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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 274



HOME OWNERSHIP DOWN IN '08
SEE PAGE 10

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE **BEGINNING OF A NEW SERIES** ISSUE



GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Roots and Shoots kids march down the Santa Monica Beach in the 'Giant Peace Dove Parade' during the Day of Peace Festival on Sunday afternoon. The 75 hand-made doves, each with a 25-foot wingspan, were made from recycled materials.

A tragic story that may never end

Even with a suspect, SMPD homicide Detective Larry Nicols still has questions that may never be answered



Photo courtesy SMPD

VICTIM: **Gwendolyn Hill, murdered in 1991.**

Editor's Note: One in a series of stories on the Santa Monica Police Department's 66 cold case homicides. Some information has been withheld by the SMPD to protect the integrity of investigations.

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY In a disheveled, abandoned apartment complex on Second Street near Wilshire Boulevard, 36-year-old Gwendolyn Hill lay naked on a dirty carpet, her legs spread open with blood covering her face.

A known crack cocaine addict, Hill most likely went into the complex to get high. She ended up becoming the victim of a violent rape, her attacker strangling her before leaving the apartment, which was a safe haven for drug abusers who scored crack in nearby Palisades Park.

Hill's body was discovered by a drug dealer in the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 8, 1991 as he was grabbing his stash of drugs, which he hid within the apartment where Hill lay.

After several interviews with Hill's

SEE **COLD CASE** PAGE 6

Merchants may print SM dollars

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN STREET There's a plethora of currencies traveling in the wallets of tourist-heavy Santa Monica, from dollars to euros to yen.

Local business owner Janabai Amsden hopes to soon add a new type of exchange to the mix.

The environmental advocate and owner of natural foods restaurant Euphoria Loves Rawvolution recently put together a group of monetary and green financial experts to begin the process of creating an alternative currency that can be spent only at participating establishments in Santa Monica and Los Angeles, sustaining the local economy and rewarding consumers for keeping their money in the community.

"We want this to be more than just a feel good greenwashing thing that people can do," Amsden said. "We want this to be a way of facilitating the local economy and encouraging growth within the community."

Advising the project is Chris Lindstrom, who in 2006 co-founded the BerkShares program, which is the local currency serving the Berkshire region of Western Massachusetts. The program involves more than a dozen bank branches spread over about seven towns where residents can exchange federal dollars for BerkShares, which can then be used at any participating businesses that accept the currency.

The benefit for the consumer is the 5 percent discount they receive in the exchange rate, which is 95 federal cents per BerkShare, while the business has the advantage of ensured patronage.

More than 1 million BerkShares were circulated in the first nine months of the program, a figure that has grown to 2 million today, accepted at more than 360 businesses.

"The act of creating a currency felt somewhat of a prerequisite to reclaiming a certain community and national sovereignty that people have given up," Lindstrom, who lives in New York, said.

The problem however with the BerkShares program is that it has no revenue

SEE **MONEY** PAGE 8

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Treehuggers
Palisades Park
Ocean Avenue and Colorado Avenue, noon — 1 p.m.
Celebrate the fall equinox and hug a tree. Join the group hug at Palisades Park, or simply hug a tree at any point. Visit www.treehuggingday.com or call (310) 399-1000 for more information.

Moving on after divorce
212 Main St., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
This six week proactive workshop and support group combines the best of life coaching and therapy in a safe, confidential environment. Cost is $300 for six weeks. Call (310)439-8964 for more information.

Wednesday, September 23

Ballroom by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 4th St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Join us for free dance lessons, followed by dancing on our 3000 square foot floor. Waltz, foxtrot, swing, hustle and more - no partner necessary. Admission fee: $10. Call (310)487-0911 for more information.

LeTip Business Referral Club
Best Western Hotel meeting rooms
Santa Monica Blvd. and 19th St., 7 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.
Business owners and professionals meet each Wednesday morning to share tips or referrals to help one another grow their businesses. 7:00 a.m. for breakfast. First visit is free. Call (310)920-9649 for more information.

Kick it with Kiwanis
Santa Monica YMCA
1332 6th St., 12 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Join the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club for their weekly luncheon with guest speakers. For more information, call (310)613-1249.

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

CITYWIDE

Don't slip up

The problem of falls is significant, and the Los Angeles County Department of Community and Senior Services wants to remind people to watch where they step during the annual Fall Prevention Awareness Week, which runs through Sept. 27.

According to data from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, more than 17,000 Angelinos age 65 and older in 2006 were hospitalized for fall-related injuries. In 2007, more than 5,200 older adults 65-plus in Los Angeles County were hospitalized for hip fractures, a potentially deadly consequence of falls.

That same year, the hip fracture hospitalization rate in the county for men was 321 per 100,000 persons hospitalized and for women 609 per 100,000. For women, this is significantly higher than the Healthy People 2010 target of 416 per 100,000.

During Fall Prevention Awareness Week, the Area Agency on Aging will collaborate with the Fall Prevention Coalition — Los Angeles to educate seniors and the community regarding fall prevention strategies.

"Many falls can be avoided" says Dr. Jon Pynoos, co-director of the Fall Prevention Center of Excellence at the University of Southern California, Andrus Gerontology Center. "In addition to substantial health care costs, falls can take a serious toll on older adults."

Although the risk of falls increases dramatically with age, falls are not inevitable and can be reduced by interventions including:

- Regular physical activity to increase balance, strength, and flexibility
- A fall risk assessment by a health professional
- Modifications to minimize fall risk in the home

During the week, the coalition will educate older Angelinos and service providers about ways to reduce fall risk with posters, handouts, and place mats in community centers, senior housing, congregate meal sites, medical centers, and hospitals. Coalition member organizations will host educational presentations, blood pressure screenings, balance assessments, and medication reviews during the week.

This year, a National Fall Prevention Awareness Day has been established for the first day of fall. On Sept. 22, more than 21 states will join California in promoting fall prevention.

For additional information visit the Fall Prevention Center of Excellence's Web site, www.stopfalls.org or contact Emily Nabors at (213) 740-1364 or emily.nabors@usc.edu.

DAILY PRESS

SM LIBRARY

Turn the page

Chris Cleave's novel "Little Bee," is the featured book for the 2010 Santa Monica Citywide Reads program, which invites everyone to read and discuss the same novel in book clubs and other special events held around the city. This year marks the eighth anniversary of the program.

The second novel by emerging literary talent Cleave, "Little Bee" is the harrowing and beautiful story of a teenage Nigerian refugee and a married pair of disaffected British journalists, whose lives and destinies collide in unexpected and shocking ways.

Touching on themes of immigration, family, infidelity and loyalty, the book deftly examines the intricacies of human connection and the sacrifices we all make to get by in life. The New York Times calls the book "immensely readable and moving ... an affecting story of human triumph."

The novel was shortlisted in 2008 for the Costa Book Award for Best Novel and in 2009 for Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Book. Film rights for the book were recently optioned by Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman.

A columnist for The Guardian newspaper, Chris lives in London with his wife and two mischievous children.

Santa Monica Citywide Reads will take place from Feb. 6 to March 6, 2010, and will feature several free public book discussion groups held throughout the city. Related special events, including a presentation by Cleave, are also being planned.

For more information about Citywide Reads, visit www.smpl.org/cwr or call the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600.

DP



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

MUCH NEEDED REPAIRS: **Cars drive past one of the many potholes along Santa Monica Boulevard on Monday afternoon. The City Council is expected to approve tonight two contracts valued at roughly $1.5 million to improve the busy corridor, fixing streets and sidewalks.**

Financially strapped families to get help

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Santa Monica residents who face evictions can soon turn to one local organization to avoid life on the streets.

