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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

Volume 7 Issue 258



NEW IPOD ON THE BLOCK
SEE PAGE 7

Santa Monica Daily Press

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE MISSING METERS ISSUE



Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

THE PAST MEETS THE PRESENT: Mayor Herb Katz (right) and Ben Franz-Knight, the executive director of the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corp., share their fondest memories of growing up with the pier at the beginning of the Centennial countdown Tuesday morning.

Pier looks to next 100 years

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA BEACH It wasn't the kind of blowout party often expected from celebrities of this caliber, but the 99th birthday of the world famous Santa Monica Pier on Tuesday set the stage for what promises to be a one-of-a-kind centennial.

As the city's iconic landmark — featured numerous times on film and television — approaches the century mark, the Santa Monica Pier Restoration Corp. (PRC) on Tuesday kicked off a year-long celebration that will be filled with events building up to the big day next fall.

"The Santa Monica Pier Centennial will look 100 years in the past and 100 years in

the future by creating an atmosphere of fun, festivity, and fitness that will last for another 100 years," Ben Franz-Knight, the executive director of the PRC, said during the news conference.

The festivities surrounding the anniversary will include everything from perform-

SEE PIER PAGE 11

New faces make way to campus

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC The Athletics Department here had a busy day on Tuesday when it announced the duo hiring of an interim athletic director and new head basketball coach.

Gregg Simmons, who has spent the past couple of years working for a nonprofit sports training institute in San Diego, was tapped to replace outgoing Athletic Director Rhonda Hyatt who left Santa Monica College last month to head the new Recreation Management program at College of the Canyons.

The college also named Jerome Jenkins, who spent eight years as the head men's basketball coach at Sacramento State University, to replace former coach Jesse Teplitzky, who is now serving in the same capacity at Cerritos College.

Michael Tuitasi, the vice president of student affairs, said a nationwide search for a permanent director will soon commence.

"We're extremely pleased to be able to bring these two men on our SMC team," Tuitasi said.

While the position is temporary, Simmons said he sees it as a great opportunity toward fulfilling his dream of one day serving as a college athletic director full time.

He brings with him more than 15 years working in coaching and athletic management, most recently with the San Diego Sports Institute where he served as the executive director.

He also spent time as an athletics counselor and head coach in track and cross-

SEE SMC PAGE 12

Stolen parking meters turn up in Santa Clarita

DAILY PRESS STAFF

SANTA CLARITA Sheriff's Department officials here stumbled across an unusual find while investigating a man who was found

digging through bags of clothing at a nearby Salvation Army on Monday.

After witnessing the man rummage through the donated items in the early morning hours, a deputy searched the man's

vehicle only to find three stolen Santa Monica parking meters. At the time, Santa Monica officials were unaware that the meters were even missing. The meters were accounted for last Friday and disappeared

sometime during the weekend according to officials.

"It looks like they're definitely our

SEE METERS PAGE 9



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Calendar

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS

Get lost in thought

1008 11th St., Noon — 1 p.m.

Stressed out at work? Then take an hour to revitalize by walking and meditating at the First United Methodist Church's new permanent labyrinth in Simkins Hall. The labyrinth is open every Wednesday until Sept. 10, 2008. For more information contact Mary Garbesi at (310) 393-8258, ext. 106 or via e-mail at mary.garbesi@santamonicaumc.org.

Kicking it with Kiwanis

1332 Sixth St., Noon — 1:30 p.m.

Join members of the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club for their weekly luncheon where quests connect and hear from a rotating panel of speakers. The club has been serving the needs of the community and its children since 1922. For more information, call (310) 613-1249.

Heal your body

1844 Lincoln Blvd., 6 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.

Come for free energy Pranic Healing for asthma, arthritis, cancer, addictions, depression, and phobias with Master Choa Kok Sui at the Kathmandu Boutique. The no-touch, painless, and effective healing art helps the body to repair itself. This healing treatment is offered as a service to the community, and all are welcome with no appointments necessary. For more information, call (310) 396-4036.

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008

Magical night of improvisation

4455 Overland Ave. Culver City, 8 p.m. — 9 p.m.

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

Friday, Aug. 12, 2008

Salsa the night away

1334 Lincoln Blvd, 7:15 p.m. — 10 p.m.

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

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.

Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital Presents a FREE community health talk

"DNA Testing by Commercial Labs: Business or Science?"

Tuesday, September 16, 2008

7-8:30pm

Santa Monica Main Public Library

601 Santa Monica Blvd.

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Professor, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

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Migrating to the blogosphere

BY CHRISTINA YOON

Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN If a person is what he eats, then it's probably safe to say that a city is what it blogs.

Such is the case in Santa Monica, where several local blogs, many less than a year old, have formed to represent some of the issues at the forefront of residents' minds. Popular local blog topics include real estate issues, the bicycling community and environmental activism.

"There's a lot of people in Santa Monica and a lot of people who are interested in Santa Monica, either to move to in the future or to visit on vacation, so there's a large audience," said the creator of Santa Monica Distress Monitor (smdistress.blogspot.com), who goes by the online name "Warchest" and declined to reveal his real name.

He started the Distress Monitor a year ago to track what he considers to be an imminent decline in the local real estate market.

"I got interested in real estate as things got more and more irrational," he said, "and after

spending way too many hours online and looking at other blogs, studying statistics."

Warchest, who grew up in Santa Monica and hopes to own a home here sometime soon, lists recent reductions in sale prices and often offers humorous commentary on the property descriptions created by real estate agents.

Although he works in finance, not real estate, and rarely shares his own opinions on local issues such as homelessness or the City Council that come up in the comment threads from time to time, Warchest has decided to

maintain his anonymity.

"Ultimately I don't think (my identity) really matters much because I'm not selling anything," he said. "But it's not something I want all my friends or coworkers knowing about. If anything, I think it's sort of nerdy to be spending so many hours on something like this. Maybe that's why."

Although he doesn't mention it, the anonymity also protects the blog from the disapproving glare of local real estate agents and

SEE BLOGS PAGE 13



GOT RAW MILK?

Actor and activist Martin Sheen shares his passion for the nutritional benefits of raw milk during a press conference called by state Sen. Dean Florez in front of the new Whole Foods market on Lincoln Boulevard in Venice on Tuesday. The press conference was held to talk about the importance of SB 201, 'The Fresh Raw Milk Act of 2008.' Raw milk has been the subject of a heated debate in recent months regarding its safety.

Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

SMPD provides home safety tips for area residents

BY CHRISTINA WALKER

Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN A rash of Westside home robberies over the summer have led the Santa Monica Police Department to ramp up its efforts to educate the public on home security.

The SMPD hopes to educate residents with steps they can take to prevent becoming the next victim. The effort comes in response to police officers' observations that some of the recent victims could have benefited from more information to help them fortify their homes.

Many of the suggestions being circulated are common sense preventative measures that can be easily forgotten. For example, the SMPD advises residents to lock all windows and doors even when leaving for just a minute. Burglars can easily take advantage of windows and patio doors that are left open in the hot summer months. However, residents who prefer avoiding air-conditioning do not need to suffer inside with windows shut tight.

"We emphasize locking windows and doors, but there are ways to secure them even partially opened so that they can't be tampered with," said Ana Montalvo, client prevention coordinator for the SMPD's Community Relations Unit.

The unit provides free home security sur-

SEE SAFETY PAGE 9



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Behind the curtain

Editor:
Thanks to the Daily Press for printing Bill Bauer’s story about who is behind each side of the traffic measure Proposition T on the November ballot (“Following the money, page 4, Sept. 8). It’s the first time I’ve seen any local paper reveal who is pulling the strings behind the campaign. I suspected developers would be seeing red over anything that limits development, but I was surprised at just how much money developers are spending and how almost none of the donations come from every day residents. No on T isn’t a grassroots campaign. It’s another AstroTurf campaign by developers who want to hoodwink residents. Thanks Daily Press for pulling aside the curtain on this charade.

