a tuition waiver now have to pay the full rate, possibly making parking permits unaffordable.

The Big Blue Bus has also resumed the regular school year schedule for the Sunset Ride, which will now run from 7 a.m. until 6:30 p.m., going very 15 minutes on Monday through Thursday and 20 minutes on Friday.

The agency drew fire from neighbors over the placement of the line's stop in front of homes at 20th and Pearl streets, complaining of students gathering in large groups, littering cigarette butts on the sidewalk.

The Big Blue Bus has since moved the stop and altered the route so that its travel time on Pearl Street is minimized.

"We're always concerned about the number of vehicles going through the neighborhood and we're always trying to work on making sure the running buses are serving as many (riders) as possible and not running extraneous vehicles down the street," Gamberg said. "The changes made with regard to the stop seemed to address primary concerns and have improved the relations with neighbors as well as the traffic flow."

Bender, whose home was immediately next to one of the stops, said that the situation has improved but believes that the volume of bus traffic overall is still too high.

"The amount of buses is insane," Bender said.

> **"I'VE BEEN HOME FROM WORK THE PAST FEW DAYS AND I HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN IT'S BAD FROM THE LAST 10 YEARS OF LIVING HERE BUT IT'S NOT UNTIL YOU'RE HERE ALL DAY THAT YOU SEE (THE TRAFFIC) IS AMAZING."**
>
> Jeff Bender
> SMC neighbor

Sharon McGeeney, whose family has owned property on 20th Street since 1925, said that she believes that while bus traffic has cut down on her street, congestion overall around the college has gone up.

McGeeney, who attended SMC, wrote a letter to her neighbors regarding the situation on Wednesday, saying that it was impossible for her to walk the dog across 20th Street because there were cars going in all directions through the intersection.

"In addition, this morning I was late for an appointment because of having to sit and wait for traffic, and once I got going was almost hit by a car cutting through from an alley near 20th and Pico," she said. "It is a maze of cars through the alleys and streets as far west as Cloverfield (Boulevard).

"What is going to happen when the other schools start session next week?"

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Residents begin to return home after being forced to evacuate

RAQUEL MARIA DILLON
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES All residents forced to flee from a menacing wildfire have been allowed to return to survey the damage as crews took advantage of a break in the weather to strengthen their lines around the massive blaze north of Los Angeles.

"It's like, is this really our house? Is it really still here?" T.J. Lynch said about returning to his home in the Tujunga neighborhood late Wednesday. "Because we had made peace with the fact that we'd never see our stuff again."

"It looks like nothing changed, but when the sun comes up tomorrow, I expect we'll see the hills blackened and gray," the screenwriter said. "We'll hike up the hill and see how close it came to our neighbors."

Higher humidity levels allowed firefighters to set controlled burns and remove brush with bulldozers through the night to further surround the fire. Containment increased from 22 to 28 percent Wednesday.

Crews "made progress" overnight on the fire's western front, said John Huschke, a public information officer for the fire's command center. The fire has moved east into the San Gabriel Wilderness area and dozers are working to lay down 95 more miles of containment lines, fire spokeswoman Gail Wright said early Thursday.

Officials said they were pleased with the progress, but said they have much more work ahead as the forecast called for hot and dry weather in the next couple days.

"We're changing the pace and treating this as a marathon," U.S. Forest Service incident commander Mike Dietrich said. "If it were a 26-mile race, we'd only be at mile six."

Since the flames erupted beside a remote mountain highway on Aug. 26, the Station Fire has ravaged nearly 219 square miles, or 140,150 acres, of the Angeles National Forest. The blaze destroyed 64 homes, killed two firefighters and forced thousands to evacuate.

During the night, a firefighter injured his leg when he fell in a 20-foot ravine and was taken to a hospital by a medical helicopter, Wright said.

The search for what sparked one of the largest wildfires in Southern California history intensified Wednesday when U.S. Forest Service investigators gathered along a road in a blackened forest to hunt for clues near where the fire started. They shook soil in a can and planted red, blue and yellow flags to mark evidence beneath a partially burned oak tree at the bottom of a ravine.

Drought causing spread of wildfire

FROM **FIRE** PAGE 3

Today, there are about 18 million people in Southern California. By 2020, that figure is expected to rise to 23 million. California's population by 2050 is predicted to exceed 55 million people — supplemented by millions of tourists each year.

Clearly, lawmakers in Sacramento must secure more water from both the Friant Dam, north of Fresno and the grasslands north of Sacramento.

I have been covering fires and their behavior in Southern California for the past 13 years including the firestorms of 2003 and 2007. Usually massive fires like the Station fire, which has charred over 132,000 acres, are driven by the inferno Santa Ana winds that pour fire from the mouths of canyons like crazed dragons. Not so this time. Although we've dogged the Santa Ana bullet — we are far from out of the woods.

The Station fire is the first fire I've ever seen of this magnitude being driven solely by drought. The fine fuels (leaves, twigs and bark) are the driest they've been in 25 years. The introduced grasses that are throughout the chaparral add extra kindling to this already volatile situation. And back-burning grasses on slopes usually results in mudslides.

So what, if anything, can be done to mitigate the fires in the Los Angeles basin given that there are hundreds of thousands of homes backed into the wildland interface?