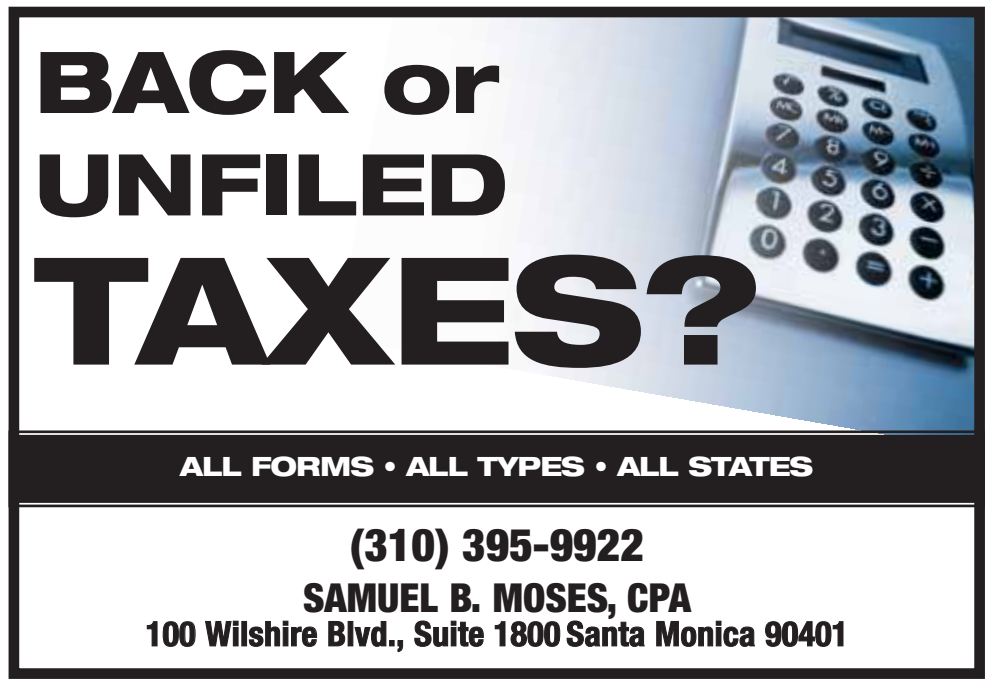
St. Joseph Center, which works with homeless and low-income families, is expected to enter an agreement with City Hall to carry out its Homeless Prevention & Rapid Rehousing Program, providing services such as case management and financial assistance to people who are in danger of losing their homes.

The contract with the Venice-based nonprofit, estimated at more than $530,000, is part of a $3.5 million spending package the City Council is scheduled to approve tonight.

The program will be funded through approximately $553,000 in federal funds that

SEE **CONSENT** PAGE 7





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ways to 'green' your ride

Editor:

It doesn't matter if the car you're driving is new or old, big or small. Driving technique and proper vehicle maintenance go a long way toward protecting the environment. By following five simple steps, you can do your part by improving gas mileage, which will also save money at the pump.

• Drive Green – How your drive has a lot to do with fuel economy. Avoid sudden starts and stops and go the speed limit. Jerky and aggressive driving decreases your miles per gallon and increases wear and tear on your vehicle. Minimize unnecessary miles by combining errands in one trip.

• Get a Tune-Up – Regular tune-ups, maintenance and having clean air filters will help your car pollute less and burn less gas. With a proper tune-up, you can save four percent on the cost of gas and up to 40 percent by replacing a faulty oxygen sensor. Simply changing the car's air filter can improve efficiency by 10 percent.

• Lighten the Load – Get the junk out of the trunk and the stuff out of your car, with the exception of emergency items such as a spare tire, flares and a first-aid kit. Extra items weigh the vehicle down and cause an increase in gas usage.

• Tire Checks – Around two billion gallons of gas each year could be saved if the tires on every American's car were properly inflated. Optimal tire pressure for your vehicle is listed in the owner's manual. Tires that are not properly inflated add rolling resistance that makes the engine work harder to move the vehicle. All of this increases fuel costs as much as three to five cents per gallon, and increases the risk of engine damage.

• Gas Caps and Fill-Ups –Approximately 17 percent of vehicles on the road have loose, damaged or missing gas caps, causing 147 million gallons of gas to vaporize every year. Topping off your gas tank when filling up your car can also release harmful vapors into the environment.

Vehicle owners who do their own maintenance should remember to recycle or properly dispose of fluids and other vehicle components, including used motor oil, tires and batteries.

For more information about making your vehicle environmentally friendly, visit www.carcare.org and check out the popular digital Car Care Guide.

Rich White
Executive Director
Car Care Council
Bethesda, Md.





Back to Nature

Reese Halter — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Demise of pre-Incans offers valuable lesson

MYSTERIOUS PRE-INCAN PEOPLES RULED present-day Chile, Peru and Bolivia. From the arid northern coastal plains of Peru rose the blood thirsty Moche. And from the Altiplano Plateau — second highest plateau in the world — 2 miles above sea level and 994 miles southeast of the Moche peoples, rose the mighty civilization of Tiwanaku. Despite their exceptional ingenuity and agricultural prowess cities of hundreds of thousands of people perished overnight.

At the height of the Moche empire they ruled the 12 northern most watersheds that crossed, at that time, the coastal plains from the Andes to the Pacific Ocean.

In normal years the northern half of Peru's coastal plains are one of the driest places on Earth. The Moche built colossal public aqueducts and irrigation systems enabling them to grow food and prosper.

A typical Moche lived a couple decades and experienced two or three significant rainfalls in their lifetime. They believed that drinking blood sustained the life force of the arid land.

In the middle of the 6th century a great flood scooped 10 to 13 feet of topsoil from the fields in the Moche River Valley to the sea. The sea returned the topsoil back to the shoreline over the next few decades burying the damaged capital city and most of the valley to the south. The Moche vanished.

Lake Titicaca sits 2.4 miles above sea level on the Altiplano Plateau in the Andes straddling the border of Peru and Bolivia. More than 25 rivers empty into Titicaca and it has about 41 islands.

The Tiwanaku peoples emerged as a loose-knit collection of fishing villages along the Lake's edge between 100 and 300 A.D. They used the lake to create and eventually support a capital city of 350,000 people on an otherwise very high and dry plateau.

Around 950 A.D. Tiwanaku disappeared. Furthermore, several other cultures flourished and mysteriously perished prior to the Incas. What happened?

The pre-Incan cultures were decimated by abrupt climate change.

The surface of the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Peru and Ecuador is cold. Icy water from Antarctica is carried northward upwelling near the equator. These frigid waters are known as the Humboldt Current. These waters are home to rich plankton. Plankton feeds anchovies. Millions of aquatic birds including Guanay cormorants, Peruvian booby's and gray pelicans nest on small rocky islands off the coast and feed on anchovies. These birds produce tons of guano used as commercial fertilizer.

There is a seesaw in air pressure that exists between the eastern equatorial Pacific and Australia and Indonesia.

As early as 1923, Sir Gilbert Walker, director-general of the Indian Meteorological Service, noticed that a high pressure in Australasia and warming of the western Pacific waters usually accompanied by drought in Australia, India and parts of sub-Saharan Africa with warmer winters in southwestern Canada and cold winters in southeast U.S.

The Spanish noted this phenomenon and called it El Nino — Christ Child — because it arrived during Christmas off the coast of Peru disrupting the cold Antarctic waters from upwelling, removing plankton, anchovies and starving millions of birds.

In the 1960s Jacob Bjerknes and Carl Gustov Rossby created a global circulation model and connected the differences in seesawing pressures or the Southern Oscillation with the El Nino events off Peru.

They created an index measuring the differences in air pressure between Tahiti in the central Pacific and Darwin in northern Australia.

Normally the pressure is lower in Darwin than it is in Tahiti. Under these conditions the trade winds blow east to west and move sun-heated waters away from the coast of South America enabling the Humboldt Current to rise and replace warmer water and a strip of cold water stretches west along the equator.

When El Nino occurs the process is disrupted. Following El Nino is his sister La Nina. During La Nina vast amounts of moisture are sucked into the air above Indonesia forming the Indonesian Low. It acts like a giant radiator creating trade winds and 8,699 miles away when the upper air sinks over Peru it is extremely dry.

