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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

Volume 8 Issue 280



Santa Monica Daily Press

THESE RINGS TELL A STORY
SEE PAGE 4

We have you covered

THE AT LEAST IT'S NOT MONDAY ISSUE



PHOTO FINISH

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Team Prom Night of Santa Monica's ZJ Boarding House pull their soapbox racer down the track after crashing during the Red Bull Soapbox Race in Downtown Los Angeles on Saturday. Forty teams participated in the race down Grand Avenue and Fifth Street consisting of one 90-degree turn half way down the track. The first Red Bull Soapbox Race took place in Belgium in 2000.

Shelling out a fortune for a home

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Housing prices might be down but the cost of owning in Santa Monica still requires deep pockets.

A recent report by Coldwell Banker found that Santa Monica has the fifth most expensive residential real estate market in the country, a ranking that experts attribute to the desirable beach location and wealthy population.

The annual study compares the average prices for similar 2,200 square foot, four-bedroom and 2.5 bath homes in the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada. With an average price tag of $1.46 million for such homes, the seaside city is among seven California markets in the top 10, beat only by La Jolla, which lead the list with $2.12 million, second place Beverly Hills with $1.98 million and fourth place Palo Alto where homes are about $1.49 million. Manhattan and New York City were excluded from the report because of the lack of single-family homes.

The most affordable market was found in Grayling, Mich. where the average 2,200 square foot house costs about $112,675. The national average price for such a home was $363,401.

Charles Peace, a broker with Coldwell Banker whose been in Santa Monica for 31 years, said the strongest zip code in the city is 90402, which covers the neighborhood north of Montana Avenue where the homes are considerably larger.

Housing values in Brentwood and Pacific Palisades are about 30 percent down from the peak of just a few years ago, while Santa Monica as a whole is in the low 20 percent range, Peace said. The homes in 90402 on the other hand are down on average by about 14 percent.

The neighborhood was relatively resilient to the conditions of the volatile market for several years while the housing values in communities around it fell. It wasn't until the big crash in the fall of 2008

SEE **REAL ESTATE** PAGE 8

City Manager search begins

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Wanted in Santa Monica — a new city manager who's a creative strategist, a wizard at financial management, embraces public participation and embodies the community's social values of affordable housing and environmental responsibility.

Those are the qualities listed on a more than two-week-old job posting on the International City/County Management Association's Web site for the soon-to-be vacant city manager position in Santa Monica, which coupled with similar ads in other publications have drawn about 33 resumes since the application period officially opened on Sept. 9.

It's all to replace retiring City Manager Lamont Ewell who plans to leave his post at the end of December after more than 34 years of public service and nearly four years to the day he was hired by the City Council.

"Bottom line is it has to be somebody who has the technical skills, who has the ability to work with the wide ranging community that we have and who has their eye on the horizon," Mayor Pro Tem Pam O'Connor said.

The position is attractive to candidates because of the various interesting projects taking place in City Hall, whether it's bringing the Exposition Light Rail to Downtown, tackling the homeless issue or creating more affordable housing developments, said Lisa Mills, who was hired in 2006 to oversee the search process that led to the hiring of Ewell.

"They're very focused on social issues, which some cities are but most aren't at the level that Santa Monica is and that attracts a lot of candidates," she said.

Mills, whose now retired firm The Mills Group was hired in 2006 to find a replacement for outgoing City Manager Susan McCarthy, was brought on again earlier this month to coordinate the management search, this time through Alliance Resource Consulting at a cost of roughly $25,000, which includes her $18,000 fee.

"I have a feel for the type of person (the council) believes will be successful in Santa Monica so I have started targeting people

SEE **SEARCH** PAGE 8



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Moving on

212 Main St., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
This six-week proactive divorce workshop and support group combines the best of life coaching and therapy in a safe, confidential environment. The group meets every Tuesday. Feel safe letting go and moving forward with the rest of your life, and reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness that often accompany divorce. The cost is $300 for six weeks. Call (310) 439-8964 for more information.

Building the love house

Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave., G-1, 7 p.m.
Come learn about the Watts House Project, an artist-driven collaborative redevelopment project for the Watts Towers community in South Los Angeles. Artist Alexandra Grant, designer Mike Niemann and director Edgar Arceneaux will be on hand to discuss their work. Admission is free. Call (310) 586-6499, ext. 119 for more information.

Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009

Fair Fish Campaign kick-off meeting

First United Methodist Church
Corner of 11th Street and Washington, 7 p.m.
Find out how you can get involved in the Fair Fish campaign to support family fisherman. The campaign aims to support coastal communities, protect marine ecosystems and produce the bets possible seafood for consumers. The event is free. Contact Miller Nuttle at (607) 592-9500 for more details.

Book discussion

Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Author Deirdre Shaw will be discussing her debut novel, "Love or Something Like It" and offering advice about how to start in the book business. A sale and book signing will follow the program. Admission is free, call (310) 458-8600 for more information.

Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009

Pause

First United Methodist Church
Corner of 11th Street and Washington, 6 p.m.
Anyone is invited to this new worship experience on Thursday nights in the chapel. Experience quiet reflection, peace, meditation, prayer, and an overall retreat from the work week. Admission is free. Call (310) 393-8258 for more information.

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

In "Students string together beautiful music," (Friday, Sept. 25, 2009), it should be clarified that the Maestro Foundation's reason for withdrawing their funding was to allow the community to take ownership of the Elemental Strings program.

Some fun and games

For those readers who enjoyed the Community Profile on Elisa Terry (Sept. 28th, page 1) and would like to take the WRABBLE fitness challenge, here is Terry's Santa Monica puzzle to solve.
There are 13 letters in this two word walking fitness puzzle. Answer the questions below to reveal letters in the alphabet. Arrange the letters to unveil the words.
Find the answers by walking to the destinations described below. Be your own smart phone. Walk and talk to people to determine the answers instead of using your mobile browser! Get out and enjoy your local surroundings!

1. Not quite as tall as the mountains which inspired their name, these two giants can be found between lifeguard stations _____ and _____. The letter that corresponds to the number of the southern most station is a letter in the puzzle. Use this letter in space 13 below.

2. Established in the 1930s, this birthplace of the physical fitness boom of the 20th century is home to _____ rings. Divide this number by 2. The quotient of this equation is the __th letter of the alphabet. (Space 7)

3. Pedestrians are not allowed on a stretch of the bike path around the Santa Monica Pier from block _____ to block _____. Add each individual number of these block addresses together to get _____ or the _____th letter of the alphabet. (Space 2)

4. This true original, established in 1946, might be known as well for the uniforms worn by the employees as for its boardwalk style cuisine. Add each number of the address of this locale to get _____ or the _____th letter of the alphabet. (Space 10 or 11)

5. At this dizzying pier locale, you'll have _____ number of chances to gallop off into the sunset. Add the two numbers together and divide this number by 2 to get this ___th letter of the alphabet. (Space 3)

6. School children's artistic impressions of the pier line the wall of the dizzying locale. The 26th U.S. president is the namesake of the school from wince this art came. What childhood cuddly friend is named after this president? _____
_____. Use the second letter in the first word in Space 5.

7. A funny film is the name of this pier's bike rental shop. Although there were many stars in the film, who was the bigger guy with the small last name? _____ _____. Use the first letter of his last name. (Space 4)

8. In the '30s, mobsters like Tony Cornero docked floating casinos just a few miles off the end of the pier and drew thousands seeking their fortune in this time of depression. How many light posts help to light up the very end of the pier? Subtract 1 from this number and use this _____th letter of the alphabet. (Space 12)

9. Every year at this time, beach goers in the Santa Monica area are privileged to see our visiting "dolls with fins" playing off the coast. Some of these marine mammals also reside on the pier. How many can be found there? ___ Multiply this number by 7 to get this ___th letter of the alphabet. Don't forget to feed the metal marine mammal with some of your spare change and help the homeless! (Space 9)

10. In 1998, Pacific Park swapped its power draining Ferris wheel out for a solar powered one-the first of its kind. Add the number of letters in the name of this clean, green wheel to the number 7 to get this _____th letter of the alphabet. (Space 6)

11. Although not entirely accurate anymore, this pier sign is a historical landmark. There are four words on the sign with the same number of letters. _____ Use this _____th letter of the alphabet. (Space 1)

12. This memorial dedicated to America's five Armed Services has an "Ocean" view. At this memorial you can see the Marine's motto and the Coast Guard's motto. Add the letters of these two mottos together and divide by 2 to get this _____th letter of the alphabet. (Space 10 or 11)

13. The mystical beauty you see as you look towards the ocean at the end of Wilshire Blvd is named _____
_____. Use the first letter of her first name. (Space 8)

SEE **ANSWER** PAGE 14

WHAT ARE KIDS UP TO?