Unusual times call for unusual actions: Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger would be well advised to consider following a precedent New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson implemented to remove millions of dead pinyon pines in his state and protect homeowners. Gov. Richardson mobilized prison inmates to clear the incendiary dead trees from forestlands.

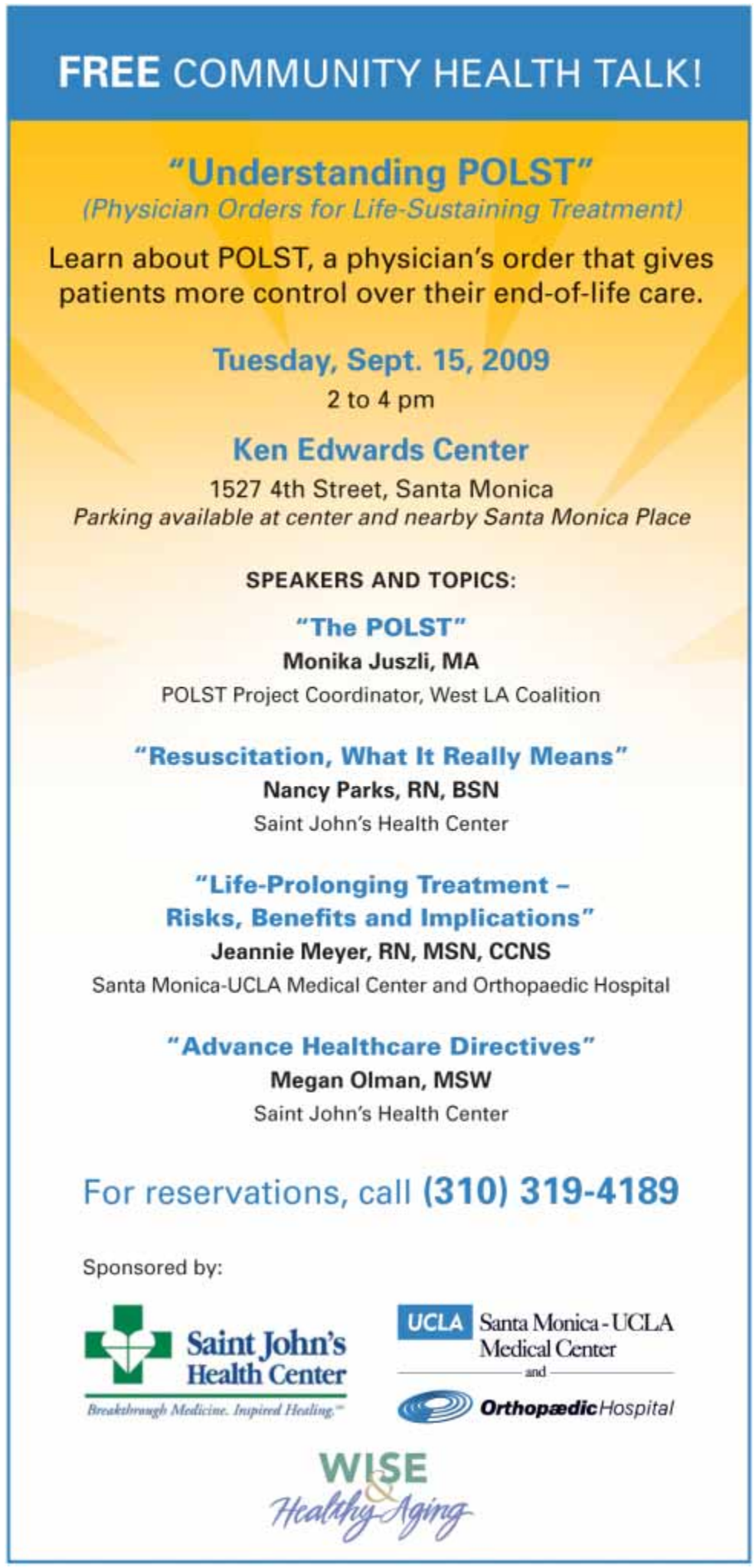
Thousands of inmates in California already work on the fire-line and so exchanging chainsaws for brush-saws makes good sense. The cost of having inmates assist in removal of dead trees and brush, as well as thinning out the white fir and incense cedars throughout the mountains encircling the L.A. basin, is a fraction of the expense of the other options, including: raising new taxes, the labor bill for having foresters do the thinning, a billion dollars spent fighting wildfires in the past five years or the price tag for replacing homes destroyed by fires. And this doesn't consider human lives senselessly lost.

The choice for removing the explosive forest kindling is clear: Would you rather your tax dollars be spent paying $1 an hour to inmates or $30 an hour to professional fallers.

DR. REESE HALTER is a public speaker, conservation biologist and founder of the international conservation institute Global Forest Science. His latest book is "The Incomparable Honey Bee," Rocky Mountain Books.







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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING

DATE/TIME: September 9, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

- ARB 08-070, 1171 Franklin St: Residential
- ARB 08-566, 519 Santa Monica Blvd: Mixed use
- ARB 09-239, 1427 4th St: Office
- ARB 09-244, 1447 Lincoln Blvd: Mixed Use
- ARB 09-347, 226 26th St: Commercial
- ARB 09-348, 1333 4th St: Commercial
- ARB 09-349, 2711 Wilshire Blvd: Commercial
- ARB 09-368, 601 Wilshire Blvd: Commercial
- ARB 09-380, 1829 11th St: Residential

More information is available on-line at http://santa-monica.org/planning/planningcomm/arbagendas.htm or at 310/458-8341 en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail planning@santa-monica.org, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 & 9 and the Tide Ride serve City Hall.