The oscillation between Tahiti and Darwin is likened to a seesaw because it's never stable.

Scientists can track El Nino, predict it pretty well, but we don't know exactly what causes it.

The tropical glaciers in the Andes hold climate records of the past 20,000 years. Cores of ice resemble tree rings. Atmospheric dust and different molecular forms of oxygen accurately show warm and cold periods.

The ice cores revealed what happened to the Moche, Tiwanaku and other pre-Incan cultures.

Viscous El Nino's occurred between 562-594 A.D., precipitation dropped by 30 percent and the Moche perished. Around 950 A.D. a drought set in on the Altiplano Plateau and reduced precipitation by 15 percent and Lake Titicaca dropped 49 feet within 50 years. The drought annihilated the Tiwanaku.

Today, every known glacier in the tropics is retreating. They are melting at a rate of 15 feet a year. It's likely that the ice caps in Africa and South America will be gone in 15 years.

The changes in glacial ice are harbingers of immense global warming to come.

DR. REESE HALTER is a public speaker and conservation biologist. His latest book is "The Incomparable Honey Bee." He can be reached through www.DrReese.com.

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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

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Kenny Mack, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Taylor Van Arsdale, Dane Robert Swanson, Ryan Hyatt, Steve Breen, Elizabeth Brown, Merv Hecht, Ron Scott Smith Mike Heayn, Brian Hepp Mariel Howsepian, Cynthia Citron, Amanda Cushman, Steve Parker and Phyllis Chavez

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Fabian Lewkowicz

NEWS INTERNS
Catherine Cain, Marissa Lyman, Carlee Jensen
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERNS
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Grace Wang
gracew@smdp.com

Drew Swadling
drews@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC FACILITATOR
Amber Kessee
amberk@smdp.com

OPERATIONS MANAGER
Connie Sommerville
connies@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
A newspaper with issues

410 Broadway, Suite B
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2006. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. Letters also may be mailed to our offices located at 410 Broadway, Suite B, Santa Monica, 90401, or faxed to (310) 576-9913. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.



What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ketchup and chocolate cake don't mix well

TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF FALL. THERE are officially 100 days left in calendar year 2009.

This means that any day now there will be Christmas music streaming from the open doorways of the stores on the Third Street Promenade and the pervasive smells of cinnamon, pine and cloves will be wafting over the masses who will hopefully be clogging our parking structures and emptying our retail outlets. The promenade itself will soon undergo its annual transformation and become a "winter wonderland" — at least as much as we actually experience winter here.

I was strolling up the promenade this week with my dog, and as we navigated our way past the hordes of German teenage girls who were doing their best to execute an early blitzkrieg on the retail salespeople, we were assaulted by amplified musical performers every 40 feet. I'm a big fan of several of these performers. My friend Josh Vietti is a regular performer, who I am so enthralled with that I introduced him to another musician friend of mine, and they are now collaborating.

I buy the CDs of the performers I like and admire. I think they add tremendously to the atmosphere of the promenade, and to the city as a whole. We are, with all due credit to Harry Shearer, more than the "home of the homeless" — we are an artistic oasis in a desert of dullness.

As a community we have a strong commitment to bringing music, movies and live events to the public at free or low cost. Our ability as a city to push ourselves and be more than just a beach community is frequently on display. It was just two weeks ago that the Santa Monica Pier celebrated 100 years with a blowout bash, and some of the best fireworks that I've ever had the pleasure of seeing. I was lucky enough to catch them from the pool deck of the Loews Hotel. They were throwing a celebration party that was awesome — I had way too many mini-cupcakes.

So with all that said, I want to propose that the regulation regarding the proximity of the performers on the promenade is too close. It was very evident to me, as I walked up the promenade, listening to a duo play classical, whose performance was being stepped on by a man playing his guitar in a folk music style, which then ran right up against some dancers who were playing their music amplified, that as a consumer of this musical cornucopia, it was more annoying than pleasurable.

Free speech, which is what this would fall under, can only be regulated in very specific ways. It's a tough topic to regulate, I know. There are fundamental rights at issue here. Cities are not allowed to pass regulations that would infringe on someone's right to engage in free speech, nor are they allowed to regulate the content of that speech.

I spoke with two of the community service officers on the promenade about this topic. While they were sympathetic to my complaint, they explained that the topic is a thorny one, and also that the performers (which is how they referred to them, which bothers me, as that sounds more like this should be commercial speech — a different level of regulation) are expected to self-regulate themselves on distance and decibel levels.

I understand that the promenade is public space and it should be open to anyone who wants to speak. And it is, once they obtain a permit. I also understand that one of the charms of the space is that there is a selection of performers. I don't want to make that go away, or infringe on people's abilities to exercise their free speech rights, I just want them to do it further apart from each other.

I think it would be better for the promenade, and I think it would be better for the performers. When I want to stop and listen to the soaring violin of Josh Vietti, I don't want to have his talent stepped on by a group of 20 something kids doing acrobatic dance moves to a boombox that has Michael Jackson wailing. I love both of those, but it's kind of like putting ketchup on chocolate cake. They're both awesome flavors, but they don't go together.

I think a regulation that states that performers who use amplified music must be between two performers who are not using amplified music, or 100 feet apart, is a reasonable regulation that would pass constitutional review. It neither regulates content, nor is an unreasonable burden that would amount to prior restraint.

I like ketchup for my fries, and I love my chocolate cake.

Let's keep them apart.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

The Q Line

Thinking of Third Street

The Third Street Promenade recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. The outdoor shopping mall helped revitalize Downtown and helped spark a revolution in retail, moving people from boxy, enclosed malls to outdoor shopping centers.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

What are your fondest memories of the promenade, and what can be done to improve what has been called Santa Monica's living room?

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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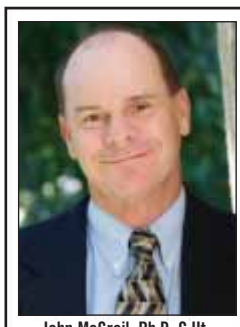
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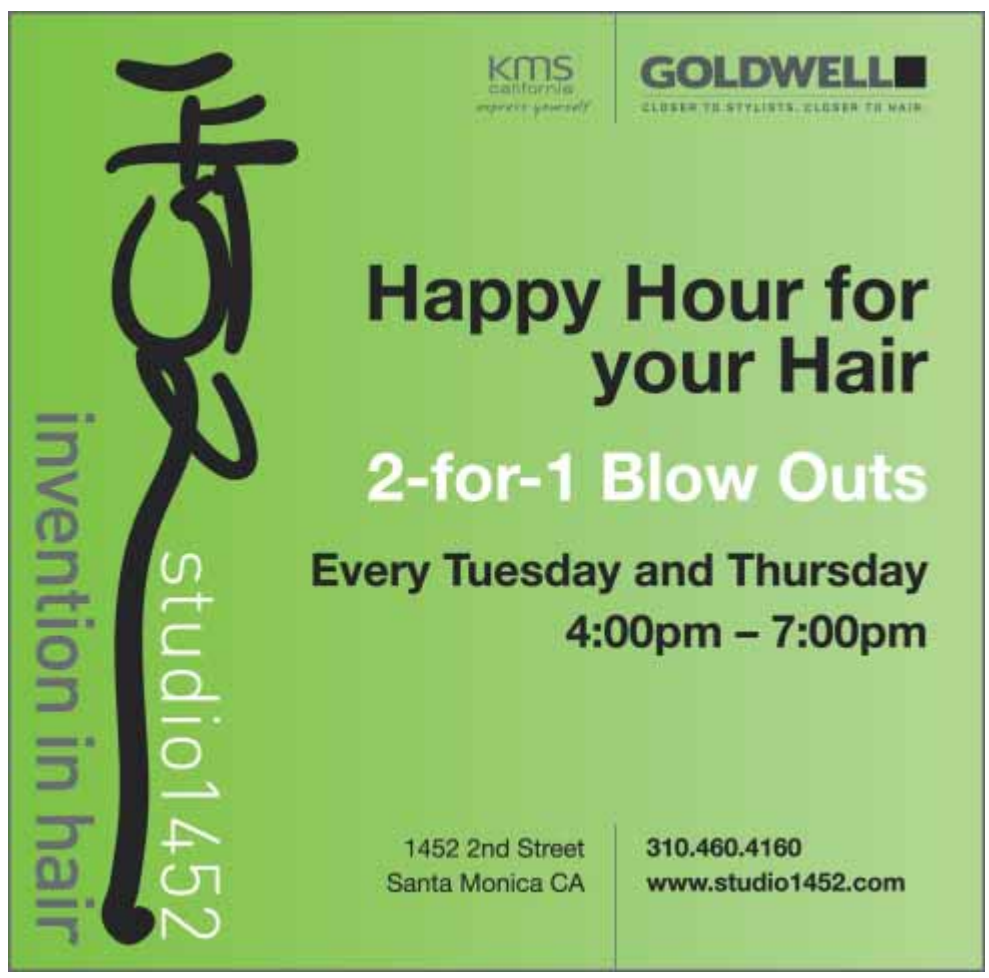