LUNCH





Photos by Catherine Cain

EMMA BECKER, SENIOR:
"I bring my lunch in my environmentally-friendly lunch bag. I normally have some sort of vegetarian sushi and a fruit item. I get different kinds of sushi but on the whole generally my lunch is on the same theme. I've never bought lunch on or off-campus."

JASON REICHER, SENIOR:
"I buy it every day. And it's always like ... tacos or burritos or greasy pizza. I don't have time to make a lunch. I wish they had healthy food here but they don't. The cool thing is they don't sell sodas here anymore, at the carts anyway, but I don't know about the vending machines."





FRANCESCA FERRARA, SOPHOMORE:
"My lunch is thrown together two seconds before I run out the door to school. Because it is put together so fast, it is rarely a balanced meal. But by lunchtime I am starving so to me it doesn't really matter."

GIGI LAKE, SENIOR:
"I make my lunch every day and I always make a sandwich out of homemade whole wheat sourdough bread that my dad bakes every weekend. It's a turkey sandwich with lettuce and mustard and then I package the tomatoes separately. In addition to a sandwich, I also usually pack some sort of fruit, usually an apple."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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More help for the sea

Editor:

I respect our city for what it's done
To build a civilized place in the sun,
Where people have rights, how municipally bold,
Though some disagree and our city they scold.

Now our ocean is cleaner with new storm drains,
And tough laws on plastics are making great gains.
Restrictions on smoking are cleaning it, too.
So here are the next things the city can do:
Ban helium balloons that get swallowed at sea
Or washed up on shore to be seen constantly.

Our shoreline is littered with plastic straws.
Let's address this problem with strict new laws.
Paper straws work fine, as they did in the past,
So why permit straws that will last ... and last?
It's crucial to all, we surely agree,
To protect our treasure, the incredible sea.

G.E. Matthews
Santa Monica

A little sarcasm

Editor:

It is inspiring to read all the articles in the media about the Obama administration's plans for longer school days. Education Secretary Arne Duncan is especially impressed by the hard-driving KIPP schools, which require three hours more per day than average, in addition to school every other Saturday, and school for three weeks during the summer.

Let's push ahead, expand the school day for all children, and consider an even longer day.

A study published in the Journal of Irreproducible Results in 1991 concluded that a 21-hour school day is optimal, with continuous classes and no breaks, except for two breaks for meals and one lavatory visit. Among the many advantages would be fewer discipline problems and quieter classrooms because of sleep deprivation, which "lessened the students' rebellious impulses."

The researchers also intend to do studies to determine whether food is really necessary for school children.

Stephen Krashen
Malibu

Foreign cyclist enjoys Santa Monica

Editor:

I am a Los Angeles resident and my father, Oscar Kirsch, was here visiting us for three months. He is 76 and a bike rider. He was amazed and very thankful for the restrooms at the Santa Monica Pier. He explained to me that those restrooms were the only ones that have enough space to park his bike inside. Personally, he loves Santa Monica, not only because of the landscape and the friendly and healthy environment, but for his bicycle, he felt completely welcomed and safe for that.

During his stay he rode back and forth six times between L.A. and Santa Monica.

I am glad to tell you the story in his name because my dad doesn't speak English, not even a word.

Sandra E. Kirsch
Los Angeles





Back to Nature

Reese Halter — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ancient trees' rings help set the record straight

TREES ARE LIVING MUSEUMS AND THEIR rings are able to shed light on climate change, colony collapses, archeology, tsunamis, fire histories and radio carbon dating.

Each year tree species in the temperate and boreal forests grow a combination of early-wood and late-wood forming one annual ring, which normally circles the tree just beneath its bark.

Tree growth, like all plant growth, depends upon both environmental and physical factors such as temperature, sunshine, wind, soil properties, how steep the slope is, snow and rainfall. During the growing season when snowmelt and rainfall are plentiful, growth rings are wide. Conversely, when drought occurs tree ring growth is significantly diminished.

Tree growth in stressful environments such as in rocky soil, along cliff faces or at the tops of mountains are very sensitive to environmental factors and display excellent variation in ring to ring growth — known as variation sensitivity. It's these tree ring patterns that scientists study.

Interestingly, Leonardo da Vinci examined tree rings when he studied growth patterns in the 1400s. But it wasn't until 1894 that University of Arizona astronomy professor Andrew Douglass began to unravel how tree rings could be used to date beams from Native American ruins in southwest United States and determine ages of the colossal Sierra Nevada Sequoias.

Douglass first discovered that narrow tree rings corresponded to dry years and that tree rings were an accurate indicator of sunspot activity; and that "Little Ice Age" of the late 1600s displayed very little solar activity.

Incidentally, from his workshop in Cremona, Italy, Antonio Stradivarius (1644-1737) created the most exquisite violins, violas, cellos, and guitars made from the dense, slow-grown wood during the coldest period from 1645-1715 — including his most famous violin "Messiah" of 1716, all producing unparalleled acoustics.

Douglass founded dendrochronology or the science of tree ring patterns. Scientists use a non-destructive method of sampling whereby they carefully extract pencil width cores from living trees. And by counting each annual ring, which contains a lighter band of early-wood and a darker band of late-wood, researchers are accurately able to determine the tree's age.

Tree core samples are compared to form a chronology or an arrangement of events in time. By matching overlapping patterns of tree ring growth dendrochronologists use a technique called cross-dating. It's this method that has enabled almost 10,000 continuous years of tree growth from living, standing dead and pieces of wood of Great Basin bristlecone pines on the White Mountains of eastern California to precisely be recorded.

Dendrochronology has some fascinating applications. For instance, tree rings from 700-year-old-bald cypress trees in the Carolinas revealed why the early settlers at Roanoke in 1587 A.D. perished. They arrived at the beginning of a prolonged drought. Bald cypress tree rings from two decades later also showed that the Jamestown colonists arrived during a seven-year drought lasting from 1606 to 1613 A.D.

Tree ring patterns from western red cedar growing along coastal Washington clearly showed that an earthquake occurred in January 1770. It measured between 9 and 9.3 on the Richter scale. When compared to Japanese tsunami records it was discerned to have taken place on January 26, 1770; and its exact time was pinpointed 10 hours before the unrelenting wave train pummeled the Japanese coastline.

In 1929, Dougalss determined the exact ages of prehistoric ruins of the southwest Peoples of the Four Corners by taking tree rings from pieces of wood in the dwellings and bits of charcoal, and cross-dating them.

Professor Thomas Swetnam of the University of Arizona has used dendrochronology to reconstruct reliable regional fire histories across western North America dating back to about 500 A.D.

All living things absorb carbon-14 — a radioactive form of carbon — from the atmosphere. It can be measured using a Geiger counter. When an organism dies, carbon-12 remains stable while the unstable carbon-14 isotope begins to decay at a known rate.

In the 1960s carbon-14 was measured in Great Basin bristlecone pines and it showed scientists that there was a change in radioactive carbon-14 production over hundreds of years due to the bombardment of cosmic radiation. The radioactive dates did not match the tree rings, and in fact the tree ring dates were older.

Bristlecone pine chronologies were used to re-calibrate the radio carbon dating process.

This in turn exposed that the European peoples discovered the principles of copper metallurgy and gold smelting 3,000 years before the Romans, Greeks or Celts. Brittany's great stone tombs are the oldest known buildings. The megalith graves of Europe are older than the pyramids.

Great Basin bristlecone pines were dubbed "the trees that rewrote history."

DR. REESE HALTER is a public speaker and the founder of the international conservation institute Global Forest Science. His latest book is "The Incomparable Honeybee and the Economics of Pollination." Contact him through www.DrReese.com.