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West Dressed

Mariel Howsepian
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fashionable at school

SCHOOL STARTS NEXT WEEK, AND AS a middle school teacher, I feel almost the same pressure to put together a back to school look as I did when I was a student. First, I'm anxious about making a good first impression. Second, I want people to see me as I, for a short time, see myself: recharged, optimistic, capable of confronting life's challenges.

This morning, the new me pulled everything out of the old me's closet. The old me tried to stop her, but it was no use. The new me just kept flinging clothes onto the bed, with no intention of hanging them back up. The nerve. Eventually, the old me had to leave the room. The new me has nothing to wear.

I know. I'm exaggerating. My closet runneth over. The easiest thing to do is go shopping, but, ironically, the new me has declared 2009-10 the school year she pays off her credit card.

A couple of months ago, I heard about a Web site called Closet Couture. The site allows a woman to upload images of her clothes into a virtual closet, and mix and match items to dress a female silhouette. Watching the site's instructional video, I couldn't help but think: this is paper dolls for grown ups.

Don't get me wrong — I love paper dolls. When I was little, my mom's mom, Grandma Doris, introduced me to Dolly Dingle (one of the Campbell's Soup kids) with her chubby cheeks, blond ringlets and stamp-filled passport. I loved lying on the floor, exchanging her dirndl for her kilt, and her kilt for her kimono.

But do grown-ups — recharged, optimistic, capable grown-ups — really have time for this? After joining Closet Couture, you need to photograph each and every item in your wardrobe against a solid background (like a white sheet, or a white wall), and upload the images into your virtual closet. If you get bored mixing and matching your own clothes, you can "try on" items from different retailers, or reach into the closets of your virtual friends, and put together outfits for them. The site even allows you to "borrow" your friends' clothes.

Of course, if you have no friends, not even of the virtual persuasion, you can hire a Closet Couture stylist for $25 to put together one outfit for you. One outfit. From your own closet. (My suggestion: Get a friend. Spend your money treating your friend to Cynthia's On The Corner's blackberry cobbler a la mode. Then, back at your place, ask your friend for fashion advice.)

Perhaps the most ridiculous feature of Closet Couture is the calendar, which allows you to document when and where you wore (or plan to wear) specific outfits — a helpful feature if you are being stalked by the paparazzi or are an amnesiac.

The best thing about Closet Couture is that it helps you take inventory of what is in your closet, but you don't need a digital camera and laptop to do this. Take everything out of your closet and drawers. This is not about weeding, or throwing anything away. This is about looking for basics, needs and untried combinations.

Your basics are things like the little black dress, a trench coat, a pair of black dress pants, a white button down shirt, the perfect pair of jeans, an occasion top, a skirt, a day-time dress, and a fitted jacket. If you don't have one of the basics, this becomes a need.

New me, I give you permission to go shopping for needs.

MARIEL HOWSEPIAN digs black coffee, fairy tales and a man in coveralls. She lives in Santa Monica and can be reached at Mariel_Rodriguez@antiochla.edu.

Quick tip

- DON'T buy an item unless you can see wearing it with three other items you already own.
- DO allow yourself to purchase one trendy fashion item per season. (There are two fashion seasons per year: Spring/summer and fall/winter).
- DO put on makeup before trying on "untried combinations" from your closet.



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Play Time

Cynthia Citron — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

‘Fuggedaboudit!’ a lost cause

IF I WERE TO TAKE A VOTE RIGHT NOW, I’d have to say that Gordon Bressack’s new play “Fuggedaboudit!” is the worst play I’ve seen this century. But then, of course, the century is new. So maybe I’d have to throw in the 20th century as well.

Fuggedaboudit, for those of you not of the Brooklyn or New Jersey or Tony Soprano’s Bada Bing persuasion, is their quaint way of pronouncing “forget about it.” Kind of like the transliteration of prayers into phonetic English for those who don’t read Hebrew.

In this totally messed up play, some nine weird characters have come together in a friendly intervention to try to help a guy named Guy (Shaw Jones) with amnesia recover his lost memory. In one vignette after another, these characters recall an event they have previously shared with him. Which wouldn’t be a bad idea, except that the “events” are inconsequential, boring, badly acted, unfunny, and, not to put too fine a point on it — stupid!

Among the gathering is Guy’s black brother, Mark, played by Gerrence George, who reenacts the way they used to gargle their milk together when they came home from school. Truly a significant memory, wouldn’t you say? And then there is Wendy (Jessica Rose), Mark’s ditzy pregnant wife, who has slept with nearly everyone there, including one of the gay guys (Christopher Le Crenn). The other gay guy, (Charles M. Howell IV) who has no memories to share, uses his turn to channel Bette Davis and overplay to the point of absurdity a scene from one of her movies.

Also present are Guy’s two girlfriends: a strait-laced blonde (Mary Kay Riley) and an oversexed, under-dressed vamp with multi-colored hair (Tara Ciabattoni). And finally, there is the gun-toting thug (Armen Torosyan) who arrives to collect the $50,000 that he claims Guy owes him. Ironically, Torosyan, hamming it up, is the only actor in this misbegotten travesty of a play who looks like he’s actually been on a stage before. If I give him the $50,000 will he let me out of here?