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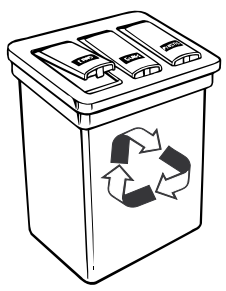
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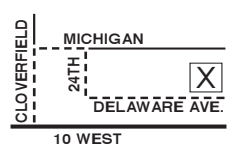


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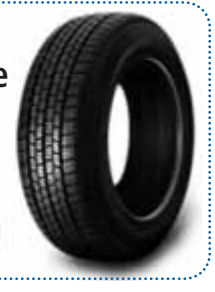
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DNA evidence crucial to case

FROM COLD CASE PAGE 1

boyfriend and those who lived on the streets or slept on the beach along with the victim, Santa Monica detectives were without a suspect.

Then Detective Larry Nicols with the SMPD's Cold Case Unit-Homicide picked up the case. It was April 2009, more than 18 years after Hill was killed. Within two months, Nicols would get a hit on the national DNA database, a rape kit taken at the time of the murder providing solid matches to a career criminal on parole after serving time in prison for nearly beating a homeless man to death in Santa Monica over a personal music player and a watch.

"The clock was ticking," Nicols said. "I figured the only way to get to him was while he was on parole. … He lived on the streets, not in Santa Monica, so that would be difficult to even find him. While on parole, at least I know the agent at any time can call him in and he's got to come in. So that was the plan."

The plan didn't work. Nicols soon would learn that his suspect was dead, leaving him with unanswered questions, still searching for answers.

THE VICTIM

Not much is known about Hill. Nicols has been unable to reach any family members. His only contacts were an ex-boyfriend who lived on the streets with Hill and a former drug dealer who sold crack to the couple "on a daily basis," Nicols said. "That's how well he knew them."

It's not unusual for Nicols to not receive phone calls from family members of victims. Many of the deceased were homeless.

"You would think that my phone would be ringing off the hook with people wanting to know what is going on, but it's not," said Nicols, a 19-year-veteran who is the sole investigator with the Cold Case Unit-Homicide. "Because a lot of my cases are transient cases, perhaps people just write someone off when they live on the streets. I just don't know. I have a couple of cases where people call once in awhile to see if there is anything new. I can count them on one hand."

What Nicols did know about Hill was that she was addicted to crack and spent much of her time in Palisades Park or along the beach with her boyfriend, who was originally from San Diego. That's where Nicols found him this summer, living with his mother. The boyfriend told Nicols that the last time he saw Hill was on the Friday morning before her body was found. The two were sleeping on the beach when they got into an argument around 6 a.m. Hill told her boyfriend that she was going to get cigarettes. He never saw her again.

At the time of the murder, the boyfriend, who had tears in his eyes when Nicols showed him a picture of Hill taken near the time of her death, was grilled by investigators who had reason to believe he was the suspect. He was eventually cleared. The rape kit did not include any DNA evidence from him, Nicols would later find out. This encouraged the detective, who felt the DNA hits he did get back from the lab pointed clearly to the a suspect.

"I never get too excited with DNA evidence because I've already had three cases with DNA hits that turned out to be the victims' boyfriends," Nicols said. "They are transients. They don't bathe often or wash their clothes so there is a lot of transfer."

HELP FROM AN UNLIKELY SOURCE

That changed when Nicols came into contact with Hill's former drug dealer. After serving time for selling drugs, the dealer was trying to get his life back together.

"He had found God and he was now the nicest guy in the world," Nicols said. "He comes to me."

The dealer told Nicols that he actually discovered the body while searching for drugs he hid in the apartment. He went back to Palisades Park, told someone about what he saw, and that person notified police. The drug dealer knew the boyfriend, but not the man whose DNA was found at the crime scene.

That man was Darryl Hines, a 43-year-old who had served time for narcotics, burglary, attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon. Analysts processed the rape kit and found three matches to Hines.

"It was just sitting in the property room waiting for me," Nicols said of the rape kit.

Ready to bring Hines in for questioning, Nicols called Hines' parole officers, only to learn that his prime suspect had recently committed suicide, hanging himself in the doorway of a commercial building in Hollywood. Hines was placed on parole Aug. 29, 2009. Nicols tried to make contact with him around that time.

"It was devastating," Nicols said of the suicide. "I really wanted to talk to him. I really wanted to interview him."

Now Nicols is searching for a white woman in her 40s who befriended Hines before his death. Nicols sent a bulletin to the LAPD's Hollywood Division, hoping officers spot her while on patrol. Nicols wants to ask her if Hines mentioned Hill's murder.

"Did he mention his past," Nicols said. "Did he say anything that might help in this case. That is where I am now."

Despite having no suspect to interview, Nicols said he feels good about the case given the strong DNA evidence and Hines' violent criminal history.

"I did not get a chance to talk with him, which leads me to the question of why did he hang himself," Nicols said. "I have a theory. I would hope to believe that somehow word got out that I was looking for him. I'm hoping that's what she tells me."

kevinh@smdp.com

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Students to learn about bay

FROM CONSENT PAGE 3

City Hall received earlier this year from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The organization will partner with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles.

"St. Joseph Center has a strong history of providing case management, housing relocation and ongoing financial assistance to the target population," the city staff report said.

The council is also expected to extend two contracts by a combined $35,000 for the new Homeless Management Information System.

Recommended in the Action Plan to Address Homelessness, the revamped information system is intended to bring City Hall into timely compliance with federal standards for data collection and analysis.

A contract with Bowman Systems LLC will need to increase by $20,000 to cover additional training and system administration support because of a recent vacancy. Another $15,000 is needed in a contract with consultant Chris Fonner to continue technical support of the current system during the transition.

SMOOTHING THE CRACKS

The ride will soon be less bumpy on Santa Monica Boulevard.

A street improvement project is slated for the busy corridor from Lincoln to Cloverfield boulevards, repaving the road, repairing sidewalks and installing concrete gutters.

The council is expected to approve a $1.4 million contract with Silvia Construction and a $136,895 deal with Tetra Tech for project management.

The project will be funded by Proposition 1B and capital funds.

EDUCATING STUDENTS ABOUT THE BAY

Nonprofit organization Heal the Bay will continue teaching students in the local public and private schools about the marine environment in the Santa Monica Bay for another year.

The Santa Monica-based group is slated to receive a $50,000 extension in its contract with City Hall to continue offering educational programs for students in K-12 schools through June 30, 2010.

"Services include structured field trips to the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium and sponsorship of Santa Monica's Coastal Cleanup Day and its associated public outreach," a city staff report said.