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Stop the tie-dyed cows

I LIKE TO THINK OF MYSELF AS AN open-minded person. After all, I went to an elite, effete, east coast college where we were trained to look at things from all sides. I followed that up with law school, where the tools of discourse were refined and sharpened. I'm an openly gay, white male, living on the Westside with my dachshund. The only way I could be more open minded is if I was a vegetarian — but there's a limit to what I'll put up with.

Over the past 10 years of practicing law, I've had all types of clients, from the grungiest of men to the most well-heeled of Brentwood mothers. I appear in front of judges who are old white men and young black women, and my job is to plead their case in such a way that regardless of who is sitting on the bench, they get a fair hearing.

People tell me all kinds of personal details about their lives, from the inane "I like to eat my eggs cold," to the over the top sexual details that would make a psychotherapist who specializes in sexual problems blush. Through it all I maintain a calm demeanor.

But there are times when I lose my cool. I don't particularly like that aspect of myself, but we all have our limits. This past week I was brought right to the edge of wanting to scream.

The dachshund and I were walking down the Third Street Promenade on one of those great afternoons where it was warm, but not too much so. A slight breeze was circulating and there were many people window shopping.

And there, right in the middle of the block, where the topiary are and the teenagers congregate, was this person who was just hanging out, listening to her iPod. She was dressed in full tie-dyed regalia, and had that grungy "I don't care about anything" vibe going on. She was seated and in front of her, arranged in an arc, was the result of what could only be described as an hours worth of spitting.

There are few things that disgust me more that watching someone spit on the street.

This person was just planted there, like a tie-dyed cow, lounging in the sun, chewing her cud and spitting it out. I was incensed. Enraged, and disgusted, I walked up to the nearest Bayside District ambassador and asked him to call the police.

He said he'd be happy to, but they don't respond quickly to these type of complaints and frankly it would be more effective if I were to call them myself. This only made me madder.

We got into a discussion about his role as an ambassador, and the limits of what he can do. He calmly explained to me that his job was to help tourists find their way around town — to be a hospitality helper. I pointed out to him that if we are allowing people to create an environment that is not only aesthetically unattractive, but is also a health concern, that we are not being very hospitable.

Finally I couldn't take it any longer and had to just walk away.

But this brings me to my point. City Hall regulates a tremendous amount of our lives. The dog has to be on a leash for safety. He has to have various shots for health concerns. He has to have a valid license to prove that he's had his shots. I have to carry a poo bag should he have the need to relieve himself, and if I don't clean up after him, I get a nasty ticket.

My family law practice has to have a business license, and has an assessment from the Pico Neighborhood Business Improvement District. The office I work in must be inspected each year by firemen. (OK so I actually like that part for the eye candy and flirting with the firemen. We do have some unbelievably attractive firemen!) But my point is that City Hall regulates and coordinates many different aspects of our lives.

Why can't these ambassadors work more closely with the police department to clean up the promenade? Downtownsm.com is the official website for the Bayside District and their description of the purpose for the ambassadors is: "Downtown Santa Monica's Ambassador Program was created to provide an inviting and safe atmosphere in the district. Ambassadors are trained in a variety of tasks, including: providing information to visitors, giving directions, offering escort services to employees, reporting maintenance issues and any other action that serves to make the district more inviting."

I think that stopping a tie-dyed cow from creating a health hazard would fall under the "maintenance issues" or at least, "any other action that serves to make the district more inviting." And that was my point.

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

Clipping declawing practice

The City Council recently directed staff to draft an ordinance that would ban the veterinary practice of declawing cats.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think declawing should be made illegal and why?

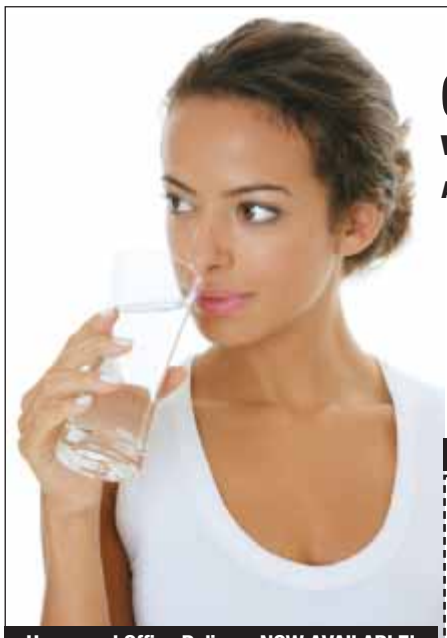
Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.


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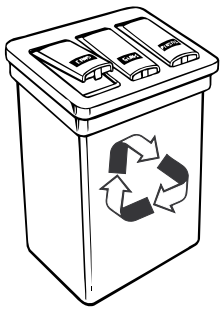


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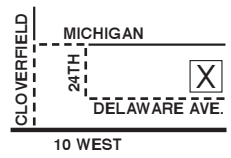


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Mommie Brain
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Coping with separation anxiety

SO I AM SITTING OUTSIDE MY SON'S NEW preschool waiting for him. I have been waiting for my son for years, sitting in waiting rooms as he finishes therapy. But this is different. This is school.

When I left him this morning, he clung to my leg asking, or rather pleading, "Mommie stay?"

THAT IS THE GOAL OF PARENTING, TO HAVE HIM BE SELF SUFFICIENT, TO NOT NEED ME. BUT WHAT IF I STILL NEED HIM?

I said goodbye and then spied through the window. I could see his little body shaking as he cried sitting for morning meeting, his lips quivering.

He was soon fine. I, however, was crushed.

I did not expect this. He has been going to a program for a year and a half where I had been dropping him off with relatively few problems. Sometimes he cried, but most of the time it seemed he would almost give me a see-ya-mom- don't-let-door-hit-ya-on-the-way-out kind of glance.

And I was happy for the ease of it, happy that he liked where I was bringing him, happy that I could enjoy my down time without worrying about him.

Well the not worrying about him part is over.

I am a mess. I know it would be concerning if he were very comfortable at his new school after only six days. I remind myself that it is developmentally appropriate for him to have this kind of separation anxiety, that is what the books and experts say. But what they don't say is how awful it is when you willingly leave your child in someone else's care as he is screaming for you and peeling him off your leg as you walk out the door, his body heaving.

As I get him dressed in the morning, he fights putting on his shoes, an epic battle brewing, saying, "No school!"

I am torn about sending my baby off to something he does not like and knowing it will be good for him. There will be plenty of things in life he will have to do that he will not like, math tests, piano practice, homework, but at 3?

To be honest, though, how do I know if he likes it or not?

When at camp or college and you call your folks, home sick, desperate, your parents do not then see when you gather yourself up and head down the hall and plop on someone's couch and make a friend. They only hear the longing.

I hear that he is soon fine after I leave him and I am relieved.

But then I think he is not legally mandated to attend school until he is 6. I could take him out and travel to the Grand Canyon on a massive road trip teaching him about geography and history and then heading to South America and eventually Australia and then around the world so some day he could tell the story of his interesting but off-beat childhood.

Clearly it is me, not him, who is the most anxious. I was in charge before. Now, he goes to school every day for another 15 years at least. And it seems besides where he attends, I have no say in the matter. I have no say if he has friends, if he is comfortable, if the teacher is good, if the girl he wants to go to prom with says yes, if he is picked on, or even worse, if he is the one who is mean.

I know I have control in how I parent him, what I teach him, show him. But he is heading out into this school world without me by his side. And I know I am getting way ahead of myself, but he will eventually step out into the whole world away from me and I feel the tear. I grew him in my body. We are intertwined and now he is, with little steps that seem bigger to me each and every day, creating his own person, his own identity. That is the goal of parenting, to have him be self sufficient, to not need me. But what if I still need him?

The ironic thing is I couldn't wait to have all of this "free" time. I was going to work out, write, see friends and finally keep a tidy house. Instead, I am a worried mess sitting outside his school in my car planning our mule ride down the Grand Canyon.

I watch him through the window, and though the morning started with tears, I see him sitting and playing, just like all of the other kids. I see him talking during morning meeting, pointing to kids' pictures on the wall, knowing their names. I glimpsed that they would become his friends. He was invited to a classmate's birthday party.

When I pick him up he comes racing through the doors into my arms, big smile on his face, almost knocking me to the ground and I know that in those three hours that we were apart that he was fine and not fine and everything in between, and every day he will be more fine than not fine, just like his mommy.