Jane Dempsey
Santa Monica

Social promotion is bad for kids

Editor:
Although the shortcomings of the school system generally mean more business for people in my line of work, as an educator and advocate for children, I pray for the day the schools finally get it right. It’s great to hear that there is some effort to reform SMMUSD’s very broken Special Education Department, but it’s not clear to me how the changes they are proposing will affect the hundreds of children who are too functional for special education classes but not functional enough (because of years of poor instruction) to be in regular classes. These children are not falling through the cracks and dropping out, as many fear. What’s happening to them is far worse. They are getting passed through.

When I come across an eight grader struggling through an Algebra class because he can’t add or subtract or a 10th grader shamefully “reading” Shakespeare even though she can’t read, I can’t help but wonder what happens to these kids come the end of senior year when the school system finally gets rid of them.

Keep us posted. And thanks.

Bibinaz Pirayesh
Educational Therapist
The Learning Tree

Earning the right to criticize

Editor:
Who does Sarah Palin think she is and what does she think are her rights?
She won’t answer any questions from an audience or reporters, nor appear on any talk shows because she has no answers that are not prepared for her on TelePrompTers. Yet she has the audacity to use the prepared and given Republican talking points to criticize Barack Obama! Please! When she can take unprepared questions, she may have the right to criticize others!

Flo Ginsburg
Santa Monica

A tale of two parties

Editor:
Coverage of the Republican convention revealed the astonishing lack of diversity among GOP delegates. As the cameras swept over the crowd, we rarely caught a glimpse of anyone of color. It’s as if the Republicans have given up even the pretense of the “big tent” they claimed to represent in recent years.
The contrast with the Democratic convention, where every shot of the attendees captured the full spectrum of America’s rich heritage, is striking. It conveyed a much more powerful message about true inclusiveness and representation than any speaker at the podium.
White, conservative Republicans are locked into the past while Democrats are seeking true change and a new direction compatible with the diversity of an ever-evolving America.

Ron Lowe
Santa Monica



Going Postal

Steve “the Mailman” Breen

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dreams of my mother

IN THE ERA OF TRADITIONAL “STAY AT home mothers” and “go to work fathers” of the 1950s-60s, my late mother, Rose, was a pioneer of the “working class mother.” She was better educated than my aerospace rocket science dad, yet despite her education and the cultural ambiance of the time, she could only find work as a humble file clerk at the Santa Ana Police Department. She eventually ascended as the chief accountant for the entire SAPD a scant 7 years later.

Each day after work, she’d come home and vacuum our already immaculate 4-bedroom home (she wouldn’t let me vacuum after I accidentally sucked up our family Pekinese).

She was proud of the products of her and my dad’s middle class merit-ocratic endeavors. Weekends were devoted to my Little League games and church stuff. She was well loved by everyone.

She worked and played hard, complained little and laughed a lot.

She was little, but she was feisty.
She grew up in Hawaii as the eldest of eight kids and worked hard in the sugar cane and pineapple fields after school. Her childhood experiences included the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and eating dog meat because of the wartime rationing problems from the mainland.

There were no food stamps, Section 8 housing or other racial grievance quotas back then. As a Filipina, her upbringing informed her that there was “No Free Lunch.” It was up to you to make it or break it.

I miss her still. So does dad.
Now let me get this straight. DNC Chairman Howie Dean arrogated, “ ... women ... have more opportunity in the Democratic Party than in the [Republican] white party?” This “opportunity” obviously doesn’t exist, however, if you could reasonably be your party’s vice presidential choice.
Sorry, no girls allowed.

As for the “opportunity” provided by Howlin’ Howie for the loyalistas of Hillary Clinton, I understand that he enjoined Hillary and her girls to make cookies and pass out the Kool-Aid to the Obama-maniacs at Denver’s “American Idol” coronation until Hillary made her Wednesday night speech. I understand Obama prefers his cookies with macadamias and coconut just like his Granny Toots made them. Mmmm, yummy!

Has anyone noticed that the predominant source of criticism surrounding Hillary and now Sarah Palin have generally come from men?

Even Hillary and Bill offered Gov. Palin a classy congratulations the day before Obama’s mealy-mouthed, left-handedly loaded “... good luck but not too much.” Men, with their large intellects and larger egos, dictate that if mass character derogation worked on Hillary, it’ll doubly work on that snow bunny from Alaska accessorized with the hunting rifle and go-go boots.

It must have been a gratifying spectacle for you ladies seeing Obama at the Barackopolis with all the Wise Men of the Geritol Gang promising “change” even though 83-year-old Jimmy Carter had his toga on backwards. It just sends a thrill up

your leg, doesn’t it? Personally, I think these men, “just don’t get it.”

Which presidential ticket looks more like “change” to you: Obama, anointed son of Zeus, standing atop Mt. Olympus while backslapping with the same farty, blue-haired Methuselahs whose politics Obama has claimed he rejects, or the ticket that features the future of feminist power and mystique realized, capable, savvy, ethical and self-sufficient?

MEN, WITH THEIR LARGE INTELLECTS AND LARGER EGOS, DICTATE THAT IF MASS CHARACTER DEROGATION WORKED ON HILLARY, IT’LL DOUBLY WORK ON THAT SNOW BUNNY FROM ALASKA ACCESSORIZED WITH THE HUNTING RIFLE AND GO-GO BOOTS.

My conservative Democrat mother would recognize Republican Sarah “the Warrior Princess” Palin as a political cousin; a successful working-class mother who did it the hard way. The only blue-collar day job Obama ever had was working for a summer at Baskin-Robbins during high school ... part time.

Sarah Palin was a commercial fisherwoman. You can break a nail or two doing that, you know.

Haven’t you gals earned a front row ticket to the Big Show? Obama and the mandarins of the DNC don’t think so despite those “18 million cracks in the glass ceiling.” What has Obama done for your tribe lately? Reasonably, since McCain might only do one term, I’d like to see a 2012 election catfight between Hillary and Sarah in the next presidential bikini mud wrestle.

Sarah Palin may not fit your liberalista Kodak moment for an anthemic “I am woman, hear me roar” musical oratorio, but how can you deny her achievements and ascension from hockey mom to Reformer-in-Chief of Alaska to the possibility of national office and then say that you haven’t come a long way, baby?

The former British Prime Minister Margaret “Iron Maiden” Thatcher once quipped, “If you want anything said, ask a man. If you want anything done, ask a woman.”

I know how my Mom would vote.

STEVE BREEN is a conservative momma’s boy and is still “the best looking mailman in the U.S. Post Office.” He can be reached at dulcamara@yahoo.

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Melody Hanatani
melodyh@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pizarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Seth Barnes, Taylor Van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Ryan Hyatt, Steve Breen, Elizabeth Brown, Maria Rohloff, Merv Hecht, Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp, Mariel Howsepian, Cynthia Citron, Amanda Cushman and Steve Parker

NEWS INTERNS
Christina Yoon, Christina Walker, Catherine Cain
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Morgan Genser, Soraya Danesh, Raymond Solano
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Julie Martinez
juliem@smdp.com

Robert Hertel
roberth@smdp.com

Erin Collins
erinc@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Robert Summa
summa@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Oswaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

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410 Broadway, Suite B
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Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Still out of touch

THE BEST THING I CAN SAY ABOUT THE four days of cognitive dissonance that was the Republican National Convention is that the balloon drop went well. The rest of it was a mess. It was totally surreal — like Pleasantville meets Fox News — and I realized the Republican Party has gotten so good at lying that they’ve actually started to believe the crap they’re trying to sell us.