ELECTRICAL CAPACITY AND MORE

The southeast corner of historic City Hall will welcome the addition of an electric room to support new offices and a data center in the old jail space.

Gonzalez Construction is expected to receive the $500,000 contract to build the electric room.

"The existing electrical room cannot be increased due to size limitations in City Hall," the city staff report said.

The council is also scheduled to extend a contract with LA Cha Maintenance Co. to provide custodial services at the Public Safety Facility. The $176,157 contract will go through June 30, 2010.

A new asset management plan for the water and wastewater system could also be in the works. GHD Inc. is set to receive a $687,680 contract to prepare the plan, which city officials said will provide an "updated programmatic approach to ensure the long-term sustainability of the water and wastewater utility while meeting required levels of service in the most cost effective and efficient manner."

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NEW BEGINNINGS

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

People walk to the water's edge to toss bread crumbs into the ocean during the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah at Santa Monica Synagogue's Tashlich event at the Santa Monica Beach Life Guard Tower 26 on Saturday afternoon.

Local business owner wants to introduce new currency

FROM **MONEY** PAGE 1

coming in to sustain it.

Lindstrom, who no longer serves on the board at BerkShares, said he isn't sure how successful the program would have been if it wasn't free.

It cost an estimated $100,000 to start the BerkShares program, covering printing costs and labor.

"In the next incarnation, the trick is to find a way of creating a currency that is in a system that pays for itself but holds onto a certain level of integrity and neutrality," he said.

The project in Santa Monica is still in its infancy stages, having had its first meeting just last week. Amsden said that there's been dialogue of introducing an alternative currency in the green business community for the past several years.

Hollis Doherty, a local activist and associate with the Unterguggenberger Institute in Austria, which deals with complementary currencies, said the key to the success of the program will be to keep the exchange local and support small mom and pops businesses, not chain stores.

"If you take money you make and go to a big box store and buy something, very little of that money you spend is going to stay in your locality," she said. "If you eat at Rawvolution, the money you spent is staying in that community because it's a community-owned business and it's not being outsourced."

But there's some skepticism with the viability of the program. Don Depamphilis, a finance professor at Loyola Marymount University, said he doesn't expect the program to be a resounding success, noting that it sounds similar to a money order or gift certificate.

"WE WANT THIS TO BE A WAY OF FACILITATING THE LOCAL ECONOMY AND ENCOURAGING GROWTH WITHIN THE COMMUNITY."

Janabai Amsden
owner, Euphoria Loves Rawvolution

"If I went to the bank and got $100 worth of Santa Monica dollars and put it in the drawer, there's a possibility I would never see them," he said.

melodyh@smdp.com





City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Numbers 2294 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

The following is a summary, prepared by the City Attorney, of Ordinance Number 2294, which was adopted by the City Council on September 8, 2009.

Ordinance Number 2294(CCS) establishes new speed limits for fourteen locations in the City pursuant to Engineering and Traffic Surveys undertaken for the City pursuant to Vehicle Code Section 22358. At twelve of the locations, the speed limit will be reduced. These locations are on Olympic Boulevard, Ocean Park Boulevard, Wilshire Boulevard, 4th Street, 5th Street, Main Street and Ocean Avenue. At two locations, on Colorado Avenue and Second Street, speed limits will be increased.

This ordinance will become effective thirty days after adoption. The full text of the ordinance is available upon request from the Office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica; phone (310) 458-8211.



The Quackers

Phyllis Chavez
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Finding protection from the storm

Editor's Note: The Quackers are three awesome ducks from the canals of Venice who are on a mission to educate the community about the dangers of global warming and the importance of practicing sustainability, all while surfing the most gnarly waves possible.

THE AIR WAS HEAVY AND STILL. IT FELT LIKE we were wading in water as we moved through it. It was so hot. The beach was the only place we could escape the heat.

It was late when we dragged home from our surfing session. I grabbed the mail from the box and thumbed through it. Buried between the magazines and advertisements was the letter from Guymon, Okla. I had been hoping for.

While researching the family tree I ran across a Quacker in the Oklahoma panhandle area I was not familiar with and had dashed off a letter to see if we were related.

I tore open the envelope to find we were related through my Great Grandpa Quacker. Our "new" relative was James Joseph Quacker III. He said everyone called him Jimmy Joe and he was anxious to meet us.

We left the next day. Our only regret was that he did not live some place cooler, like Alaska.

Jimmy Joe's ranch was located far from the edge of Guymon. Never had we seen such an enormous expanse of totally flat land. A herd of cattle and some trees were all that relieved the wide open space. We saw a corn field ringed with trees. It was the line of trees encircling the house that helped us find it. Jimmy Joe greeted us warmly from the shaded porch.

After dinner Jimmy Joe dug out the family photo albums. The sun slipped away as we sat on the porch looking at past generations of Quackers as they farmed the land and tended their livestock. One old photo made us all laugh. It showed a scared young duck being chased by a big, angry bull. It was great grandpa Quacker!

In the early photos we noticed there were no trees on the ranch. Now there were many and they were placed in a way we had not seen before. We asked Jimmy Joe about it.

He said the trees were planted that way for protection. They were called "windbreaks" or "shelterbelts." He said Big Daddy, as he called his grandpa, planted most of them years ago after the big disaster in the 1930's called the Dust Bowl.

We became spellbound as he explained. "The Dust Bowl happened before I was born but I can tell you what Big Daddy told us," Jimmy Joe said. "He said we should never forget how it came about. Big Daddy said that for decades farmers in the area deep plowed killing the natural grasses. These grasses had kept the soil in place, trapped moisture and provided protection from high winds even in periods of drought. The farmers didn't rotate their crops. Never did they fallow the fields to rest them. Cover crops would have brought organic matter and nutrients back to the soil, but they did not plant them. They overgrazed the land with their livestock. This abuse of the land coupled with a long and severe drought in the 1930's brought about an ecological disaster affecting millions.

"Big Daddy said during the drought in the 1930's crops failed and fields were left empty. The natural anchors to keep the soil in place were gone. The soil dried up, turned to dust and blew away eastward and southward in large dark clouds. So thick and dark were these clouds they turned day into night. The storms blew as far as New York and much of the soil ended up in the Atlantic Ocean. Enormous dust clouds filled the air preventing any hope for rainfall. Bare and dry soil made the winds worse and more soil was carried away. Big Daddy said that in 1934 the dust storms were so severe that red snow actually fell in New England that winter.

"Millions of acres of farmland became useless forcing hundreds of thousands to leave their homes."

Jimmy Joe said when Big Daddy talked of leaving the ranch his voice would choke up and he could not continue the story for a while.

Big Daddy and the family had been forced to live on the banks of the Beaver River where they barely survived.

Jimmy Joe continued, "Starting in 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt tried his best to reverse an ecological disaster. He planted 200 million trees from Canada to Abilene, Texas hoping they would help break the wind, hold water in the soil and keep it in place. In 1938 the trees reduced blowing soil by 65 percent. Finally in 1939 the rains came.

"Thankful to survive and return to his ranch, Big Daddy, just like the President, planted many of the trees you see now. He studied soil conservation and cared for the land. He taught his children and grandchildren to do the same."

After hearing Big Daddy's story we are convinced that treating the Earth gently and planting trees is critical no matter where you live, especially now.

PHYLLIS and the Quackers can be reached at phyllis@phyllischavez.com

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Homeownership fell in '08; Asians hit worst

ALEX VEIGA
AP Real Estate Writer

LOS ANGELES Asians, many of them living in foreclosure-ravaged California, suffered the sharpest drop in homeownership last year, eclipsing declines felt by whites, blacks and Hispanics, according to new Census data.

The decline was surprising, because Asians tend to earn more than other minority groups and have less debt. But one out of three Asian homeowners lives in California, which has seen foreclosure rates skyrocket and home values plummet since the housing bubble burst. And that appears to have disproportionately exposed them to the effects from the housing collapse, experts suggested.