RACHEL ZIENTS SCHINDERMAN lives in Santa Monica with her family. She can be reached at Rachel@mommiebrain.com.

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Tips for getting a little stove time with the little ones

CARYN ROUSSEAU
Associated Press Writer

EVANSTON, Ill. The Spatulatta Sisters, better known as Isabella and Olivia Gerasole, learned to make delicate pizzelle cookies from their grandmother, Hawaiian salads from their mother and acquired a love of all foods Italian from their dad.

They also learned how to turn all that quality kitchen time into a budding culinary career, with a cookbook and a James Beard Award-winning Web site to their credit. All by the age of 13 and 11.

"Your parents are the ones who teach you to have domestic abilities," said the eldest, Isabella, as the siblings sat in their suburban Chicago kitchen after making basil pesto and caprese salad. "It's a fun way to spend time with family, family history and family culture."

In an era when many parents struggle just to get dinner on the table, never mind involve the kids in the prep, the Gerasole sisters are an enviable example of the difference a little stove time with the little ones can make.

Research repeatedly has shown children eat healthier foods, are more confident and learn valuable life and academic skills when they cook with their families. So for on-the-go parents looking to get cooking with their kids, the experts offer some easy advice.

Start by embracing the fact that they are children. Mistakes will happen, says Food Network host Guy Fieri.

"You can't do everything for a kid in cooking and expect them to get the whole experience," he said. "Yes, there's the potential they're going to drop the cookie sheet, but we've got to let them be involved."

Fieri, who makes pizza and popcorn with his two young sons, urges parents to be cautious with kids in the kitchen but also give them enough freedom to make the experience meaningful. This includes involving them in decisions of what to make.

Barbara Beery, a kids cooking expert and president of the Batter Up Kids cooking school in Austin, Texas, said parents need to make sure their children are given age-appropriate tasks that won't be too hard.

"If it's too difficult it's going to defeat the purpose," Beery said.

She said 2-year-olds can scrub food clean, 3-year-olds can put toppings on a pizza or decorate cookies, 4-year-olds can crack eggs over a bowl or spread peanut butter with small spatulas and 5-year-olds can measure ingredients, stir with spoons or knead dough.

Choosing recipes wisely is key, Beery said. She suggests recipes that are simple to put together, have fewer ingredients, quick preparation and fast finish time. Parents also should have something to occupy children, a coloring book or games, while they're waiting for the dish to cook.

Tanya Wenman Steel, editor-in-chief of recipe site Epicurious.com and co-author of "Real Food for Healthy Kids," said parents should manage their kitchen time for efficiency and organization. Plan a night for cooking with the children so you aren't trying to jam it in on busier days. She suggests making two or three dishes together on Sunday that can be leftover lunch and dinner the rest of the week.

"A roast chicken on Sunday can be lunch Monday," she said. "A casserole type of food or a stew always tastes better the next day. You can keep up every day by doing something for the next day."

More tips from Steel: Children can toss a big bag of lettuce from the grocer with olive oil and vinegar for a ready-made side dish. And they can microwave a baked potato or sweet potato and pair it with light sour cream. Younger children can make a simple dessert of fruit and ice cream.

Bridget Swinney, a registered dietitian, family eating expert and author of "Baby Bites," a book about feeding babies and toddlers, said children love making dishes that include toppings, like pizza, tacos or pancakes. Parents can set out ingredients and let children decide what to add, she said.

"That's when it's really fun for kids to experiment and let their imagination go," Swinney said.

Beery suggests parents put ingredients in muffin tins or other small containers that fit kid-sized hands. She also said while parents don't have to buy kids cooking sets, kid-friendly smaller utensils do make cooking easier for children. And they enjoy having their own tools.

"They have to have appropriately sized tools to be able to manipulate them," Beery said. "If they don't, they're not going to be able to do it."

And don't forget, children can help clean up, too. Beery suggests giving children their own colored sponges and having them wipe up as they go along. She also said setting out a scrap bowl for items like vegetable peels and extra pieces of dough can cut down on messes.

As for advice for the kids? Try to ignore how unhip your parents are.

"Parents can be a little bit embarrassing at times," said Isabella Gerasole. "Maybe you don't want to spend so much time with them sometimes. But really, they love you and they care about you. So it's important. Spend some time with them by cooking with them in the kitchen."

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Santa Monica has nation's fifth most expensive real estate market

FROM REAL ESTATE PAGE 1



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

EXPENSIVE DIGS: **The average price for a 2,200-square-foot home in Santa Monica with four bedrooms is $1.46 million.**

when prices decreased drastically north of Montana, Peace said.

While about an average of 10 houses closed every month during the height of the market, only about three sales took place during the first 120 days of 2009, Peace said.

> **"THE LACK OF INVENTORY IS A TRUE IDENTIFIER OF WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE MARKETPLACE."**
>
> **Charles Peace**
> Coldwell Banker broker

There are signs of recovery — whereas there were about 55 listings in the 90402 at the beginning of the year, the figure has slimmed down to 25 today.

"The lack of inventory is a true identifier of what is going on in the marketplace," Peace said.

Jim Brunet, a local RE/MAX agent said the Santa Monica housing market started picking up in June, particularly for homes in the lower-end of the spectrum.

The asking price for a two-bedroom, single-family home went from a median of $1.75 million in March of this year to $986,000 today while a two-bedroom condo has stayed even at about $799,000, he said.

"When the market first fell in the fall and into the winter and spring, it was because there was uncertainty and no one knew where the bottom was," Brunet said. "Now the economy is not necessarily good but people feel we're at or near the bottom or stabilizing."

melodyh@smdp.com

Successor to be hired by Dec. 8

FROM SEARCH PAGE 1

that I know in the industry and I think meet the similar values that the council has," Mills said. "I have had some people say yes and one of their resumes is in."

She expects there to be at least 60 applications by the time the filing period closes on Oct. 16. The council will screen the applications at the end of October, conduct interviews in the first two weeks of November and make a decision no later than the Dec. 8 meeting. The new city manager is expected to earn between $245,000 to $285,000 a year plus a "generous benefits package," according to the post on the International City/County Management Association's site.

When it comes to the new city manager, it's clear that officials would like to see someone who reflects the familiar.

"Hopefully someone who is very much like Lamont and by that I mean is really focused on delivering great customer service to our residents as well as the people who visit and work here and who believes that having the best people in city government makes for the best city," Councilwoman Gleam Davis said.

Davis said that three things Ewell accomplished during his tenure is hiring the very best people to manage the various city departments, initiating a real focus on customer service and bringing professionalism to the job.

Council members said they would like to see a candidate who has exhibited strong leadership skills when it comes to managing an organization, overseeing the staff and advising the council.

> **"THEY'RE VERY FOCUSED ON SOCIAL ISSUES, WHICH SOME CITIES ARE BUT MOST AREN'T AT THE LEVEL THAT SANTA MONICA IS AND THAT ATTRACTS A LOT OF CANDIDATES."**
>
> **Lisa Mills**
> Alliance Resource Consulting

While there are a number of major issues brewing with regards to land use, affordable housing and homelessness, Mayor Ken Genser said the best candidate doesn't necessarily need to have demonstrated skills in those areas but rather is effective in managing the staff that works directly on those issues.

"It's desirable but not critical," Genser said.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC

Seeking community input

Santa Monica College will hold community meetings to present its Career and Educational Facilities Master Plan 2009 Update and solicit public comments with regard to the proposed project.

The college will hold community meetings Wednesday, Sept. 30 and Wednesday, Oct. 7. It will also hold a community and scoping meeting Wednesday, Oct. 14 to solicit public comments with regard to potential environmental impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed project.

All meetings will be held at 7 p.m. The Sept. 30 meeting will be held in the Bundy Campus Community Room (123) at 3171 S. Bundy Dr., Los Angeles. The Oct. 7 meeting will be held at SMC's Academy of Entertainment & Technology, Room 235, 1660 Stewart St., Santa Monica. The Oct. 14 Community & Scoping Meeting will be held on the main campus, Room 111 of the Business Building, 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica.

Parking will be free; however parking on the main campus for the Oct. 14 meeting requires a visitor permit, available at the parking kiosk next to the Business Building at 17th Street and Pico.

College officials say this is the first Master Plan update done since 1998, which identified a number of projects that have since been completed or are in progress, and which was amended in 2007 to address facilities on the Bundy campus.