First, they tried to act like it was no big deal that they didn’t invite the president. The cover story was he was needed in Washington. The truth is that nobody wants to forget the Bush/Cheney years ever happened more than the Republicans who elected them. It didn’t work, though, because around the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Gustav reminded us all of how badly this administration screwed the pooch three years ago. God knows political stagecraft better than the Republican Party.

The next day, they trotted out Laura Bush and Cindy McCain to take off their “Republican hats,” put on their “American hats,” and ask people to give money to hurricane victims. But I couldn’t take the first lady seriously talking about disaster relief in a white Oscar de la Renta suit. And I wondered why nobody told Cindy McCain it’s a bad idea to ask the 99.9 percent of us who make less than her to give money while she’s wearing a \$300,000 outfit.

They also dusted off Fred Thompson (a.k.a. Foghorn Leghorn), fed him some good old timey dialogue, and had his wife Jerry convince him he was reading for a role in a Mike Nichols movie. He gave a perfectly unconvincing performance droning on about John McCain’s military record, as though crashing five planes is some kind of an accomplishment. The best part was when he talked about Sarah Palin (a.k.a. the Unknown Running Mate) and how her selection as vice president is being covered. In an odd attempt to get us to forget about the fact that he’s a millionaire Hollywood actor, he drawled, “she is from a small town, with small town values, but that’s not good enough for those folks who are attacking her and her family.” Sorry, Fred, but I’ve seen “The Hunt for Red October” too many times to buy you playing the “regular guy.”

Even cross-dressing Rudy Giuliani got into the act. He talked up the URM’s so-called executive experience, including her time as mayor of a town that’s half the size of Hunter College. And he said he was, “sorry that Barack Obama doesn’t feel that her

hometown is cosmopolitan enough, is flashy enough,” like he or any of his three wives (especially Judith) would ever move to Wasilla, Alaska.

Then came the URM herself: Sarah Palin, populist pitbull in lipstick. The biggest speech of her life was largely unremarkable but for the fact that she chided a press corps who she won’t allow to interview her and mocked a man who is without a doubt her professional and intellectual superior. “I guess a small-town mayor is sort of like a community organizer, except that you have actual responsibilities,” she said, apparently forgetting about the time she described her job as, “not rocket science, it’s \$6 million and 53 employees.” Really, it’s a glorified home owner’s association in a state subsidized by oil companies. The constitutional imperative to take over the presidency at a moment’s notice? That’s closer to rocket science.

John McCain’s speech was notable mostly for what wasn’t said. He didn’t mention President Bush by name, he wasn’t proud of his party’s record, and every time he talked about the people who have messed up Washington, he was talking to the people who have messed up Washington — like anybody believes they’ll just reform themselves. He spent so much time scolding Republicans and promising “change” that I thought he was going to morph into Barack Obama in a racially appropriate homage to Michael Jackson’s “Black or White” video.

McCain went on “Face the Nation” Sunday and promised to appoint Democrats (plural) to serve in his White House and his cabinet. “It’s gonna be the best people in America, the smartest people in America We’ve got to have people who are the best and the brightest I’ll also ask people who have struggled out there in the trenches to help people, to volunteer in their communities, who understand these problems at that level.”

He’s so out of touch with reality that he doesn’t even realize that the person he’s describing is Barack Obama. He can think about that as they stand together at Ground Zero tomorrow, and for the next eight years. As for those lying Republicans, they can go sit in the corner for eight years and think about what they’ve done.

KENNY MACK is a writer, comedian, and social commentator living in Santa Monica who can’t wait for the Unknown Running Mate’s first appearance on “Meet the Press.” He can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com

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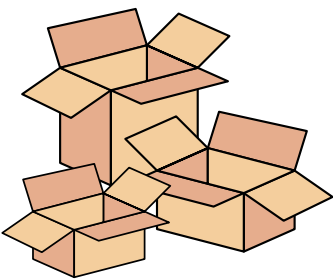
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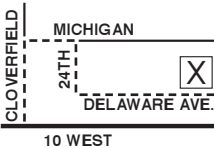
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The Q-Line

Changing face of Venice

A number of new businesses have moved into the Rose Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard area of Venice. Upscale grocer Whole Foods is the latest high-profile store to move into the bohemian neighborhood.

So this week’s Q-Line question asks:

Does recent development contribute to the over gentrification of Venice, something many locals feel is altering the community for the worse or is it a boon to the area?

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



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Pedestrians get fast lane at busy border crossing

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press Writer

SAN DIEGO A special lane to speed pre-screened pedestrians across the nation's busiest border crossing opened Tuesday, expanding a service that had been available only to motorists coming from Mexico and Canada.

The special pedestrian lane opened only at the San Ysidro port of entry that connects San Diego and Tijuana, Mexico, but U.S. authorities say it will be tried at other bustling crossings if it proves successful.

"We are the busiest in the nation. If it works here, it will work anywhere," said Gurdit Dhillon, Customs and Border Protection's San Diego field operations director.

Only 19 people used the prescreened lane during its first hour of operation as the wait in 12 regular pedestrian lanes reached about 45 minutes. Much like first-class passengers at an airport check-in counter, those who had been prescreened were directed by security guards to a roped-off area.

"This is perfect, it saves so much time," said Cynthia Guzman, 34, who lives in Tijuana and works as a teaching aide at a San Diego-area high school.

Other commuters welcomed the new lane but said more needed to be done to significantly reduce waits at San Ysidro, which can reach more an hour during peak times for the 25,000 to 35,000 pedestrians who cross daily. Motorists can wait more than two hours. A \$577 million port expansion won't be completed until 2014.

"It's a great small step," said Kenn Morris, president of Crossborder Group Inc., a San Diego market research and consulting firm.

CBP has enrolled 500,000 people in its "trusted traveler" programs for motorists entering from Mexico or Canada. After passing a background check and paying a fee, they are issued chip-enabled cards that entitle them to special lanes that move quickly because inspectors know they have already been screened.

At San Ysidro, prescreened motorists generally wait half the time as those in regular lanes, Dhillon said.

About 176,000 people have enrolled in the program for motorists entering from Mexico, known as Senti, which stands for Secure Electronic Network for Traveler's Rapid Inspection. They will now also be entitled to use the new pedestrian lane at San Ysidro, which operates daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The pedestrian lane opened after a

WE ARE THE
BUSIEST IN THE
NATION. IF IT WORKS
HERE, IT WILL WORK
ANYWHERE."

Gurdit Dhillon
Customs and Border Protection's San Diego
field operations director

four-year trial that peaked with 5,000 people enrolled, though CBP says the lane drew 120 to 250 users daily during the trial. It also had limited hours of operation.

David Serrato, 50, said he was often jeered by others during the trial period as he walked past them and never waited more than a few minutes.

"People who were waiting an hour got very angry with me and said, 'Hey, where are you going?'" said Serrato, who works as a landscaper in San Diego and lives in Tijuana.

The trusted traveler card hasn't guaranteed short waits for motorists at San Ysidro, which handles between 45,000 and 50,000 vehicles daily. With 102,000 prescreened motorists enrolled in San Diego, some cardholders feel they wait too long.

Jorge Acosta, a service technician for San Diego Gas & Electric Co. who often stays with family in Tijuana, said he waited 45 minutes in the prescreened motorist lane Monday. The speedy pedestrian lane will encourage him to walk more and take a trolley to work in downtown San Diego.

"I prefer not to drive whenever possible," said Acosta, 46, after flashing his card to walk across. "I like the exercise."