The U.S. homeownership rate fell to 66.6 percent last year, the lowest in six years, after hitting a peak of 67.3 percent in 2006, according to figures from the American Community Survey, which was released Monday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Homeownership for Asians fell 1.24 percentage points last year to 59.4 percent.

The decline was 0.88 percentage points for blacks to 45.6 percent. Hispanics experienced a similar decline, down 0.80 to 49.1 percent. Whites suffered the smallest decline, down 0.40 to 73.4 percent.

But because Asians only represent 3.3 percent of all U.S. homeowners, the decline in the number of black and white households was greater. The number of Hispanic homeowners actually rose, reflecting trends in immigration and higher birth rates.

Nevertheless, as a population group, Asian homeowners fared far worse than others.

That revelation surprised some experts such as Edward Wolff, an economist at New York University.

"Based on their income and relatively low debt, one would expect that they would have a smaller decline in homeownership," Wolff said.

The median annual household income for Asians was just over $70,000 last year, higher than for any other racial group.

"It's possible that it's a regional effect," Wolff suggested. "There's a high concentration of Asian-Americans in California, and California got particularly hard hit by property (price) declines and high foreclosure rates."

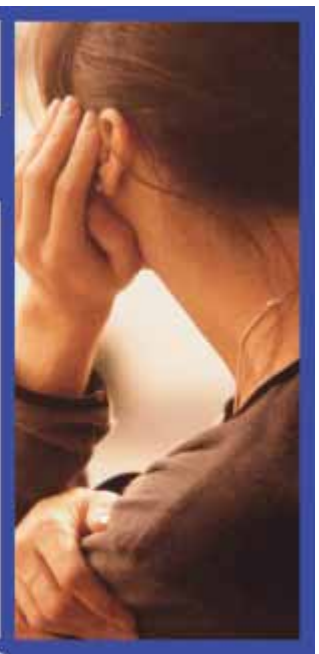
The drop in homeownership is a reversal after the housing boom years, when minorities in the U.S. took advantage of easy access to financing and became homeowners.

Minorities haven't lost all the gains reaped during the housing boom years, but data from 2009 could begin to show otherwise, said demographer Mark Mather with the Population Reference Bureau in Washington D.C.

"So far these rates are still higher than they were back at the beginning of the decade, but it could be that this data are too young," he said. "We need to wait for the 2009 data because we're really just capturing part of the recession at this point. And the really high double-digit unemployment didn't hit until earlier this year."

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Census: Recession had sweeping impact on US life

HOPE YEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The recession is profoundly disrupting American life: More people are delaying marriage and home-buying, turning to carpools yet getting stuck in ever-worse traffic, staying put rather than moving to new cities.

A broad array of U.S. census data, for release on Tuesday, also shows a dip in the foreign-born population last year, to under 38 million after it reached an all-time high in 2007. This was due to declines in low-skilled workers from Mexico searching for jobs in Arizona, Florida and California.

Health coverage swung widely by region, based partly on levels of unemployment. Massachusetts, with its universal coverage law, had fewer than one in 20 uninsured residents — the lowest in the nation. Texas had the highest share, at one in four, largely because of illegal Hispanic immigrants excluded from government-sponsored and employer-provided plans.

Demographers said the latest figures were striking confirmation of the social impact of the economic decline as it hit home in 2008. Findings come from the annual American Community Survey, a sweeping look at life built on information from 3 million households.

Preliminary data earlier this year found that many Americans were not moving, staying put in big cities rather than migrating to the Sunbelt because of frozen lines of credit. Mobility is at a 60-year low, upending population trends ahead of the 2010 census that will be used to apportion House seats.

"The recession has affected everybody in one way or another as families use lots of different strategies to cope with a new economic reality," said Mark Mather, associate vice president of the nonprofit Population Reference Bureau. "Job loss — or the potential for job loss — also leads to feelings of economic insecurity and can create social tension."

"It's just the tip of the iceberg," he said, noting that unemployment is still rising.

The percentage of people who drove alone to work dropped last year to 75.5 percent, the lowest in a decade, as commuters grew weary of paying close to $4 a gallon for gasoline and opted to carpool or take public transportation.

Twenty-two states had declines in solo drivers compared with the year before, with the rest statistically unchanged. The decreases were particularly evident in states with higher traffic congestion, such as Maryland, Texas and Washington.

Average commute times edged up to 25.5 minutes, erasing years of decreases to stand at the level of 2000, as people had to leave home earlier in the morning to pick up friends for their ride to work or to catch a bus or subway train.

Palmdale, Calif., a suburb in the high desert north of Los Angeles, posted the longest commute at 41.5 minutes. It barely edged out New York City, with its congestion and sprawling subway system, at 39.4 minutes. Shortest commute time: Bloomington, Ill., at 14.1 minutes.

Nationwide, more than one in eight workers, or 17.5 million, were out the door by 6 a.m.

Marital bliss also suffered. Nearly one in three Americans 15 and over, or 31.2 percent, reported they had never been married, the highest level in a decade. The share had previously hovered for years around 27 percent, before beginning to climb during the housing downturn in 2006.

The never-married included three-quarters of men in their 20s and two-thirds of women in that age range. Sociologists say younger people are taking longer to reach economic independence and consider marriage, because they are struggling to find work or focusing on an advanced education.

The Northeast had the most people who were delaying marriage, led by states such as New York and Massachusetts. People in the South were more likely to give marriage a try, including those in Arkansas, Tennessee and Texas.

The dip in foreign-born residents comes as the government considers immigration changes, including stepped-up border enforcement and a path toward U.S. citizenship. At nearly 38 million, immigrants made up 12.5 percent of the population in 2008; an estimated 11.9 million are here illegally.

In three large metro area, Miami, San Jose, Calif., and Los Angeles, more than one-third of all residents are foreign-born.

Roughly half the states showed declines in the number of immigrants from 2007 to 2008. Major metro areas also posted decreases, including Los Angeles, Phoenix, Detroit and Tampa, Fla. An influx of workers from India, who came looking for specialized jobs in telecommunications, manufacturing, computers and software, partially offset the national immigration decrease.

About one in five U.S. residents spoke a language other than English at home, mostly clustered in California, New Mexico and Texas.

The number of foreign-born and minority residents often tracked closely with how a state ranked in the levels of uninsured.

The highest numbers were in agricultural communities with large Hispanic populations in California's San Joaquin Valley, South Texas and South Florida. Regions in New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, Alaska, Oklahoma and Georgia also fared poorly.

The numbers help explain why the debate over illegal immigration and health insurance is so heated.

"The fact that many election 'swing states,' with large and growing Hispanic populations, rank low on health insurance for children and young adults points to the significance of this issue for both parties in future national elections," said William H. Frey, a demographer at Brookings Institution, a think tank.


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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 70°

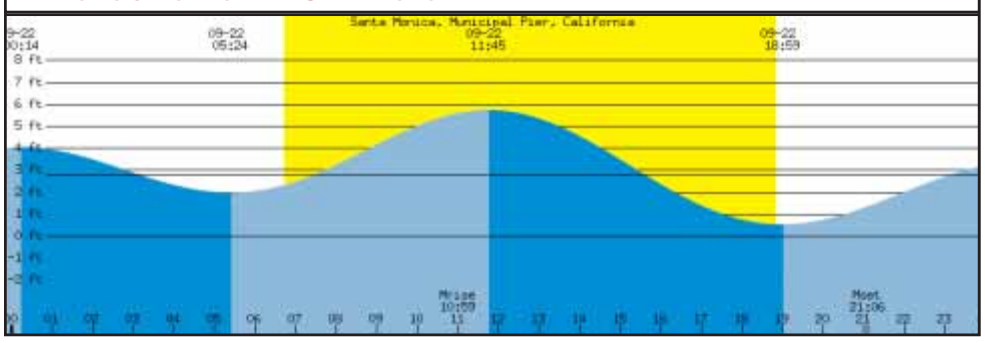
Swell Forecast

Should see a slight increase in southerly swell to bring south facing breaks into chest high sets. NW swell is looking minor, with west facing breaks looking at waist high waves.