The proposed update incorporates current college facility planning, including projects approved by the voters of Santa Monica and Malibu in the Measure U, Measure S, and Measure AA elections.

The update:

- Identifies options for SMC campus sites with regard to land use, transportation, and sustainability;
- Reduces the planned density and increases the planned open space for the main campus and provides for a replacement physical education building, a replacement math and new science wing building, seismic repair, and improvements for the Pico Boulevard frontage;
- Provides for expansion at the Academy of Entertainment & Technology campus to accommodate programs in digital arts, media, communication, journalism, and broadcasting; incorporates parking, and provides for the relocation of the college's radio station, KCRW;
- Provides for long-range development planning at the Olympic shuttle parking site; and
- Provides for program expansion at the Performing Arts campus in music, art, and public programs, and addresses related parking and seismic repair issues.

College officials say there are multiple benefits to the 2009 Master Plan Update:

- It will assist the college in preparing students for the jobs of the 21st century and competing in a global economy, including enhancing the teaching facilities of math, science, and technology.
- It will integrate learning, support, and administrative facilities, campus services, community services, and public opportunities to create vibrant and walkable campuses.
- It will enhance student and faculty interaction, optimize functional relationships of SMC facilities, and create a balance of the natural environment and built facilities.
- It will provide students with an efficient transit system to reduce traffic congestion and fuel consumption.
- It will allow for the design of energy and water-efficient buildings, provide for the best possible educational environment, and promote the incorporation of sustainable practices.
- It will identify program improvements for specific projects.
- It will provide the college with a framework to promote design excellence in future projects.

College officials say they have determined that an environmental impact report (EIR) will be prepared for the proposed project. The Notice of Preparation is currently being circulated for a 30-day review period to solicit comments from identified responsible and trustee agencies, as well as interested parties on the scope of the draft EIR.

Copies of the draft master plan and environmental impact report initial study checklist are available at www.smc.edu/facilities_masterplan.

For more information, call (310) 434- 3429.

DAILY PRESS

EASTSIDE

Picking produce

Be Fruitful California, a charitable community-based organization, has officially launched its effort to deliver fresh, wholesome produce to the Westside Food Bank from local fruit and vegetable gardens.

Volunteers for Be Fruitful pick produce on residential properties that may have otherwise gone to waste and then deliver the nutritious surplus for distribution.

Based in Santa Monica and serving the Westside of Los Angeles, Be Fruitful started in 2009 as a response to the economic downturn and resulting increase in demand for food assistance. Founder Chelsea Watson has long wanted to bridge the gap between the hungry in the community and the healthy, abundant resources in residents' backyards.

Be Fruitful's charitable model is one that requires little effort on the part of the produce provider (whose motive may be as straightforward as getting rid of unwanted oranges on a single tree), while still contributing a generous, healthy, and delicious addition to the types of food commonly distributed at food banks.

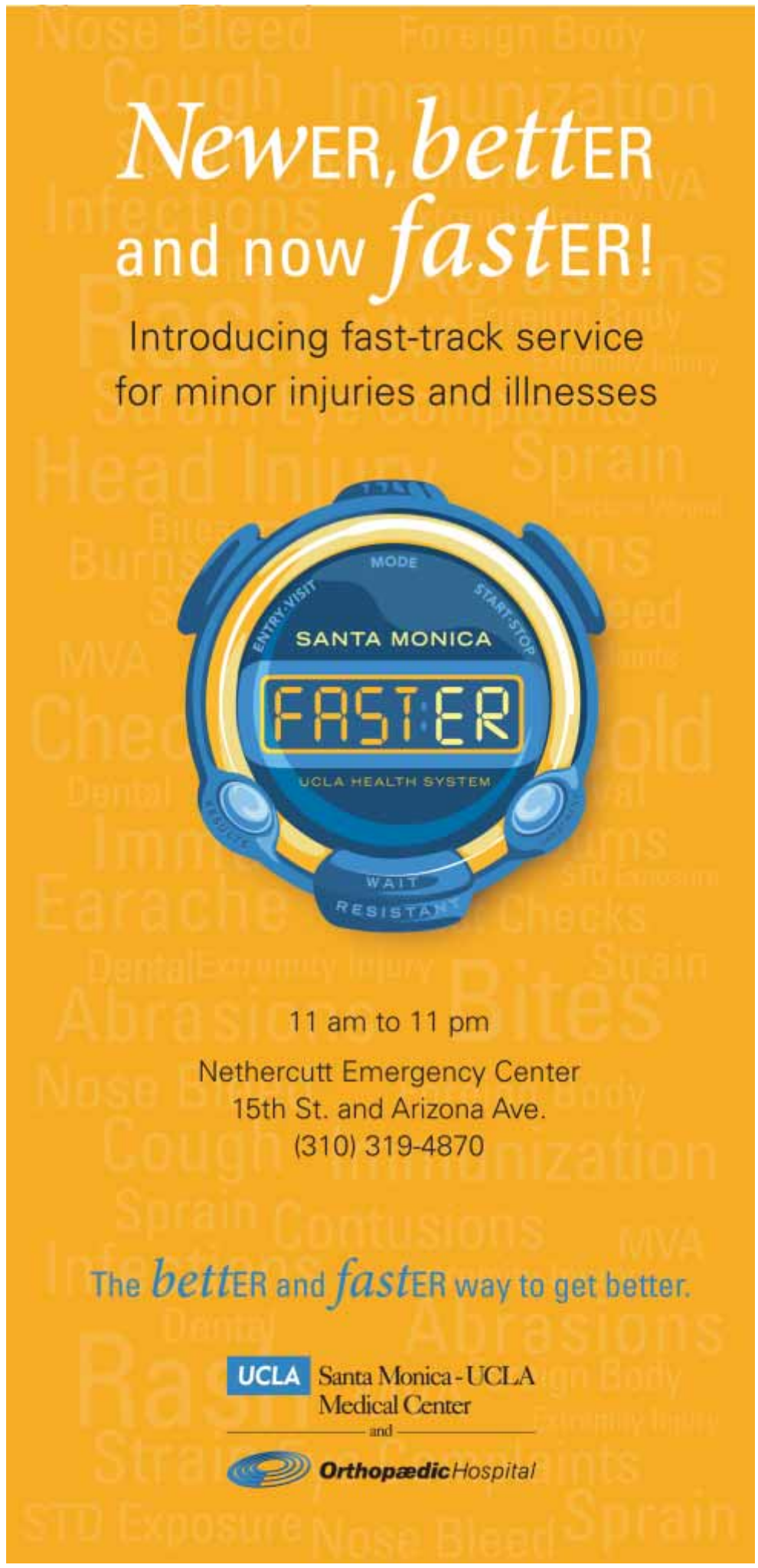
According to a recent report by the Los Angeles Food Bank, local food pantries are experiencing a 31 percent increase in demand compared to this time last year; supply cannot meet the need, Watson said.

"At the same time, our neighborhoods are fervently embracing the organic, sustainable farmer's market concept of fresh, local produce trade as a vehicle to not only build community, but also protect the environment," she added. "The end product of Be Fruitful California is a simple, green means to the age-old adage, 'waste not, want not.'"

Be Fruitful volunteers are available when trees are ripe for the picking. To donate produce, contact Watson befruitfulca@gmail.com or by calling (310) 633-0751.

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Casting calls for a new face

IT'S BEYOND ME WHY GM IS USING Ed Whiteacre, their new board of directors chief, in new TV ads. He famously said, at his first press conference, that he doesn't know much about cars, but one of the new Cadillac commercials is right-on.

It's for their SRX crossover, and it is dark and moody, uses a popular tune from the "alternative" category, but what got me was the final line: "SRX — The Cadillac of crossovers."

When I grew up, in the '60s, if some product was considered the best in its field, it was called the "Cadillac" of those products. And that saying had been around for many years before I ever heard it. In fact for decades Cadillac's tagline in their advertising was, "The standard of the world." And in that time and place, Caddy was.

Today, the name "Lexus" is often invoked to denote a great product; best-in-class.

Maybe the line hit my nostalgia button just right, but I liked the fact that GM, having suffered from a terrible inferiority complex for the past 20 years (often based, in truth, on some pretty bad product) seems, at least for this commercial, to have gotten some guts back and is not afraid to say Cadillac is something special.