Playwright and director Gordon Bressack also appears with actress Marie Broderick in a scene they call a “curtain raiser.” She, like all the other women, also has a no-chemistry sex scene with Guy.

So, just in case I haven’t made myself clear: If you were thinking of seeing this play, fuggedaboudit!

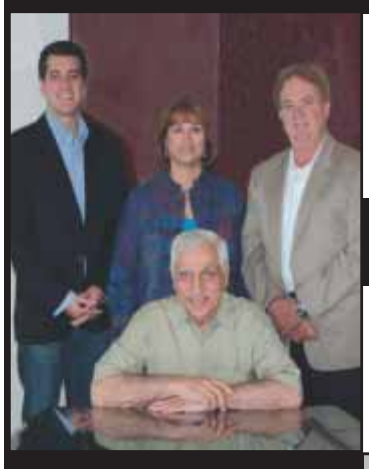
But if you insist, it will be running Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. through Sept. 20 at the Hudson Backstage Theatre, 6639 Santa Monica Blvd. in Hollywood. Call (323) 960-7753 for reservations.

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NFL

Bly gets another chance in secondary with 49ers

JANIE MCCAULEY
AP Sports Writer

SANTA CLARA Dre' Bly joined the San Francisco 49ers to fill some serious shoes.

The Niners' secondary took a big blow before training camp when it lost veteran Walt Harris for the season as he recovers from knee surgery, which put the former Pro Bowl player's career in jeopardy.

Yet suddenly, the secondary is setting up to be one of the bright spots for an experienced defense that's on the rise. Coach Mike Singletary has plenty of capable choices on the depth chart, and the competition for starting spots may go down to the wire at right cornerback before the team opens the season Sept. 13 at Arizona.

Bly is the front-runner to win the job at that position over third-year pro Tarell Brown.

During training camp, the 49ers defensive backs displayed a ball-hawking mentality and the ability to make plays and jump in the passing lanes to deflect the football. That's something San Francisco desperately missed last season, when the 49ers managed only 12 interceptions. Seven of those came from the secondary — three by Harris and two each by Nate Clements and Brown.

With Harris out, there's some work to do to make up for his production.

"When he went down, that left a void," Bly said. "That's when I got signed. He'll be tremendously missed. They say he was a great leader, a great veteran guy, had a great locker room presence. That's a great opportunity for me to come and be who I've been my whole life. I feel I can help because I'm a competitor, I compete.

"With Nate and the other guys we have, Tarell Brown, we can raise the level of play and do great things."

Harris tore a ligament in his knee during minicamp workouts on May 19 in a collision with receiver Dominique Zeigler, then underwent surgery later in the month. San Francisco signed Bly just one day after Harris' injury, clearly indicating Harris had no shot of playing this year.

Bly, an 11th-year veteran and two-time Pro Bowler, faced his share of criticism last season with the Broncos. He made two interceptions, matching the lowest total of his career— the first time he was in his fourth NFL season with St. Louis.

No question Bly is ready for a fresh start. He's as confident as ever at age 32.

"Just coming here, it has me hungry again," he said. "I haven't been hungry like this in a while. Based on how things ended last year in Denver, the critics were out there, saying I'm aging, saying I'm not an elite guy anymore, this and that. I've been healthy the last three years. I know I'm 32 but I haven't lost any of my quickness. I'm smarter and I definitely haven't lost any of my ball skills.

"To make the plays I've made since I've playing competitive ball, you just don't lose that. I haven't lost that. You've just got to be in the right situation. I'm in a great situation, a great scheme and I'm glad to be here."

San Francisco finished 13th in the league in total defense last season — matching its highest spot in more than a decade — with the secondary playing a key role in that. The 49ers led the NFL in total defense in 1997.

Defensive coordinator Greg Manusky joked that he'd love to keep 20 defensive backs if he could, though the number will probably be at least half that when the roster is trimmed to 53 players Saturday.

"It is a very solid group on the back end," Manusky said. "Even though we have a couple of young guys playing in the back, it seems like a veteran group, which is good. There are some young guys and some older guys all sprinkled in there. A very strong group of personalities and they want to be good and they want to show that they belong where they belong."

San Francisco, which plays its last exhibition game Friday at San Diego, has spent a lot of money to boost the secondary, too.

When the 49ers signed Clements to an $80 million, eight-year deal in 2007 — with $22 million guaranteed — it was the richest contract ever for a defender at the time.

Star linebacker Patrick Willis isn't the least bit concerned about the defensive backs playing behind him.

"I have all the confidence in the world. I wouldn't want another secondary back there," Willis said. "I think knowing the guys back there, they're very experienced, been playing a while, been playing the game of football for a while and then we've been playing for a while. Especially playing in this defense now going on three years makes it even better. So, hopefully all of that will play into our favor."