The trusted traveler program for motorists entering or leaving Canada has 230,000 cardholders and works at 11 crossings on the U.S.-Canada border and at several airports. A program for truckers has 94,000 people and works on the Canadian and Mexican borders. It costs \$50 for five-year passes.

A five-year Senti pass costs \$122.25 and works at the nine largest crossings on the U.S.-Mexico border, from San Diego to Brownsville, Texas.

John Wagner, CBP's director of trusted traveler programs, said the agency was reconsidering the higher fee for users along the Mexican border. The lower fee on the Canadian border resulted from negotiations with the Canadian government, which shares the cost, he said.

Pass rate dips on high school exit exam

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO Seniors passed California's high school exit exam at a slightly lower rate than in the previous year, as the test was widely administered to special education students for the first time.

The state Department of Education said about 90 percent of the graduating class of 2008 had passed the test by May.

The previous year, 94 percent passed the two-part test of math and English by the

same time.

About 54 percent of blind, deaf and other disabled students who are classified as special education passed it.

The exam became a condition for graduation in California starting with the class of 2006. Students have multiple chances to take the test, starting in 10th grade.

Students who don't pass in time to graduate with their class can take remedial courses or enroll at community college and try again.



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Apple unveils new iPods but shares still slip

BY JORDAN ROBERTSON
AND JESSICA MINTZ
AP Technology Writers

SAN FRANCISCO Apple Inc. CEO Steve Jobs took the wraps off a revamped line of iPods on Tuesday and trumpeted a truce with NBC Universal that means the TV network will begin selling programs again on iTunes.

The iPod announcements were largely expected, and investors were less than energized, sending Apple's shares down \$6.13, 3.9 percent, to \$151.79 in afternoon trading.

The iPod upgrades Jobs revealed Tuesday in a theater in San Francisco include two slick new Nano models, oval-shaped devices that Jobs said are the thinnest iPods Apple has ever made. They are less than a quarter-inch thick.

A \$149 version comes with 8 gigabytes of memory (enough for 2,000 songs); a 16-gigabyte version (which holds 4,000 songs) is \$199.

The new models acknowledge the incredible appetite for iPods — Jobs said Apple has sold 160 million iPods since their introduction in 2001. But Apple has to work hard to differentiate them from the iPhone, Apple's cell phone/iPod/Internet device that threatens to cannibalize some of the demand for iPods.

Jobs also showed off three new versions of the iPod Touch, which is much like an iPhone except that doesn't make calls. An 8-gigabyte version of the new model will sell for \$229; a 16-gigabyte Touch will be \$299 and a 32 GB model will be \$399.

Apple hopes the 32-gigabyte unit will appeal to people who download a lot of games and other programs, and wouldn't be able to store them all on an iPhone, which maxes out at 16 gigabytes. Jobs said people have downloaded a "mind-blowing" 100 million applications for iPhones and iPod Touch devices since Apple began offering the programs online two months ago.

In the deal with NBC, the television network is coming back to iTunes a year after pulling out in a dispute over the prices Apple

charges for shows it sells on the online service. At that time, programming controlled by NBC Universal, a unit of General Electric Co., made up an estimated 40 percent of the video downloads on iTunes.

At the height of the spat, Apple said NBC had sought more than double the wholesale prices for its shows, which would have resulted in shows selling for \$4.99 each. NBC disputed that, and said it wanted only to be able to sell programs at different prices.

But with its muscle in the market for digital downloads, Apple largely appears to have won the battle. NBC's programming will sell for the same prices as other TV shows available on iTunes. High-definition shows, a new addition for iTunes, will sell for \$2.99 each. Shows in standard definition cost \$1.99. Some older shows are available for 99 cents apiece.

NBC was able to wring some concessions. Jean-Briac Perrette, NBC Universal's president for digital distribution, said NBC will be allowed to bundle programs together and set prices for those packages as well as for full seasons of shows. Apple wasn't willing to budge on those requests in earlier negotiations.

Perrette said NBC is "thrilled to be back on iTunes" but noted the network also has "a lot of other avenues" to sell shows online, including its own site and a video Web site, Hulu.com, that it created with News Corp.

Jobs gave the start of the event some buzz by flashing a message on a screen behind him: "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated."

Jobs borrowed that line from Mark Twain in reference to obituary preparedness on Jobs that was accidentally posted by Bloomberg News and then retracted. News outlets regularly prepare obituary material on famous people.

Questions about Jobs' health swirled after he appeared gaunt at a recent Apple event. Apple has since said Jobs, 53, a survivor of pancreatic cancer, suffered from a bug and is better. He appeared thin but energetic Tuesday.

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Real Estate 101

Mike Heayn

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

It takes time to make money

ABOUT ONCE A MONTH, I GET A CALL from a novice borrower who wants to know the secret to real estate investing success.

People think you can go and buy a house with 100 percent financing with the seller carrying paper for the entire amount. Translated, that means the seller would grant the deed to the buyer and the buyer would make monthly payments to the seller. The buyer thinks this is good for the seller because the seller gets monthly payments, while the buyer gets control and ownership of the property. The flawed thinking, which many buyers tend to forget, is that they have no real capital interest in the property.

What is going to stop the buyer from walking away from the property when things get tough or a tenant cannot be found? What if the buyer lives in the property, losses their job and can no longer pay the mortgage? The answer is nothing at all. The seller is going to want the buyer to have a monetary stake in the property, or what people like to call skin in the game.

Talking to hundreds of investors over the years, I have learned that some things hold true for real estate success.

Have you ever stayed up until 2 a.m. watching TV and come across infomercials for real estate success programs? Usually the infomercial is selling a get rich through real estate program. Some of the real estate programs have useful information; however, many are just selling systems that were made by salesmen, not true real estate investors. At

the end of the day, real estate success and experience is gained over the course of years. Unfortunately, there is no way to become successful from real estate investing overnight. Three tools that are needed to become successful in real estate investing are time, money and creativity.

Time can correct most real estate mistakes. It may take years or decades, but most real estate mistakes can be corrected given enough time.

However, time is a variable that any novice real estate investor must give him or herself. To become a successful real estate investor you need to learn the fundamentals, and the only way to learn is to dedicate time to the craft of real estate investing.

During the process of learning, make sure you read about real estate mistakes, as the expensive mistakes of others can be far more valuable than the success stories. It is rare for someone to talk about their real estate mistakes, but when an experienced, successful real estate investor does — pay attention.

The old saying “you need money to make money” holds true in real estate more so today than it has in the past. With the constant shifting of the financing environment and the recent announcement of the government takeover of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, it has become crucial to have money on hand to purchase, repair and hold real estate. Gone are the days of easy money. Why do you need money you ask? Capital is needed to run properties from day to day for repairs

TIME CAN CORRECT MOST REAL ESTATE MISTAKES. IT MAY TAKE YEARS OR DECADES, BUT MOST REAL ESTATE MISTAKES CAN BE CORRECTED GIVEN ENOUGH TIME.

such as leaky roofs, broken stairs, etc. Not to mention monthly expenses such as utilities, property taxes and property insurance. Without sufficient capital reserves, even the best real estate deal can turn into a nightmare.

One thing that surprised me about real estate investing was the creativity needed to succeed. Real estate is a people business, whether it is dealing with a banker, contractor or tenant, you need to have good people skills, such as communication. People are people and tend to have an objective. Sometimes people will be less than honest, but for the most part, a win/win solution can be reached.

The difficult part about reaching a win/win solution is often the creativity in

thinking of it. For example, one of my borrowers wanted to renovate a unit, but the tenant refused to take the relocation fee because they would have to move and did not want to deal with it. It was not the cost of moving that bothered the tenant, but the actual move itself.