On using the board chairman to do the "And let the best car win" spot: Whiteacre needs a fast charisma transplant if people are going to respond. This is not Lee Iacocca. He looks interchangeable with every bland top car exec Detroit has produced in the last 100 years. This guy used to run AT&T. How does that make him right for GM?

And where's Bob Lutz?

Lutz, the popular and probably best-known GM exec, who is overseeing the corporation's advertising (as just one of his jobs), did Whiteacre (and GM) no favors by not fighting the decision for Whiteacre to do the ads. Maybe Whiteacre insisted on it, maybe Lutz was kissing his new boss' butt and telling him how great he'd be on TV; maybe he's hoping Whiteacre's spot will fail and step into the TV ad himself.

If GM indeed has guts again, someone there should remember that "Guts" is the name of Lutz' book and without doubt he'd be best to represent the corporation to the TV audience. Lutz is today's Iacocca; he's a natural on-camera and compelling to watch.

A lot of people I talk with, and I mean people who do not live and breathe cars, don't know Whiteacre's name or his history, but they do know he made that "I don't know much about cars" statement. Apparently, Letterman and Leno and the rest, who still mention this line on occasion, do have a lot of people watching. And it hasn't done GM any good.

GM offers a good five-year/100,000-mile powertrain warranty, but instead of the money-back guarantee, why not increase the warranty to 10 years, as Hyundai offers? One reason is that the warranty will cost GM more money in the long run than the money-back guarantee, but matching many of the import warranties would say a lot about what GM thinks of their new product. Whether GM thinks they have the money (or can get permission from the White House to plan for those big expenditures) is another thing.

Is GM whistling through the graveyard or do the Whiteacre and other new TV spots, plus the 60-day guarantee and selling cars (only here in California) on eBay make sense and have GM headed in the right direction? Would a 10-year warranty make you more comfortable shopping GM products?

Most important, would all of this get you into a GM store?

STEVE PARKER is a two-time Emmy Award-winner who has covered the world's auto industry and motor racing for over 35 years. He created, writes and moderates the only all-automotive blog on The Huffington Post at www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-parker. Parker hosts live one-hour automotive and motor racing call-in radio shows each Saturday and Sunday at 5 p.m. on www.TalkRadioOne.com. Contact Steve through his own automotive issues Web site at www.SteveParker.com.

Feds weigh cell phone ban

JOAN LOWY
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON Safety investigators told federal regulators three years ago that it was dangerous for bus drivers to talk on cell phones while driving, and recommended a ban.

The National Transportation Safety Board put that recommendation on its list of most important safety measures. Industry and safety groups had no objections.

Yet the regulatory agency that would write new rules on cell phone use by commercial drivers, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, has done little more than study the issue.

Now, after several high-profile accidents that focused public attention on using cell phones on the road, the Obama administration has decided to act on the issue, which was left hanging by the Bush administration.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood will convene a two-day summit this week on distracted driving and plans to announce actions to address cell phone use by bus and truck drivers, said spokeswoman Jill Zuckman.



STATE BRIEFS

SACRAMENTO

Panel to recommend new business tax

A commission charged with updating California's tax system is making bold recommendations to the governor and Legislature.

A draft copy of the report obtained by The Associated Press says the Commission on the 21st Century Economy will recommend repealing California's sales and corporate taxes, flattening the income tax rate and adopting a new business tax.

The commission spent a year looking for ways to stabilize California's volatile tax system. The panel will recommend the state change its personal income tax structure to reduce the burden on the wealthy.

It's unclear how many of the 14 members on the commission will endorse the recommendations. The commission is expected to give its report to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WATSONVILLE

Monterey landfill ordered to fix methane problem

State regulators have put a Monterey County landfill on its list of chronic violators after they found it's been exceeding methane gas emission standards.

The California Integrated Waste Management Board says methane emissions from Buena Vista Landfill have exceeded standards for months, forcing the agency to downgrade its status to noncompliance.

Monterey County officials say the problem was traced to an older section of the landfill where extraction wells in the ground weren't properly drawing up the methane, which is produced by trash as it decomposes.

They say high levels of methane haven't been detected above ground and aren't a danger to employees or neighbors.

The county is planning to pay $30,000 to install two new extraction wells over the next three months.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Judge refuses to block Los Angeles billboard ban

A federal judge has refused in a tentative ruling to halt enforcement of Los Angeles' ban on digital billboards and giant billboards known as supergraphics.

Deputy City Attorney Michael Bostrom says the judge ruled Monday that Liberty Media failed to convincingly argue that the city granted illegal exceptions for some signs and committed other violations.

U.S. District Judge Audrey B. Collins denied Liberty's request for an injunction that would have forced city officials to let 16 new signs go up.

Liberty's attorney Andrew Kugler did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Bostrom says his office is pleased with the judge's tentative ruling and will continue defending the city's billboard ban.

AP

SAN DIEGO

Sequenom fires CEO and others after investigation

Sequenom Inc. says it fired its CEO and its research chief following an investigation into the mishandling of test results for its Down syndrome blood test.

A total of four executives and three other employees were terminated or resigned, the company says. They included president and CEO Harry Stylli and Senior Vice President for Research and Development Elizabeth Dragon, while Chief Financial Officer Paul Hawran resigned Friday.

Sequenom's SEQureDx test, which screened maternal blood to discover Down syndrome in fetuses, was on track to reach the market in June until the company disclosed in late April that study data had been "mishandled" by employees. That made the data unreliable and lead to delays, hammering the San Diego company's stock price.

AP

RIVERSIDE

SoCal man gets 9 years for punching teen to death

A judge has sentenced a Riverside man to nine years in prison for killing a 19-year-old man by punching him in the head after a fender-bender accident.

Jude Wiscowiche received the maximum sentence Monday for involuntary manslaughter, a crime the judge called senseless.

A jury in March convicted the 22-year-old Wiscowiche of causing the 2007 death of Eric Means at a fast-food restaurant after the defendant rear-ended Means' car in the drive-through.

When Means took a photo of Wiscowiche's license plate with his camera phone, Wiscowiche punched Means twice in the head, knocking him to the ground unconscious. He hemorrhaged to death two days later at a hospital.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Brief power failure hits downtown

City utility authorities are investigating the cause of a brief power outage in parts of downtown Los Angeles.

Department of Water and Power spokeswoman Gale Harris says the outage hit at 11:57 a.m. Monday and lasted six minutes.

Harris says among landmarks affected were the 72-story US Bank tower and Staples Center. The Police Department also reported a loss of power at its Parker Center headquarters.

Fire Department spokesman Devin Gales says there were numerous reports of stuck elevators in the area.

AP

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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 69°

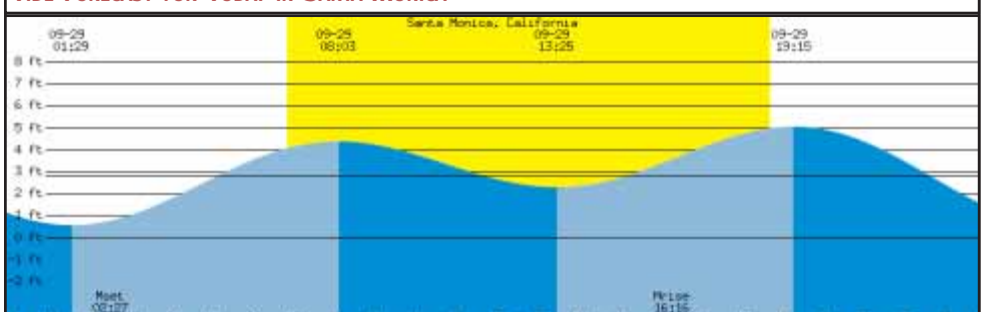
Swell Forecast

Should still see some remnants from Choi-Wan, but swell overall is expected to decline. Most all breaks are looking at waist to maybe chest high surf.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see some SSE swell come in from that Easter Island system.

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 22, 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 -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 1
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 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 at 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
Los Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	B	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence	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	D	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms)	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty)	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

Fla. magnate's empire collapsed before shooting

TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press Writer

WINDERMERE, Fla. The Orange County Jail is a far cry from J. Robert Ward's seven-bedroom, nine-bathroom home in the exclusive gated community that is home to Tiger Woods and Shaquille O'Neill.