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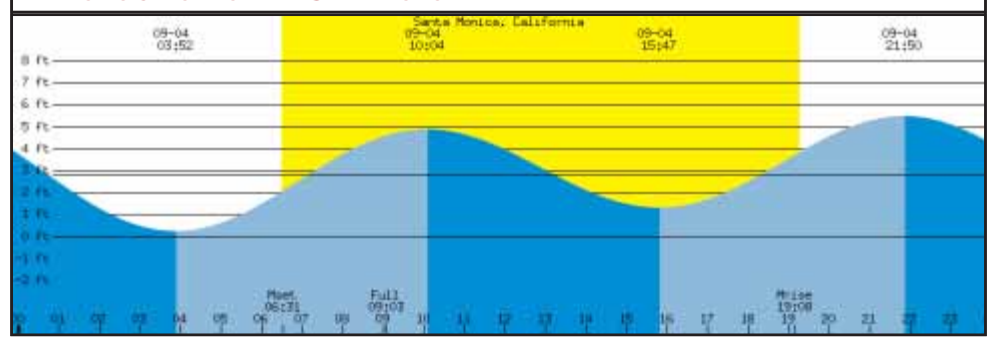
Swell Forecast

Jimena's energy is expected to fade. South facing breaks are looking at knee+ surf. NW wind swell is expected, mostly waist high around west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

The wind swell should come to its peak with waist+ waves around west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of **August 25, 2009**

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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 -- 40 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by simplehuman, 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
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachasa and Las Alisos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	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 Blacker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	B	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	A+	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	D	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunos County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	F	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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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.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Ghostbusters (PG) 1hr 47min
7:30

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Funny People (R) 2hr 16min
2:45, 6:45, 9:50

The Hangover (R) 1hr 36min
1:55, 4:40, 7:15, 10:05

Taking Woodstock (R) 1hr 50min
1:45, 4:30, 7:25, 10:15

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 2hrs 33min
3:00, 6:30, 9:55

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

Shorts (PG) 1hr 29min
11:30am, 1:50, 4:20, 6:50

Ponyo (Gake no ue no Ponyo) (G) 1hr 40min
11:05am, 1:30, 4:05, 7:05, 9:40

The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13) 1hr 48min
10:50am, 1:25, 4:10, 7:15, 9:55

Julie and Julia (PG-13) 2hrs 3min
10:45am, 1:35, 4:30, 7:30, 10:25

Halloween II (2009) (R) 1hr 41min
12:00, 2:30, 5:20, 7:55, 10:45

My One and Only (PG-13) 1hr 25min
11:00am, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

Gamer (R) 1hr 35min
11:50am, 2:40, 5:05, 7:45, 10:15

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

Extract (R) 1hr 30min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

(500) Days of Summer (PG-13) 1hr 35min
1:50, 4:30, 7:20, 9:45

The Hurt Locker (R) 2hr 10min
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55

In the Loop (NR) 1hr 46min
1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

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

The Final Destination 3D (R) 1hr 22min
12:30, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

Inglourious Basterds (R) 2hrs 32min
12:00, 1:30, 3:30, 5:00, 7:00, 8:30, 10:20

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

District 9 (R) 1hr 53min
11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

All About Steve (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:40am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40

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

Where the action is, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Juggling different concerns could be exhausting but necessary. Do you see a situation as either-or? Recognize what is happening behind the scenes, or at least stop and observe more. Tonight: Read between the lines.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You know what you want and where you are heading. Juggle different concerns, but don't allow a situation to obscure your path. A meeting proves to be more informative than you can imagine. Remain optimistic. Tonight: Where the action is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Demands force you to take the lead. Face facts -- in some areas you do the best work, so others will call on you. A domestic matter could be problematic. You cannot be in two places at once. Realize what is happening, but don't feel as if you need to interfere. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out for a key person. You might want to discuss a possible major change. The smart action will be to get as much information as possible. Extremes mark a conversation; be willing to reach out to others. Tonight: Follow the music.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Teamwork draws excellent results. If you do something differently, you'll get the results you desire. Information comes forward that might set you on your heels. Rethink a decision soon. Tonight: Defer to others' expertise.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your juggling act proves to be phenomenal and gets you past a problem. Egos are involved. Clearly, it will take state-of-the-art communication to find a resolution. Accept and enjoy differences. Tonight: Say "yes."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Dive into whatever you do 100 percent. You might be wondering about the possibilities that surround a situation. Do you have any answers? If so, you might try airing them out. Encourage those around you to play devil's advocate. Tonight: Easy does it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Call upon your creativity to resolve a situation. Share some of your ideas in a discussion, whether you feel they are right or wrong. Happiness surrounds a child or loved one; schedule some special time with this person. Tonight: Let your imagination rock and roll.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Pressure builds to a new level. Consider others' resistance. What might be a problem today easily might not be in several days. Tonight: A must appearance.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Though you might not be sure about what you need to do, certainly communicating back and forth with other people will help. Listen as well as speak. There is a lot happening quickly. Information that heads in your direction proves to be informative. Tonight: Head on out the door.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Expenses could awe you, inviting you to cut back. As you juggle a situation, you come up with a solution. Still, remain flexible, as a lot is about to happen. Tonight: Stick to your budget; be creative with plans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You might want to do something in a different manner. Laughter surrounds a decision you make. Humor works, helping a partner break down some of his or her need to be right. You could be surprised by what you hear once barriers are dropped. Listen. Tonight: Charm works.