The owner offered to hire movers, even setup everything so all the tenant had to do was box their items up. The owner also gave the tenant a relocation fee. The tenant was surprised and happy that he did not have to carry boxes down two flights of stairs. The owner renovated the unit and yielded a \$700 monthly rent premium over the old rent. In the end, the tenant and the owner were happy and a win/win solution was reached. Sometimes it is not money that is the motivating factor of party you are dealing with. Finding the motivation and using creativity are important in negotiating a win/win solution.

It takes more than a wish and a dream to become a successful real estate investor. Remember real estate investing success does not happen overnight and no investor has ever learned it all, but if you put in the time, put up the money and use your creativity, you can find yourself on the way to real estate investing success.

MIKE HEAYN is a Washington Mutual Multi-Family Loan Consultant. He can be reached at (310) 428-1342, or e-mailed at michael.heayn@wamu.net.

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Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

MISSING: A total of three parking meters were stolen from Santa Monica over the weekend.

Meters resurface

FROM METERS PAGE 1

meters,” said Mike Coffman, lead technician with the city’s parking department.

The meters were identified by location IDs on the meters’ heads. At least one of the meters was located on the 1400 block of 23rd Street. Another was located on the 2100 block of Arizona Avenue. Also, the suspect, Rick Day of Canyon Country, insinuated during an interview with sheriff’s deputies that the meters originated in Santa Monica.

Coffman said that the theft of parking meters is a rare occurrence and added that each meter usually contains no more than \$10. He said that meters are frequently emptied by city collection agents.

“We don’t have as big a problem as surrounding cities,” Coffman said, referring to stolen meters.

Coffman, who has worked for the city for

WE DON’T HAVE AS BIG A PROBLEM AS SURROUNDING CITIES.”

Mike Coffman
Lead parking technician
for the Santa Monica Parking Shop

18 years, estimates that it’s been at least 10 years since a parking meter was stolen.

He anticipates that the meters will be replaced within a week or so and anticipates that the replacement costs will not exceed \$2,000.

news@smdp.com

Police help spread the word on improving home safety

FROM SAFETY PAGE 3

veys to residents of Santa Monica which are equivalent to a security evaluation by a private security service said Montalvo.

Residents can go to Home Depot and buy locking devices themselves, but Montalvo said that her unit prefers to explain the devices themselves.

“There are certain locking devices that

are not very safe. Some may seem secure, but they’re not,” she added.

The home security evaluations offered by the SMPD are free and can be scheduled by calling (310) 458-8474. In addition to scheduling a home security evaluation residents can take the following actions to prevent becoming a victim:

- Make sure all side and back gates are closed and well padlocked.

- Keep curtains, blinds, and shutters closed when away.
 - Take advantage of variable timers to activate lights, radio, or TV when away.
 - Arrange for a trusted neighbor or friend to pick up mail while on vacation.
- “If you take some of these precautions your chances of being victimized by a burglar will decrease,” SMPD’s Sgt. Renaldi Thruston said. It’s also important for people to follow

these tips year round and not just in the summer Thruston said.

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Brandon Wise brandonw@smdp.com

ALL ABOARD: People board a prototype for the new Sand Tram, which will shuttle visitors to the new Annenberg Community Beach House when it opens next year. Officials with the Santa Monica Pier unveiled the tram Tuesday during an event that began the countdown to the pier's centennial.

Pier promises to have a blowout centennial

FROM PIER PAGE 1

ances featuring theater troupes and master drummers, to the release of a new history book in January, all concluding on Sept. 9, 2009 with one of the biggest fireworks show at the pier in more than 14 years.

PRC officials also unveiled the prototype for the new Sand Tram which will shuttle visitors to and from the pier and the new Annenberg Community Beach House, located a few blocks north, when it opens next year. The 60-foot-long trolley will travel on the sand alongside the bike path and has the capacity to carry approximately 100 passengers. The natural-gas powered tram can travel up to 15 mph, taking about 12 minutes between destinations.

An ad hoc committee, headed by actor Robert Redford and singer/songwriter Joan Baez, has spent the past several years putting the pieces of the centennial celebration together.

Both honorary co-chairs say they have fond childhood memories of the pier.

"It is a landmark that has endured when so many others in Los Angeles have disappeared," Redford, who has visited the pier since the age of 4, said in a statement.

Baez, who gave an unscheduled performance during the Twilight Concert Series last month, recalled in a statement the fond memories she has of spending time on the merry-go-round.

"I can see it and hear it, and I wish on the golden ring that the merry-go-round will, during the next 100 years, continue to be a source of joy and splendor to little kids, their moms and dads, and grandmothers like me," she said.

The 1,600-foot-long pier opened to the public in 1909 after 16 months of construc-

tion, originally erected to service sanitation needs for City Hall.

Charles I.D. Loeff, a carousel manufacturer, purchased the land south of the pier in 1916 to develop an amusement park, building the Blue Streak Racer roller coaster and the Hippodrome, which houses the famous carousel.

After Loeff died in 1918, his family operated the pier for five years, ultimately selling it to the Santa Monica Amusement Company, which would later build the La Monica Ballroom.

The area south of the pier was also once the home of Muscle Beach, which saw the likes of bodybuilders Joe Gold and Jack LaLanne. Gold would later open the famous brand of gyms bearing his name, Gold's Gym.

The pier faced the threat of extinction in 1973 when the City Council condemned it for destruction in order to build a man-made island that would hold a resort. The plans were defeated after residents led a campaign to preserve the pier.

Another threat posed itself in 1983 when a storm wiped out more than one-third of the pier, taking with it several cafes and shops and the harbor patrol station. In order to save the pier, the Pier Restoration and Development Task Force — later known as the PRC — was formed.

The pier was designated as a city landmark in 1976.

Allan Lipsky, the president of the PRC Board of Directors, said the events over the next year will honor the history of the pier.

"This will be an event celebrated not only by the people in this city, but all of Los Angeles," he said.

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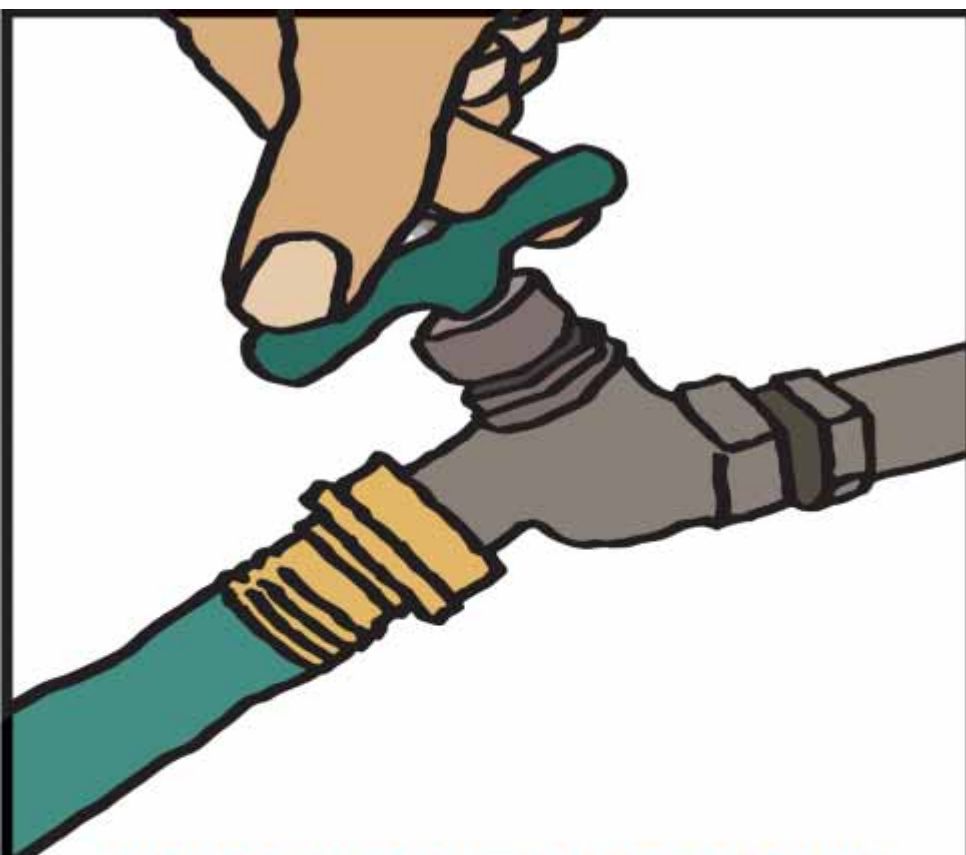
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SIMMONS

College names new AD, basketball coach

FROM SMC PAGE 1

country at San Diego City College, his stops also including L.A. Southwest College and San Diego State University.