But the prominent developer charged with second-degree murder in his wife's shooting death appeared perfectly at ease over the weekend in a videotaped jail visit with family members.

In a video released by the jail, the 61-year-old modeled his blue jail jumpsuit, danced and started to unbutton his shirt. He chatted about who would make a good character witness, whether he could buy anti-dandruff shampoo at the jail commissary and even where the family should celebrate Thanksgiving.

His daughter and sister-in-law giggled, belying the seriousness of the accusation against him. Police say he killed his wife in the master suite of their home on Sept. 21, then called 911 to say he had shot her. His attorney, Kirk Kirkconnell, has since raised questions about whether it was a homicide or a suicide. Kirkconnell did not return calls for comment Monday.

Diane Ward's death is a disturbing turn in the life of her husband, a self-made millionaire who in recent years had suffered crushing financial troubles. J. Robert Ward hadn't paid the $16,841 monthly mortgage on the estate in over a year, and had filed for bankruptcy after his business — developing vacation and resort home communities in five states — failed.

He may have had other demons as well. Dianne McClintock Callahan of Marietta, Ga., dated Ward some 25 years ago but kept in touch over the years. She said he was well-liked, kind and generous — until he drank.

"He was mean," she said, describing their final night together, during which Ward allegedly pointed a gun at her and beat her with a bedpost he had ripped off her bed. Callahan recalls talking to police from a hospital, but doesn't remember whether charges were filed.

"He was like the perfect man, other than that temper," she said.

Ward was born in Daytona Beach, the son of a gas station owner. According to his profile on the LinkedIn Web site, he majored in business at both Florida State University and Georgia State University. While heading a mortgage company in Atlanta, he met Callahan, who worked in the office. They dated for five years.

"He's always been successful," she said. "He could turn a dime into a million dollars."

Callahan said Ward enjoyed traveling, shopping and nice cars — when they dated, he owned two BMWs at the same time. But his temper drove her away.

A few years later, he married Diane Cardinale and they had two daughters. Ward continued to amass a real estate empire, becoming a member of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce board and at least one civic group.

In mid-2005, court documents show, his Land Resources Group was developing 16 communities with 5,282 homesites. Ward had 250 employees and built high-end developments on properties that stretched from Cumberland Harbor in Georgia to the mountains of West Virginia.

But by 2006, people weren't buying as many vacation homes. In 2007, Ward and his wife relocated to central Florida, saying that they wanted to be closer to the lucrative timeshare industry popular in Orlando.

The Wards bought their 8,708-square-foot home in the Isleworth development — the same home where Arnold Palmer once lived — for $4.3 million that same year.

They also bought cars — BMWs, Mercedes, Cadillacs and at least one Lexus, court records show.

A year later, Ward and Land Resources Group filed for bankruptcy. The company was down to 14 employees, $115 million in assets and $214 million in liabilities. The lavish home with a pool and formal gardens was put on the market with a $5.2 million price tag.

An insurance company that issued bonds for Land Resource Group projects sued, saying Ward and his wife used the money to fund their lavish lifestyle, according to court filings.

In July, Callahan heard from Ward for the first time in decades. He asked her to lunch in Georgia, where she learned a few things about her old flame. He was proud of his two college-age daughters, one a national equestrian champion. He was also in financial trouble, but seemed confident he could work it out.

Ward mentioned that his wife liked to spend money and complained that she once couldn't pick him up from the airport because she was getting her nails done. Callahan wonders if he snapped under the pressure of losing his business and his wife's attachment to the good life.

"I feel sorry for him," she said. "He had so much, and he just blew it."

According to sheriff's reports, Ward dialed 911 around 8 p.m. on Sept. 21.

"I just shot my wife. She's dead," he said, according to an affidavit. When deputies arrived, they found shattered glass and liquid on the floor of the back patio. Ward had a red stain on his polo shirt, and when deputies asked if it was blood or wine, he said he wanted to speak with his lawyer.

After that, a detective inside the house overheard Ward on the phone, telling whoever was on the other end that Diane had killed herself.

He is being held without bond at the Orange County Jail, where his daughter, Mallory, and sister-in-law told him he has their support during the videotaped visit.

"We're completely here for you," Mallory Ward said.

Her father assured her he would be released from jail soon.

"What do you think the plan's going to be for Thanksgiving?" he said. "No one's thinking that far, I guess. Atlanta, or what? If we could have it in Atlanta, that's where I'd like to have it. That would be nice."

Said Mallory Ward: "I know that mom would enjoy us all to be at our house and hopefully we can have the holidays there."

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MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
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Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Beyond a Reasonable Doubt (PG-13) 1hr 45min
2:30, 5:00, 7:25, 9:55

I Hope They Serve Beer in Hell 9R) 1hr 45min
2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50

Ponyo (G) 1hr 40min
2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:25

Julie & Julia (PG-13) 2hr 3min
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

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

9 (PG-13) 1hr 19min
1:10, 3:10, 5:20, 7:40, 9:40

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (PG) 1hr 21min
2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:45

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

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

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

September Issue (PG-13) 1hr 30min
2:10, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30

Surrogates (PG-13) 1hr 29min
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10

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

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

Crude (NR) 1hr 44min
1:50, 7:20

Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers (NR) 1hr 32min
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:15

Amreeka (PG-13) 1hr 32min
1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40

Extract (R) 1hr 30min
4:30, 9:55

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

District 9 (R) 1hr 53min
1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40

The Informant! (R) 1hr 48min
11:30am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:20

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

Fame (PG) 1hr 47min
11:40am, 1:10, 2:10, 3:50, 4:50, 6:30, 7:30, 9:10, 10:10

Pandorum (R) 1hr 48min
11:50am, 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30

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

Listen to your boss, Cap

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Let go of a situation; you don't have the control you might desire. You'll understand what has happened through a conversation that finally opens up. This person is now more willing to talk and share than he or she has been in a while. Tonight: With a friend.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Take a necessary stand, and be willing to brainstorm. In your openness, others will be open as well. You finally see someone open up who has been holding back. Talks gain in interest and meaning. Tonight: It could be a late one.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ When you hear the convoluted thought process behind a project or idea, you might want to detach in order to gain a better perspective. Listen to your instincts, as you are right-on. There might be much more to be revealed. Tonight: Be imaginative when making plans.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Be forthright and direct where you haven't been before. In the near future, someone will reveal much more than he or she has in the recent past. A partner might exhaust you with everything he or she says. Just listen. Tonight: Go with another person's suggestion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You might want to share more of what is going on with a financial matter. A partner might not be as disturbed as you might believe. This person will open up many more doors than you saw previously. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your attitude about work makes an impression. At this point, if someone asks for an explanation, why not give it? You could find conversations most informative and significant. You have the energy to do whatever is needed at work or personally. Tonight: Easy works.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Allow a more childlike side to emerge. You draw someone in closer than you have in a while. It is time to clear the air and make a situation work. Romance could be very exciting if you are in the correct space in life. Tonight: Fun and games.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Anchor in and understand what is happening. A friend or associate goes from nonverbal to what seems to be overly chatty. Stay centered, knowing what you want from a personal or domestic situation. Tonight: Order in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Keep communication active. Others seek you out en masse, and you might have a difficult time absorbing information and news. Don't assume you are getting all the facts. You are hearing the facts as others see them. Tonight: Meet a friend for dinner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Basics count with finances, and no sign knows this better than you. Open up to new possibilities that a boss suggests. A well-educated risk just might be worth it. Do your needed research, and you'll come out nice and easy. Tonight: Your treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You continue to draw others to you. Someone shares as he or she hasn't in a long time. Talks illuminate your vision and understanding. Update your opinions and transcend your previous stances. Tonight: Whatever puts a smile on your face.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ How you deal with someone could change dramatically as information comes forward. It's not your fault if someone doesn't talk. You cannot change the assumptions that are made. Have you been holding back too? Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