Long Range Synopsis

The southern hemi swell is expected to back off, and no significant NW swell is expected.

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 **September 15, 2009**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.org - brc@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

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 -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 39 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / ns

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Las Cornilla Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Las Alisa 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	B	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	B	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	F	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	B	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 Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	ns	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	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua)	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	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	C	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.

Door left open for Obamas to attend Olympics vote

JULIE PACE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON As Michelle Obama prepares to make a highly personal appeal in Denmark on behalf of Chicago's bid to host the 2016 Summer Olympics, the White House is leaving open the possibility that President Barack Obama will make a last minute decision to join her.

Though the president has said the health care debate keeps him from committing to attend the International Olympic Committee's Oct. 2 meeting in Copenhagen, an administration official said an advance team traveled there Monday to make preparations should the president's schedule open up.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because a decision on the president's travel plans has not been made.

An advance team always travels ahead of the president to assess security and make arrangements for accommodations, even for trips the president doesn't end up taking.

Valerie Jarrett, a senior adviser to the president, said a trip to Copenhagen is not currently on the president's schedule. Chicago backers have urged the president to attend the meeting, but Jarrett said the bid committee is thrilled to have the first lady — a Chicago native with sky-high popularity around the world — lead the city's 300-member delegation.

"Who better than Michelle Obama to represent our country right now?" Jarrett asked.

Jarrett, a former vice chair of the Chicago 2016 bid committee and head of the White House Office on Olympic, Paralympic and Youth Sport, also will travel to Copenhagen. She met with the first lady and her staff last week to develop a strategy for the home stretch.

Jarret said Mrs. Obama's presentation to the IOC will be "very personal," and will draw on her experiences growing up on the city's South Side and later raising a family in a home that is within walking distance of some of the proposed Olympic venues.

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA

NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #2988 – PROVIDE ON-SITE SECURITY GUARD SERVICES AT THE ANNENBERG COMMUNITY BEACH HOUSE.

- A mandatory job walk will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 9:30 AM Pacific Time. Bidders are to meet Oscar Santiago and Monica Diaz at 415 Pacific Coast Highway, Santa Monica, CA. 90405.
- Parking will be provided; late arrivals may be disqualified from bidding. Please refer to the bid packet for further details. The bid packet can be downloaded at:
- http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm
- **Submission Deadline is Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-8215, or by e-mailing your request to Monica.diaz@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

BID #2985 – PROVIDE ON-SITE SECURITY GUARD SERVICES AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS.

- A mandatory job walk will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 1:00 PM Pacific Time. Bidders are to meet Al Davis at 1620 6th Street Santa Monica, CA. 90401 in the Big Blue Bus Maintenance Training Room
- Parking is not provided; late arrivals may be disqualified from bidding. Please refer to the bid packet for further details. The bid packet can be downloaded at:
- http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm
- **Submission Deadline is October 20, 2009 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-8797, or by e-mailing your request to Kellee.macdonald@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Beyond a Reasonable Doubt (PG-13) 1hr 45min
2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 10:00

Whiteout (R) 1hr 46min
2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20

Gamer (R) 1 hr 35min
5:00, 10:10

Ponyo (G) 1 hr 40min
1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:40

The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13), 1 hr 48 min
2:20, 7:30

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

9 (PG-13) 1hr 19min
1:10, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45, 9:50

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (PG) 1 hr 21 min
1:00, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 9:55

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 3D (PG) 1 hr 21 min
1:40, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00

Jennifer's Body (R) 1 hr 42 min
2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

Julie and Julia (PG-13) 2hrs 3min
1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 10:05

Love Happens (PG-13) 1 hr 49 min
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

The September Issue (PG-13) 1hr 30min
2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30

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

Bright Star (PG) 2hr 59min
1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50

It Might Get Loud (PG) 1hr 37min
1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40

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

The Baader-Meinhof Complex (R) 2hr 24min
1:30, 4:50, 8:10

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

All About Steve (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:40am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

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

The Informant! (R) 1hr 48min
11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

Inglourious Basterds (R) 2hrs 32min
12:00, 3:20, 6:40, 10:00

Sorority Row (R) 1hr 40min
12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

Tyler Perry's I Can Do Bad All by Myself (PG-13) 1hr 53min
1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20

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

Smile Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Do you feel that you are barking up the wrong tree? Midday, recognize the key relationships in your life for at least a moment. No public comments are necessary; just a simple moment of appreciation. Tonight: Follow another person's lead.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Others seek you out, so much so that you might not have time to make calls and seek out others. Your frustration marks many interactions, adding a possibly negative overtone. Take a walk to clear your mind. Tonight: So many options.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Focus on the job at hand and what you want to accomplish. You might be too busy for your taste, but relax. You will witness a surprisingly natural change of events. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your creativity encourages multiple solutions. Remember, you are not stuck in any way. Fatigue marks your decisions. Knowing that, take a longer-than-normal break to recycle, or consider leaving work early. Tonight: You cannot help yourself. You love being out and about.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Work from home if you can. Don't allow anyone to stop you. You need space. You have a lot of facts to sort through and many ideas to apply. Anger bubbles forth from someone who just doesn't get it. Tonight: Order in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Communication stars, but carrying out a goal could be challenging. People's tempers seem easily triggered. Avoid bearing the brunt of their anger. Clear out quickly. Tonight: Hang with your friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Know which side your bread is buttered on. Choices come in, and making fast yet reliable decisions becomes very important. Listen to feedback with an open mind. Someone draws your attention. Know that you are more than capable of commanding this situation. Tonight: Treat yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your style is a sure-bet winner. Others simply want to get closer and make an impression. Midday, your priorities change from goals to keeping your own council — not a bad decision. Surprises pop up when you least anticipate them. Tonight: All smiles.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Know when to pull back and approach a situation differently. You could be worn out and questioning your limits. Take your time in a meeting where you might want to evaluate who supports you and why. Tonight: Take the night off.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want. Don't lose your focus, despite confusion and misinformation that could impact your finances. More than ever, you are in a position of leadership. Loosen up in your dealings with someone who frequently tosses your plans into chaos! Tonight: Give 100 percent.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ A must appearance could take a chunk out of your day. You feel as if you cannot state your case clearly enough. Listen more and zero in on key concerns. If you have a strong hunch about a money matter and can afford the risk, go for it. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ If your feelings are triggered, get past the immediate problem to look at the big picture. Situations might not be exactly as they seem. You also might be having trouble clearing out a personal bias. Tonight: Follow the music.

Happy birthday

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

Sometimes this year you will get overly serious and take matters to heart, possibly to the extent of being immobilized. Negativity has no place in your life. November 2009 could test your valor and endurance. The unexpected occurs, often jolting you out of these deeper moods. Work with new ideas, and choose to take a risk. If you are single, you have more to offer than you realize. Someone quite serious but significant could enter your life. If you are attached, the two of you need to learn to go with the flow. SCORPIO reads you cold.