"This is a spot I definitely want to be in," Simmons said.

The 47-year-old AD said he has a wealth of knowledge in the bylaws and regulations of the NCAA and various college sporting organizations, which could be useful when it comes time for many of the student-athletes to think about transferring to a major program.

"Hopefully, all of that will help the athletes stay competitive not only on the field but also in the classroom at the same time," he said of his background.

In his time at SMC, Simmons said he wants to establish a culture of academic success, ensuring that student athletes are all graduating, and working with coaches to create the most competitive program at the junior college level.

Jerome Jenkins will be making a return to his native hometown of Los Angeles after a 15-year absence.

"Once I heard about the Santa Monica job I was very excited and went after the job very aggressively," he said.

The third longest tenured coach in the basketball program's 60-year-history, Jenkins guided Sacramento State to four straight appearances in the Big Sky Tournament from 2002-2006 after missing the postseason in the previous six seasons. He previously coached at Eastern Washington University and Diablo Valley Community College where the team captured three league titles during his time there.

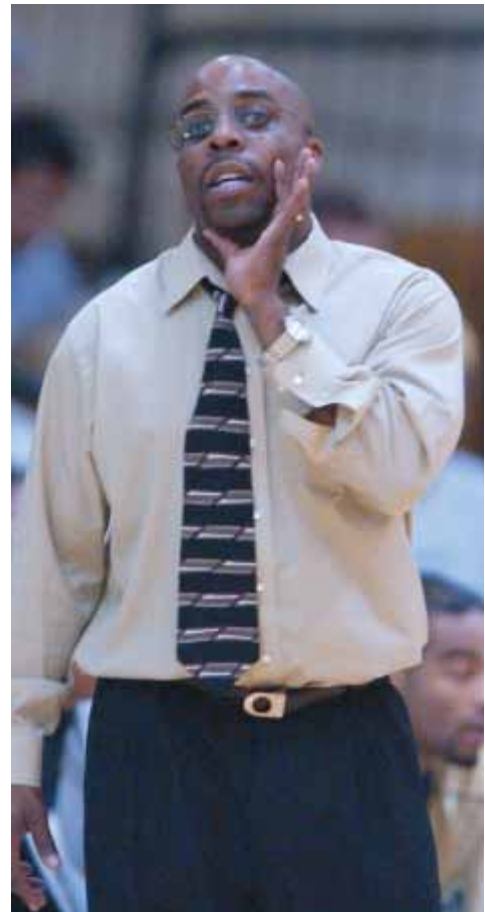
He left Sacramento State after his contract was not renewed, a mutual understanding between the coach and athletic director.

Jenkins credits community colleges with saving his life.

"I was a pretty good ball player coming out of high school but my academics wasn't under control and so the JC was a second chance," he said. "It's a place where you can really reach kids when they feel like they're down in luck."

He stresses that the program will be about academics first, proudly pointing out that he was able to graduate 15 players from Sacramento State during his eight years there. About 10 players went on to play professionally overseas.

Jenkins will inherit a program that went



JENKINS

ONCE I HEARD ABOUT THE SANTA MONICA JOB I WAS VERY EXCITED AND WENT AFTER THE JOB VERY AGGRESSIVELY."

Jerome Jenkins

Head basketball coach, Santa Monica College

17-15 last year, breaking a streak of four consecutive losing seasons.

"I want to build on that and take the program to a higher level," he said. "I want this program to be known to (major) college coaches where they can come and recruit high level athletes and know they are academically taken care of."

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Santa Monica blogs are sometimes business, sometimes pleasure

FROM BLOGS PAGE 3

property owners, although many read the blog regularly.

"I found that if you suggest a potential decline (in housing prices), especially to realtors or people who recently bought property here, it was sacrilege in a way," he said.

It's no surprise that property issues tops the list of most popular local blogs. The real estate blogs, however, are not relegated to real estate naysayers in Santa Monica. Jodi Summers, who works with Sotheby's International Realty, owns the Santa Monica Property Blog (www.santamonicapropertyblog.com), a site designed to aggregate local information from her real estate resources as well as more mainstream publications like Forbes. The blog was created more than two years ago, a spin-off from her other Web site projects tracking Southern California real estate news.

"They're basically my main source of garnering new clientele now," Summers said of her blog and Web sites.

While some bloggers fiercely protect their identities while writing about local issues, especially controversial ones, Summers welcomes the connection that locals make between the information she provides and the work that she does.

She says that the business benefits of her blog don't compromise the journalism that she believes it provides.

"I tend to get my information from valid sources," she said. "Certainly I've said things that offended somebody, but that's just the nature of doing something out in public."

This constant risk of offending someone out in the blogosphere is what compelled Dan Jansenson, a Santa Monica architect and a member of the Santa Monica Treesavers, to disable the comment function on the Treesavers' blog (treesavers.blogspot.com).

"Frankly, I don't have the time to moderate the comments," Jansenson said. "I've seen some of the other pieces that mention us out there. Some of the ones that comment are very angry about this and are filled with hateful emotions."

While bloggers such as Warchest consider an active comment thread to be a sign of the blog's success, Jansenson said that, for now, the year-old Treesavers blog serves mostly as a place for fellow Santa Monica tree activists to gather and share information.

"This is not intended as a source of dialogue," he said.

Both Jansenson and Summers said that while there are plenty of topics that are ripe to be blogged about in Santa Monica, they are wary of city government-run blogs. Jansenson said that he would not read "anything run by the city."

In fact, there is in fact a new City Hall-funded blog, Santa Monica Connect (santamonicaconnect.org). The blog, which launched last month, aims to provide an easy at-home resource for Santa Monica residents to link up to local nonprofit organizations.

The blog, which is run by the 18th Street Art Center, recruits high school and college students in Santa Monica to regularly blog about Santa Monica nonprofits.

"I think this is a really cool thing that we're doing," said Jessica Perez, a student at Santa Monica College who blogged about six local nonprofits, "because a lot of people don't even

CERTAINLY I'VE SAID THINGS THAT OFFENDED SOMEBODY, BUT THAT'S JUST THE NATURE OF DOING SOMETHING OUT IN PUBLIC."

Jodi Summers
santamonicapropertyblog.com

know about these things that could really help them, especially the low-income people of Santa Monica."

The blog was the result of an initiative by the Cultural Affairs and Health and Human Services departments to increase awareness of the services that were available to residents.

Jan Williamson, the executive director of the 18th Street Art Center, said that although blog administrators have not yet begun to record page-view or click-through metrics, this will be the next step in measuring the blog's effectiveness.

"This is a project that's going to have ongoing little renovations," Williamson said. "There's a lot of ways we can drive traffic and network nonprofits together. We're excited about how that will evolve over time."