Happy birthday

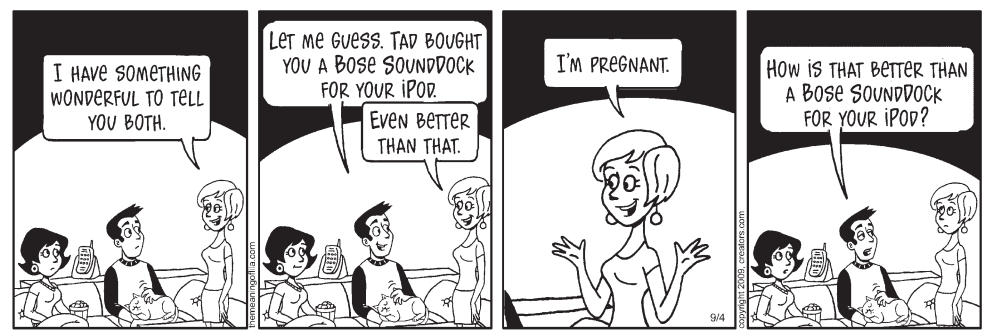
This year, you juggle different interests. You are tossed into the limelight. Just because someone isn't easy doesn't mean he or she doesn't care. Your popularity mounts to a new level. If you are feeling squeezed between a rock and a hard place, or perhaps in a black-and-white situation, pull back. You simply might not be seeing the solution. Look at how both can be right. If you are single, you'll discover that many people would like to hook up with you. Clearly, it is your call, especially in 2010. If you are attached, you often won't agree. Empower the difference by respecting other approaches to the same issue. PISCES reads you cold.

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

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



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



Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Maya Sugarman *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Takes in
6 Girl in a Browning poem
11 Jacob's father
12 Some messages
13 Trattoria fare
14 High homes
15 Japanese sport
17 Regarding
18 Biden, e.g.
20 Painter Magritte
22 California's Fort —
23 Shorten
26 Old crone
28 Playful mammal
29 Fish groups
31 Old crone
32 "Orinoco Flow" singer
33 Leander's love
34 Tire tracks
36 Spill the beans
38 Poppy product
40 Sky shade
43 List divider
44 Scout's job
45 Kicked, in a way
46 Invited

DOWN

1 Dance maneuver
2 Much of N. Amer.
3 Occupied oneself
4 "Dig in!"
5 Swindle
6 Stock holder
7 "Don't test me!"
8 Blamed someone else
9 "Troy" star
10 Not to mention
16 Planetoid
18 Wedding words
19 Hockey's Lindros
21 Amorous archer
23 Naval cry
24 Clock part
25 Therefore
27 Use up
30 Research site
33 Mists
34 It beats scissors
35 Over
37 "Tomb Raider" heroine
39 Seething
41 Future fish
42 Finale

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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

9-4

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 2 9 28 51 53
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 9 13 27 41 42
Meganumber: 27
Jackpot: $18M

Fantasy 5: 4 13 17 22 24

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 3 5
EVENING: 0 5 9

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1.48.75

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

■ The director of a child advocacy group told The Associated Press in June that, since 1975, at least 274 children have died following the withholding of medical treatment based on religious doctrine. In one high-profile case this year, the father of a girl said turning her over to doctors would violate God's word (she died), but in another, a Minnesota family that had trusted their son's cancer to prayer, based on advice from something called the Nemenhah Band, changed course and allowed chemotherapy, which so far appears to have prolonged the boy's life.

■ The Shinto temple Kanda Shrine, near Tokyo's version of Silicon Valley, does a brisk business blessing electronic gadgets, according to a July dispatch in Wired magazine. Lucky charms go for the equivalent of about $8.50, but for a personal session, the temple expects an offering of the equivalent of at least $50. The Wired writer, carrying a potentially balky cell phone, approached the shrine with a tree branch as instructed, turned it 180 degrees clockwise, and laid it on the altar. After bowing twice and clapping his hands twice, he left, looking forward to a glitch-free phone.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1888 George Eastman registers the trademark Kodak and receives a patent for his camera that uses roll film.

1894 In New York City, 12,000 tailors strike against sweatshop working conditions.

1919 Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who founded the Republic of Turkey, gathers a congress in Sivas to make decisions as to the future of Anatolia and Thrace.

1923 Maiden flight of the first U.S. airship, the USS Shenandoah.

1939 World War II: Japan declares neutrality in the European war.

1940 World War II: a German submarine makes the first attack against a United States ship (the USS Greer) .

WORD UP!

carom \KAIR-uhm\ , noun: 1. A rebound following a collision; a glancing off. 2. A shot in billiards in which the cue ball successively strikes two other balls on the table.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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ATTENTION CONSUMERS: Tired of corruption, frauds, scams & rip-offs? Well it's time to fight back! Watch & Hear-Emmy winning consumer advocate & TV investigative reporter Judd McIlvain's all new trouble shooter Consumer Protection TV & Radio Show. Visit www.TroubleshooterJudd.com for channel & air times... (Cal-SCAN)

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Business Opps

ALL CASH VENDING! Be Your Own Boss! Your Own Local Vending Route. Includes 25 Machines and Candy for $9,995. MultiVend LLC, 1-888-625-2405. (Cal-SCAN)

For Sale

Collector items Estate Sale vintage hat, antique furniture, painting, different sizes jersey signed buy Baron Davis. A lot of bricks and bracks.