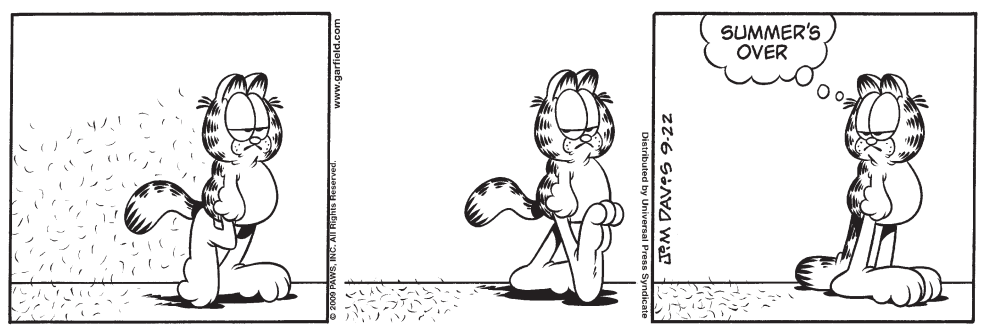
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



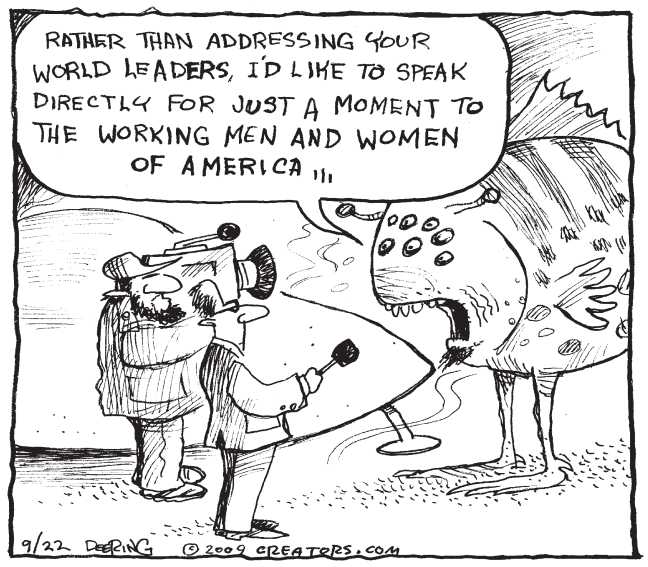
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



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 ★★

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Maya Sugarman *news@smdp.com*

Benjamin Steers identified this photo of the gate adjacent to Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. on the Santa Monica Pier. He will receive two VIP passes to Pacific Park. Check tomorrow's paper for another chance to win.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Rustic home
6 Until now
11 Find charming
12 Clear, as computer memory
13 Fire-fighters, in slang
15 Family
16 Banned pesticide
17 Wide shoe marking
18 Metal marble
20 Cub's home
21 Under-stand
22 Horn sound
23 Print units
26 Sunday songs
27 Like peas in —
28 Topper
29 Sprinted
30 Spray-can type
34 Termite's cousin
35 Adj. modifier
36 — nutshell
37 Volde-mort's followers
40 Game host
41 Thesau-rus author
42 Quite full
43 Monopoly cards

DOWN

1 Wine holders
2 Show in
3 Wilder-ness Road blazer
4 Tick off
5 Sewing items
6 Sudden rush
7 Not at home
8 Liberty
9 Work out, as terms
10 Bristles at
14 Fix copy
19 Old oath
22 News-paper goof
23 Holiday events
24 Beach in a 1964 song
25 Get in touch with
26 Ivy League school
28 Relin-quish
30 Reacted to a baby
31 Long attack
32 "No Turn —"
33 Survives
38 Golf peg
39 Sock part

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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				

9-22

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 18 27 31 36 52 Meganumber: 33 Jackpot: $62M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 6 17 33 44 46 Meganumber: 18 Jackpot: $7M

FANTASY 5: 3 8 29 30 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 7 5 EVENING: 4 3 2

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 07 Eureka 2nd: 06 Whirl Win 3rd: 03 Hot Shot RACE TIME: 1:40.59

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

■ In April, the Pelham (Mass.) Board of Selectmen notified residents that it proposed to "alter a (four-mile) portion of Amherst Road" and needed their co-operation. The board said the road, in service with exactly the same contour since 1822, must better conform to what Amherst Road looked like on an 1822 map. Thus, some property owners along the route were asked to cede some rights to the government to un-modernize the road.

■ Among the personal tasks allegedly demanded by Portsmouth (Va.) mayor James Holley of his public-payroll assistant Lorraine Stokes (from a list Stokes released in August, alleging Holley's abuse): affixing labels to boxes identifying Holley's assorted-color argyle socks; placing orders for "tummy support T-shirts" and "90-minute abs" videos; and locating retailers for his favorite English Leather cologne, Stri-Vectin Cream (for "turkey neck"), geese repellant, T. Barry underwear, grass seeds and Gillette hair paste.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1937 Spanish Civil War: Peña Blanca is taken; the end of the Battle of El Mazuco.

1939 Joint victory parade of Wehrmacht and Red Army in Brest-Litovsk at the end of the Invasion of Poland.

1941 World War II: On Jewish New Year Day, the German SS murder 6,000 Jews in Vinnytsya, Ukraine. Those are the survivors of the previous killings that took place a few days earlier in which about 24,000 Jews are executed.

1944 World War II: the Red Army enters Tallinn.

1950 World Dance Council inaugurated.

1951 The first live sporting event seen coast-to-coast in the United States, a college football game between Duke and the University of Pittsburgh, is televised on NBC.

1955 In Britain, the television channel ITV goes live for the first time.

WORD UP!

equivocate \ih-KWIV-uh-kayt\ , intransitive verb: 1. To be deliberately ambiguous or unclear in order to mislead or to avoid committing oneself to anything definite.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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2478 Corinth Ave. $1575 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

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

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Santa Monica $1125.00 1 Bdrms, 1Bath NO pets, gas, paid stove, refrigerator, parking 2535 Kansas Ave., #210 Open daily 8am-8pm. Additional info in unit. .

SANTA MONICA $1225.00 1 bdrm, 1 bath, no pets, stove, refrig, patio, parking 2533 Kansas Ave., #109 Open daily for viewing 8am to 7pm. Additional info in apt Mgr: apt #101

SM 1228 Berkeley St.2 available unit Single $1195/mo, 1 month FREE OAC furnished $1295 1 month FREE OAC. Newly remodeled units, new appliances, new wood floors, private enclosed garage pets OK (310)278-8999

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WLA 1457 Westgate #D 1+1 upper stove, fridge, blinds, wood/tile floors, carport parking no pets $1195/mo $750 off move-in special (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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Notices

NOTICE
Pursuant To California Self - Storage Facility Act (B & P Code 21700 ET SEQ) The Undersigned Will Sell At Public Auction. On The Below Listed Day, Time, And Location. Notice Of Public Sale Of Personal Property: The Personal Property Including, But Not Limited To Listed Items Stored By The Following Persons Or Businesses On The 7th of October 2009 At 11:30 AM At: AA OLYMPIC/CENTINELA SS 3250 OLYMPIC BLVD. SANTA MONICA, CA. 90404 (310) 829-2525
THE FOLLOWING LIST IS A DE-SCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY TO BE SOLD:
Storage Unit #
2245- Keith H. Hicks- magazines, plastic containers, duffle bag
624 - Nicholas Blanchard- boxes, metal shelves
705- Alexander Imhoff- desk, heater, boxes, stereo equipment, couch, love seat, bed frame, pictures, luggage
2224- Mary Ellen Hopkins- boxes, fabric, bags, plastic containers, wicker basket, luggage, table
2956- Alan Mcfetridge- household items
AUCTIONEER: K.E. AUCTION SERVICE 12127 Mall Blvd Suite A-178 Victorville, Ca. 92392 760-553-3394 CA. BOND # FS836-21-31

Santa Monica Daily Press
CN825864 10-7-09 Sep 22,29, 2009

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091185200 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as COMPUTECH CONSULTANTS, 68 E. BAY STATE ST, #1E, ALHAMBRA, CA 91801, COUNTY OF LA. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : GUSTAVO COLLAZO, 68 E. BAY STATE ST, #1E, ALHAMBRA, CA 91801 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/: GUSTAVO COLLAZO
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 8/3/2009. 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 9/1/2009, 9/8/2009, 9/15/2009, 9/22/2009

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1037 16th Street #8
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Santa Monica Canyon	$2,447,000	$4,810,000
North of Montana	$3,025,000	$1,449,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,948,500	$919,000
South of Wilshire	$859,000	$680,000
Sunset Park	$1,250,000	$669,250
Ocean Park	$1,462,500	$875,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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