Nearly all of the local bloggers, both new and established, said that they look to what many consider to be the original Santa Monica blog, the Santa Monica Dispatch (www.santamonicadispatch.com).

The blog was started in 2006 by Peggy Clifford, one of the founding members of the local weekly newspaper the Santa Monica Mirror. The site offers breaking news and news analysis about local politics and topics that interest Clifford, the site's main contributor.

"The Dispatch was started sort of in the same spirit of the Mirror that I started," Clifford said. "At the risk of sounding pompous, it's the residents' voice that we're trying to get across."

Some Santa Monica bloggers, however, have no interest in capturing the residents' voices, or even their attention. Mark Gorman, for example, simply wanted a place to consolidate all of the information he accrued as he began to build his home in the Third Street Historic District.

"To me, it's a better form of Facebook, because I think I'm too old for Facebook," Gorman said of his Wordpress blog. "I'm a little bit nervous about getting comments for people and having it be public."

Luckily for Gorman, no one has commented on his posts yet, but he encouraged even the least tech-savvy residents to blog about whatever interests them in Santa Monica. Current Santa Monica bloggers said that they'd love to see new sites popping up about local topics including local politics, public transportation and wine.

"If you can use a word processor, you can start a blog," Gorman said. "It's amazing."

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SURF REPORT

SURF CONDITIONS

WATER TEMP: 68°

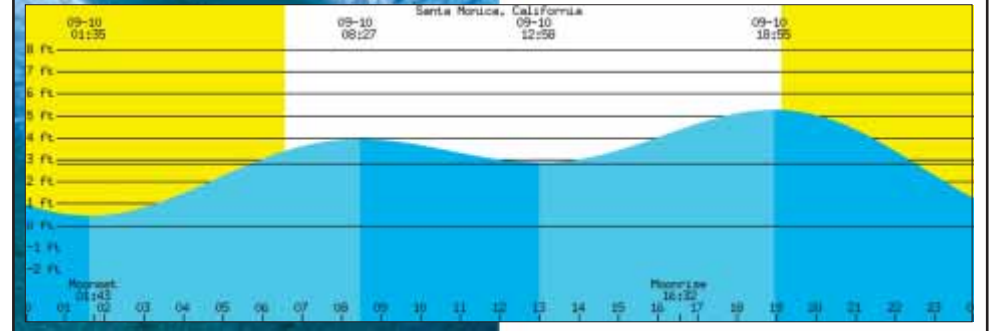
SWELL FORECAST (1-1 FT)

Wednesday the 10th the New Zealand swell should give one last push with a slight increase in size, thanks to a slight reform of the storm that created this swell once it passed south of the Cook Islands about a week ago. The angle will be slightly steeper at 200-205, periods 15 seconds or so, and size chest to head high at most south facing breaks (with pluses at standouts).

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SATURDAY THE 13TH IS LOOKING LIKE A SMALLER SW SWELL DAY WITH SIZE DROPPING OFF TO WAIST TO CHEST HIGH.

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



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NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous four weeks up to the ending date of

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QUICK STATS

(for the last 28 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 0

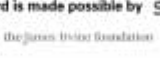
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / 15

Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 9 / 15

The Beach Report Card is made possible by



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 Cleanup and Health Warning Protocol.

LOCATION	DRY	WET	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Cañitas Beach, at Arroyo Sagitt Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Del Air Bay Club near fence	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Palms Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Luchessa and Las Alitas creeks	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Tenebrisco Canyon drain	A+	ns
Escalante Canyon at El Morado State Beach	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chantrepoint)	A	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	D	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	F	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildfire Rd. (private)	A+	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier	C	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pica/Kanter storm drain	A	ns
Escalante Creek, just east of Escalante State Beach	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants)	C	ns
Lariga Canyon Creek mouth	A	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A	ns
Selkirk Canyon at San Blocker County Beach	F	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Panero State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Marine Canyon storm drain at Panero Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	F	ns	Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Serfider Beach at Malibu Calvary fence	A+	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A	ns
Serfider Beach (beach location) - daily	B	ns	Venice Beach - projection of Topical St.	D	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	C	ns	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach - flagrant tower	A+	ns
Carlson Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	C	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	B	ns
Big Rock Beach at 10948 PCH stairs	A+	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Deckweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Panero Creek at Las Flores County Beach	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns	Deckweiler Beach - opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Castroville Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	ns	Deckweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A+	ns			
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns			



LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken

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

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

OLYMPICS

Unmasking the truth for cyclists in Beijing

BY TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

Sarah Hammer tried her best to ignore it, wanting desperately to shut the whole thing out of her mind. That proved next to impossible, when just a trip to the dining hall at the athlete's village in Beijing drew stares and comments from other athletes.

"Hey, where's the mask?" they would shout out. "Is the air OK to breathe today?"

There were days it wasn't, but by then that wasn't Hammer's biggest concern.

She had come to China thinking she was going to win a gold medal for her country.

Now she was branded as one of the masked four, not sure what she should think anymore.

One walk through the airport changed everything. There would be no gold, just the realization that an opportunity that may never come again was lost forever.

Maybe a touch of bitterness, too, because Hammer feels the country she was trying to win a gold medal for let her down.

All because she wore a mask.

"It really hurt me a lot," Hammer said. "It still hurts me."

Causing a scene was the last thing Hammer and three other cyclists had in mind when they got off their international flight at the Beijing airport, eager to embark on their Olympic journey. Escaping Beijing's polluted air was, though, and for that reason the four walked through the airport wearing the custom black face masks that U.S. Olympic officials had handed out.

For months they had heard stories about how bad the air would be. For months they had listened to warnings that they should have their masks ready.

"We figured there would be hundreds of others there with masks on, too," Hammer said.

There weren't, and that's where the trouble began.

Photographers waiting for more famous athletes to arrive began taking pictures. Video crews moved in to show the Americans picking up luggage while wearing the masks.

By the time they had taken the bus to the athlete's village, they had created an international incident. The videos were on CNN International, while the photos were seemingly everywhere.

They had embarrassed their hosts. And there would be a price to pay.

The next morning Hammer was awakened by a phone call telling her to be downstairs in 10 minutes along with fellow cyclists Michael Friedman, Bobby Lea and Jennie Reed.

She says the four were lectured by Steve Roush, the USOC's chief of sports performance, and told they had two hours to apologize or risk being kicked out of the games.

A statement later was crafted in their names saying they "deeply regret the nature of our choices" and praising Chinese officials for doing everything they could to clean up the air.

Hammer never saw it, but she wasn't seeing much. She stopped looking at e-

I JUST HAVE A LOT OF SADNESS THAT IT HAD TO HAPPEN AND NOW I'M TRYING TO MAKE SURE IT WON'T HAPPEN TO ANOTHER ATHLETE."

Sarah Hammer
Olympic cyclist

mail and didn't watch TV. The only way she could prepare for her races was to put herself in a bubble and try to block everything out.

It didn't work.

Hammer had won two of the last three world championships in the individual pursuit, but could do no better than fifth in her specialty race.

She got another chance in the 100-lap points race, but crashed, breaking her collarbone when someone fell inches from her front wheel.

And now she can only wonder about what could have been.

"I don't see how anyone can say it didn't affect me," Hammer said. "The Olympics are a very intense experience just by themselves and then when you add that stress that happened to us — the worst thing was we didn't feel any kind of support. Here we are representing the United States and I was so proud to do that. I was so excited, and it just changed everything. I felt like I didn't have any support."

Hammer's fellow masked cyclists fared just as badly, and all must now face the question of whether they have enough desire to try again four years from now in London. For now, though, they have some unfinished business left.

They've asked the USOC for an apology, and a statement exonerating them for doing anything wrong in Beijing. They were, after all, wearing masks issued by the USOC with the instructions they could wear them as they saw fit.