For Sale

Must see @ 2625 Strong Dr.
Venice 90291 (310) 482-1038. Ask John

Auction

ABSOLUTE AUCTION - No Minimum Bid/ No Seller Reserve! September 2nd @ noon. 5,500 sq.ft. home, guest house, horse corral on 1 acre. Nuevo, Riverside County. www.AuctionCA.com (661) 325-6500. (Cal-SCAN)

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American Cancer Society Discovery Shop needs vounteers- 4 hours per week
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310 458-4490

For Rent

12309 CULVER Blvd unit 12, 1bdrm/1bath $975/mo. stove, fridge, carpets, blind, laundry, utilities included, gated parking, intercom entry, no pets. $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512, jkwproperties.com

2478 Corinth Ave. $1595 front unit 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, ceiling fan, onsite laundry, small gated front yard 2 parking spaces, 20 lb. pet OK w/ deposit $300 off move-in (888)414-7778

3623 KEYSTONE Ave.unit 5, $675 bachelor, lower, fridge, microwave, carpet, blinds, utilities included laundry, no parking, no pets $300 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

501 N. Venice 1+1, #25 $1225/mo stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $750 off move-in (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

501 N. Venice unit 40 single, $1075/mo $500 off move-in stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

833 5TH St. SM unit 101 2+2 $2350 stove, carpet, blinds, swimming pool, laundry, granite countertops, wood/tile floors, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. (310)393-2547 www.jkwproperties.com

HOWARD MANAGEMENT GROUP
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1120 6th St #5 2+1
Pergo floors, 2 parking spaces
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1011 Pico Blvd. #8 2+2, Loft, 3 levels modern building, available after 9/1
$2695

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www.howardmanagement.com
rentals@howardmanagement.com

MAR VISTA near Marina. $1050/mo 1bd+den 1ba, carpet, blinds, stove, refrigerator, laundry, parking, no pets. 310-456-5659.

MAR VISTA: 12434 CULVER Blvd. units 3 1+1 stove, fridge, AC, carpets blinds, laundry room, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets.$1100/mo $500 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MARVISTA-LA $1995.00 2bdrms, 2 baths, no pets, balcony, stove, refrig, dshwshr, washr/dryr, loft, parking 4077 Inglewood Blvd #7 To view this apartment, Please call for appt: (310)780-3354

PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave #1 stove, blinds, tile flooring, carpets, ceiling fan, laundry,parking, AC, no pets. $1400/mo $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #104 $850 Single, stove, fridge, blinds, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets. (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3346 S. Canfiled #205 $995 1+1 upper, stove, fridge, blinds, bamboo & vinyl floors, on-site laundry, garage parking, intercom entry no pets.$500 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

PALMS 3540 Overland units 2 & 5 $950 Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, street parking, no pets. $700 off move-in special. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS ADJ/ LaCienga Hghts. $1075.00 1 Bdrm, 1Bath, NO PETS, stove, refrg, parking 2009 Preuss Rd., #10 Open daily 8am-8pm . Additional info in unit

Santa Monica $1195.00 1 Bdrms, 1Bath NO pets, gas, paid stove, refrigerator, parking 2535 Kansas Ave., #210 Open daily 8am-8pm. Additional info in unit. Manager in unit #101.

TRI-LEVEL TOWNHOUSE in Culver City. 4044 Jackson Ave. 3 bdrm/2.5bath, $2600. non-smokers. Stove, fridge, microwave, dishwasher, carpet, hardwood floors, fireplace, balcony, garage, no pets.(310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

Venice 25 19th Ave.unit A 1+1 $1295/mo. stove, fridge, wood/tile flooring, laundry, cieling fan garage parking, no pets. $700 off move-in (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WESTCHESTER 7087 1/2 Manchester Ave.Single stove, fridge, hardwood floors, on-site laundry, street parking, no pets, $995/mo $300 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

WESTWOOD: 617 1/2 Midvale unit 2.& 3 Bachelor, no kitchen, sink, fridge,hot plate, microwave, ceiling fan, carpet, street parking, no pets $850/mo (310)578-7512 wwwjkwproperties.com

WLA $1750/MO. Large bright 2 bdrm upper, on Barrington near National. Very spacious. Large closets, crown moldings, stove/refrigerator. Closed garage. Well maintained, charming, older building. FREE MONTH WITH ONE YEAR LEASE (310)828-4481 or (310)993-0414 after 6pm.

WLA OCEAN VIEW, large 1 bedroom on private driveway, Hilltop, large sundeck 2 parking, newly redecor, $1395 (310)390-4610

For Rent

WLA 1457 Westgate #D 1+1 upper stove, fridge, blinds, wood/tile floors, carport parking no pets $1225/mo $750 off move-in special (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

Houses For Rent



1833 18TH St #B, 90404

$2,200.00 - 1833 18th St #B - Santa Monica - 2 bedrooms

SUPER CUTE, 2 BEDROOM 2 BATH COTTAGE, Unfurnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 Baths, Available Now...
Email: nikki@peprinting.com
Fax: 310-314-6900 Phone:
Nicole VonRiesen at (310) 266-0629

2547 S. WESTGATE 2+1 HOUSE in West LA, garage, hdwd floors, nice landscaping, fenced yard, DWP & gardener included. $2600/mo. Call Martha (818) 366-5997.

3824 BLEDSOE Ave Los Angeles unfurnished 3bdrm/1 1/2bath stove dishwasher microwave granite countertops hardwood floors carpet central AC/heat 2 car garage front & backyard $2750 (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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20 ACRE RANCH FORECLOSURES Near Booming El Paso, Texas. Was $16,900. Now $11,350!! $0 Down. Take over payments $169/month. Owner Financing. Free Pictures. 1-800-343-9444. (Cal-SCAN)

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THE FOLLOWING LIST IS A DE-SCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD:
Storage Unit #
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2727 - Lee Brownstein - boxes, plastic containers, pictures, entertainment center, file boxes

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091110370 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as JEWELS FOR AUTISM, 17214 WELBY WAY, LAKE BALBOA, CA 91406, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : MAYE KONGMALAY, 17214 WELBY WAY, LAKE BALBOA, CA 91406 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: MAYE KONGMALAY
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/22/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 8/21/2009, 8/28/2009, 9/4/2009, 9/11/2009

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091102616 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ARTNOT PROPERTIES & MANAGEMENT, 2609 BRIGHTON AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90018, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : JAMES D. RABB III, 2609 BRIGHTON AVE, LOS ANGELES; NICOLE C. MCDUFFIE, 2609 BRIGHTON AVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90018 This Business is being conducted by, a general partnership. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)4/1/2004. /s/: JAMES D. RABB III
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 7/21/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 8/21/2009, 8/28/2009, 9/4/2009, 9/11/2009

121: one to one ADN: any day now AFAIK: as far as I know AFK: away from keyboard **A/S/L: age, sex, location** B4: before BAK: bye for now BAK: back at the keyboard BBIAB: be back in a bit BBL: be back later BBN: bye bye now BBS: be back soon BEG: big evil grin **BF: boyfriend** BFN: bye for now BG: big grin BL: belly laughing BMTIPG: brilliant minds think in parallel gutters BRB: be right back BTA: but then again BTW: by the way BWL: bursting with laughter BYTHOTH: but what the heck do I know CAG: chuckle & grin CD: crying in disgrace CHF: continued (in my) next post CP: chat post CRBT: crying real big tears CSG: chuckle, snicker, grin CU: see you CUL: see you later CYO: see you online DBAB: doing business as usual DIKU: do I know you? DL: dead link DLTBBB: don't let the bed bugs bite DUNOT: don't quote me on this EG: evil grin EMFBI: excuse me for butting in EMSG: email message EOT: end of thread F2F: face to face FC: fingers crossed FISH: first in, still here FMTEWTK: far more than you ever wanted to know FOMCL: falling off my chair laughing FTBOMH: from the bottom of my heart FUD: fear, uncertainty, and doubt FWIW: for what it's worth G2G: got to go G: grin GA: go ahead GAL: get a life GD&R: grinning, ducking, and running GF: girlfriend GFN: gone for now GIWIST: gee, I wish I'd said that GMBO: giggling my butt off GMTA: great minds think alike GOL: giggling out loud GTRM: going to read mail GTSY: glad to see you H&K: hug and kiss HAGN: have a good night **HDOP: help delete online predators** HHIS: hanging head in shame HTH: hope this helps HUB: head up butt IAC: in any case IANAL: I am not a lawyer (but) IC: I see IDK: I don't know IMH: I hate acronyms IMC: if I remember correctly ILU: I love you IM: instant message IMHO: in my humble opinion IMNSHO: in my not so humble opinion IMO: in my opinion IOW: in other words IPN: I'm posting naked IRL: in real life IWALU: I will always love you IYSWIM: if you see what I mean JIC: just in case JK: just kidding JMO: just my opinion JTLYK: just to let you know K: okay KIT: keep in touch KOC: kiss on cheek KOL: kiss on lips KOTC: kiss on the cheek KWIM: know what I mean? LDR: later LD: later, dude LDR: long distance relationship LLTA: lots and lots of thunderous applause **LMIRL: let's meet in real life** LMOS: laughing my socks off LOL: laughing out loud LSHMBB: laughing so hard my belly is bouncing LTM: laugh to myself LTNS: long time, no see LTR: long-term relationship LULAB: love you like a brother **LULAS: love you like a sister** LUWAWK: love you with all my heart LY: love you M/F: male or female MOSS: member of same sex MOTOS: member of the opposite sex MSG: message MTF: more to follow MUSH: miss you so much NADT: not a darn thing NIFOC: naked in front of computer NP: no problem NRN: no reply necessary OIC: oh I see **OLL: online love** OM: old man OTF: off the floor OTOH: on the other hand OTTOMH: off the top of my head P2P: peer to peer PPA: public display of affection PSRCAA: problem exists between chair and keyboard PLZ: please PM: private message PMFJI: pardon me for jumping in but POAHF: put on a happy face **POS: parent over shoulder** PU: that stinks QT: cutie RL: real life ROTFL: rolling on the floor laughing RPG: role playing games RSN: real soon now S4L: spam for life SETE: smiling ear to ear SHCOON: shoot hot coffee out of nose SHID: slaps head in disgust SF: surfer friendly SWERT: snot nosed egotistical rude teenager SO: significant other SOMY: sick of me yet? SOT: short of time STR: search the web SWAK: sealed with a kiss SWL: screaming with laughter SYS: see you soon TA: thanks again TCOB: taking care of business TCOY: take care of yourself TIA: thanks in advance TLU: tell it like it is TMI: too much information TOY: thinking of you TTYL: talk to you later UW: you're welcome WB: welcome back WFM: works for me WISH: wouldn't it be nice if **WTGP: want to go private?** WTG: way to go WU: what's up WUF: where are you from? YBS: you'll be sorry YL: young lady YM: young man

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