Most of all, they want to make sure no other athletes have to be put through what they went through.

USOC chief executive Jim Scherr denied earlier when the apology was issued that the cyclists had been forced into it. Scherr said the athletes did it on their own after realizing how much they offended the Chinese.

USOC spokesman Darryl Seibel said Monday the organization plans to hold a conference call with the cyclists this week and "listen to any concerns they have and answer any questions they have."

Hammer wishes that would have happened earlier in Beijing. She still might not have won gold, but she surely would have had a better chance at it.

"I just have a lot of sadness that it had to happen and now I'm trying to make sure it won't happen to another athlete," she said. "For me it's just so hard to imagine even now. It's like a dream sometimes."

MOVIE TIMES

AERO THEATRE 1328 Montana Ave. (323) 466-FILM	Disaster Movie (PG-13) 1hr 30min 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00	Anita O'Day: The Life of A Jazz Singer (NR) 1hr 30min 4:00, 9:25
Burn After Reading (R) 1hr 37min Fargo 7:30	Death Race (R) 1hr 29min 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20	Tell No One (Ne le dis a personne) (NR) 2hrs 05min 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15
AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4 1441 Third Street Promenade	Fly Me to The Moon 3-D (G) 1hr 30min 12:30, 2:45, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	I.O.U.S.A. (PG) 1hr 25min 1:40, 7:00
College (R) 1hr 34min 4:30, 6:45, 9:10	Tropic Thunder (R) 1hr 47min 1:40, 4:20, 5:25, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50, 10:30	MANN'S CRITERION THEATRE 1313 Third St. (310) 395-1599
Hamlet 2 (R) 1hr 32min 2:10, 4:20, 6:35, 9:00	Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG) 1hr 38min 12:40, 3:05	Dark Knight, The (PG-13) 2hrs 30min 12:20, 3:40, 7:10, 10:30
Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG-13) 1hr 36min 2:30, 4:50, 7:05, 9:30	Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2, The (PG-13) 1hr 57min 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25	Bangkok Dangerous (R) 1hr 40min 11:10am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40
The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (PG-13) 1hr 54min 2:00, 4:35, 7:15, 9:50	The House Bunny (PG-13) 1hr 38min 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40	Traitor (PG-13) 1hr 50min 11:30am, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10
You Don't Mess With the Zohan (PG-13) 1hr 53min 2:05	LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX 1332 Second St. (310) 394-9741	The Pineapple Express (R) 1hr 45min 11:40am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
AMC 7 SANTA MONICA 1310 Third St. (310) 289-4262	Elegy (R) 1hr 48min 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50	Babylon A.D. (PG-13) 1hr 30min 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:00
	Bottle Shock (PG-13) 1hr 50min 1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:55	Mamma Mia! (PG-13) 1hr 48min 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50

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

Play it low-key, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Others request that you handle a responsibility or take a position of leadership. If you so choose, you could find that what you thought you'd accomplished might very well have to be done again. Tonight: Burn the candle at both ends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Reach out for someone at a distance. You might discover that a new perspective helps you understand recent events. This insight might need reviewing in a few weeks. Keep communication flowing. Tonight: Follow the music.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Work with one person directly if you demand certain desired results. You could see a situation in a far different light than you originally did. Surprising reactions force you to look again at a situation more carefully. Tonight: Togetherness works.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Others dominate, but they let you know that your ideas, feelings and needs play into the mix. Although you might feel as if you do not have the final say, you do. You can always walk away or say "no." Tonight: Sort through invitations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You could be obsessive about work and what you must accomplish. When all's said and done, you might complete a lot but feel as if you have let go of your personal life. Know when to say "enough." Tonight: Easy does it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your creativity keeps emerging and providing new opportunities. Others respond in fresh, new ways, encouraging you to rethink situations in a more dynamic vein. You might need a do-over on a conversation, even if you think you handled it perfectly. Tonight: Be frivolous.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Basics count more than ever, and you might want to postpone a decision. This actually proves to be an excellent idea. Work on tasks that you can do by rote. If you take on a complex issue, you might need to repeat it. Tonight: Play it low-key.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might not be comfortable with ideas that come in from left field. On the other hand, you might not be able to change the source! Work with what is, and do not become too upset or obsessive. Tonight: Hang out with a friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Be careful with any money commitment you might make right now, as you could regret this decision later. Be direct and forthright in dealing with a family member or a matter involving property, home or investments. Tonight: Your treat!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You are full of get-up-and-go. Others cannot stay away from you, which helps you zero in on what needs to be done. The unexpected has many perks, if you can roll with surprises. Tonight: As you like.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Tackle a problem head-on. You could be startled by the ramification. Knowing when to say "enough" could be important, especially if you are getting in too deep. You could be very uncomfortable, to say the least. Tonight: Opt for a getaway.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might be startled by what goes down. Meetings and groups of people could make all the difference. Listen to news that heads in your direction. Though you might judge your reactions as being normal, another person might not. Tonight: Where the action is.

Happy birthday

This year could be one of the most memorable of your life. Creativity always comes to your rescue, encouraging even more independent thinking. Others find you interesting, to say the least, as you blaze new trails. If you are single, you will draw many independent people but also your share of the needy. You will be in a position to pick and choose. Often, you might be surprised by the difference between a person's projection and his or her authentic self. Take your time getting to know a potential mate. If you are attached, you make waves within your relationship. Please be sensitive to your sweetie. CAPRICORN does the unexpected.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
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★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

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

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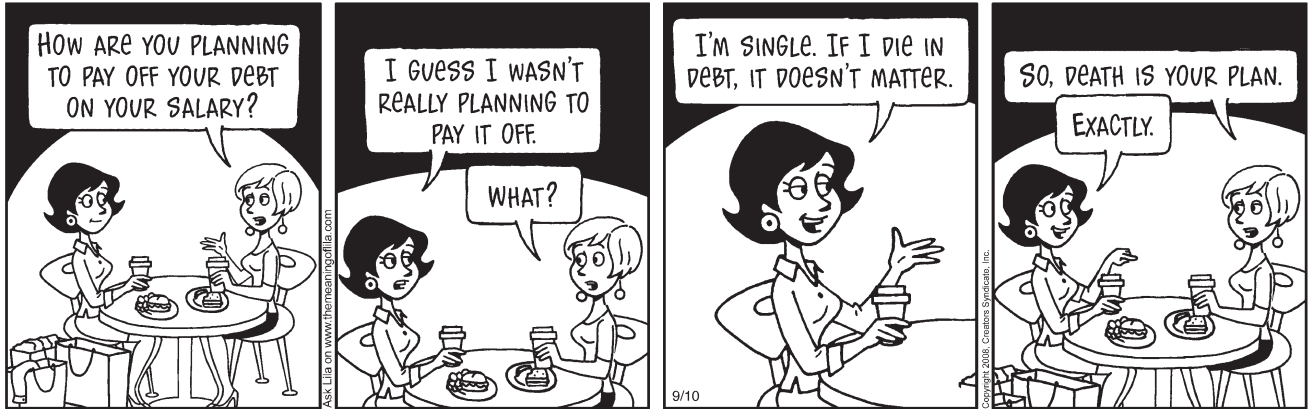
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



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Average Price of ALL Santa Monica Properties Listed for Sale As of Early September 2008

	<u>Single Family Homes</u>	<u>Condos & Townhomes</u>
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North of Montana	\$ 3,820,808	\$ 2,006,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	\$ 3,622,875	\$ 999,896
South of Wilshire	\$ 1,265,143	\$ 723,921
Sunset Park	\$ 1,382,018	\$ 675,273

Statistics Updated Every Monday



Kate Bransfield

Estates Director
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