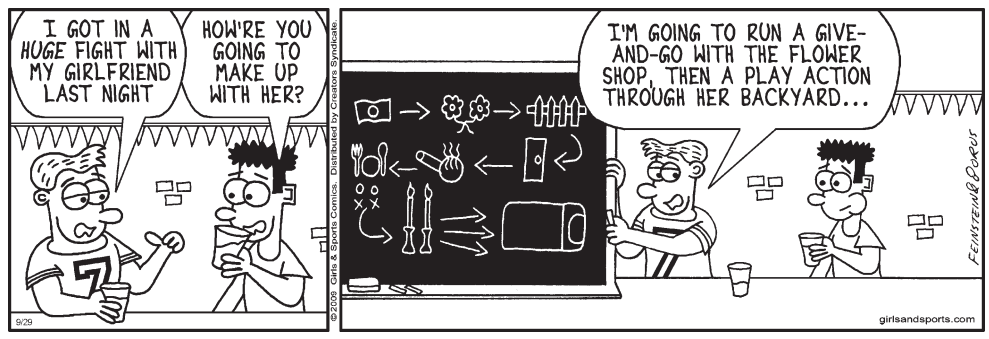
Happy birthday

This year, your imagination teamed with authenticity can create many dynamic opportunities. You'll always come up with a solution. Your ideas seem to come from an endless source of creativity. If you're an artist, musician or writer, you'll discover a newfound depth. It is as if you have a muse in your pocket. If you are single, most certainly romance knocks on your door. In fact, many people would like to be your sweetie. You have quite the pick of suitors. If you are attached, you might act like newfound lovers again. Enjoy the interaction. AQUARIUS can be very mischievous.

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

Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



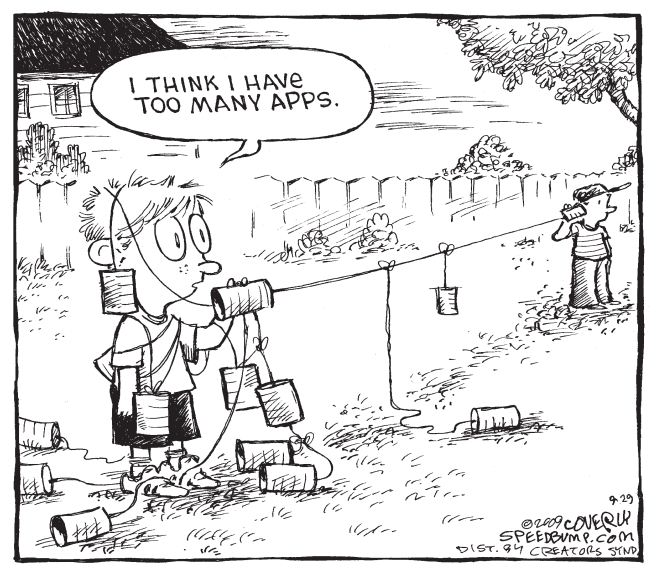
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

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

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

FROM **ANSWER** PAGE 3

ANSWER KEY:

1. Giant Adirondack chairs, lifeguard stations 17 and 18, Use 18th letter of alphabet or R in spot 13.
2. The Original Muscle Beach, 38 rings divided by 2 is 19. Use the 19th letter of the alphabet (S) in spot 6, 7, or 8.
3. Rule is listed on sign at Muscle Beach, Block 1500 to block 2600, 1+5+0+0+2+6+0+0 is 14. Use the 14th letter of the alphabet (N) in spot 2.
4. The Original Hot Dog Stick, 1633 Ocean Front Walk, 1+6+3+3 is 13. Use the 13th letter of the alphabet (M) in spot 10 or 11.
5. The Hippodrome Carousel, 44 horses, 4+4 is 8. 8 divided by 2 is 4. Use the 4th letter of the alphabet (D) in space 3.
6. Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt, Teddy Bear, Use E in spot 5.
7. Blazing Saddles, Cleavon Little, Use L in spot 4.
8. 6 Lights Posts, 6-1 is 5, Use the 5th letter of the alphabet (E) in spot 1 or 12.
9. 3 statue-like dolphins live on the pier, 2 frame one of the Paradise Park signs, 1 is a bronze like statue towards the beginning of the pier that collects donations for Santa Monica agencies who serve the homeless, 3 x 7 is 21, Use the 21st letter of the alphabet (U) in spot 9.
10. Pacific Wheel has 12 letters, 12 + 7 is 19. Use the 19th letter of the alphabet (S) in spot 6, 7, or 8.
11. Santa Monica Yacht Harbor Sport Fishing Boating Cafes, 4 words with 5 letters, Use the 5th letter of the alphabet (E) in spot 1 or 12.
12. Semper Fidelis and Semper Paratus each have 13 letters. 13+13=26 divided by 2 is 13. Use the 13th letter of the alphabet (M) in spot 10 or 11.
13. Saint Monica is the name of the statue. Use S in spot 6, 7, or 8.

Final answer: ENDLESS SUMMER



MYSTERY PHOTO

Maya Sugarman *news@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Singer Edith
5 TV's Leary
10 Ed of "Up"
12 Vote in
13 "Join the club!"
15 "2001" computer
16 German article
17 Thurman of "Kill Bill"
18 Like vistas
20 Strike
21 Secret store
22 Painter Holbein
23 Beach setting
25 Optimum
28 Mating game
31 Pretentious
32 Gave clues
34 Gun-owner's org.
35 Cacophony
36 Swiss canton
37 Leave hurriedly
40 First-string players
41 Paris river
42 Ship poles
43 Sow's mate

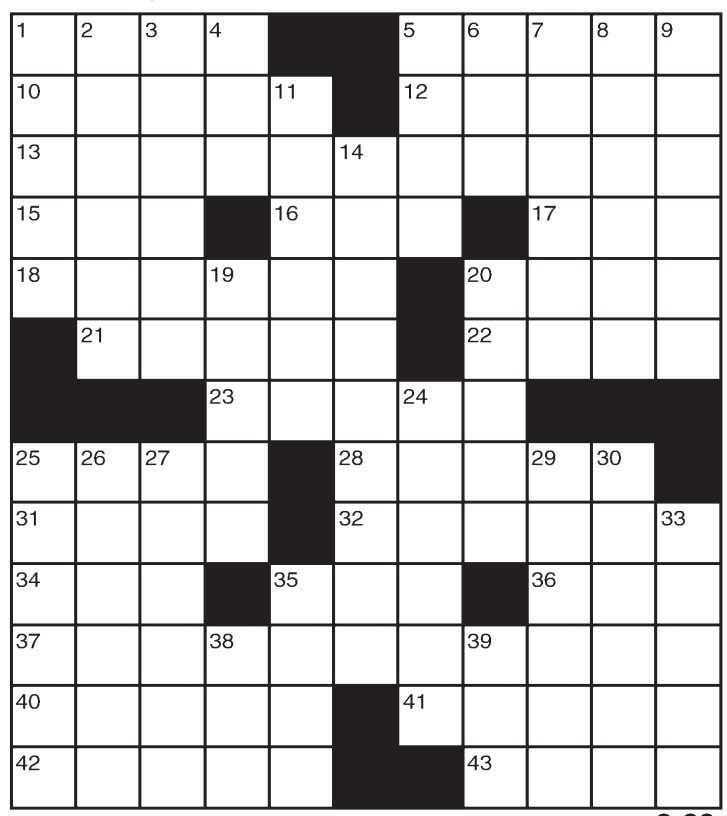
DOWN

1 Maze choices
2 Writer Susan
3 Short sock
4 Doctor's charge
5 — ex machina
6 Shade tree
7 Interstellar cloud
8 Old deliverer
9 Bra parts
11 Salad bar item
14 Cheesy snack
19 Foul
20 Gloss
24 One-horned beasts
25 Diminutive
26 Book goofs
27 Betting amounts
29 Painter's place
30 Venus' sister
33 More dreadful
35 River stoppers
38 Have a bite
39 Fly catcher

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



9-29

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 7 27 42 49 52
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: $88M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 7 13 34 39 47
Meganumber: 3
Jackpot: $9M

Fantasy 5: 5 6 17 32 35

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 5 0
EVENING: 4 5 7

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 12 Lucky Charms
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:46.70

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

■ Improbably Successful Pick-up Line: In September, school officials in Australia's Queensland state said they were investigating an incident earlier in the year in which two teenagers had consensual sex that they recorded on a cell phone camera. The girl reportedly said she was convinced to lose her virginity out of fear that the world would soon end as a result of the scheduled re-start of the Large Hadron Collider near Geneva, Switzerland, later this year.

■ Police in Deer Lake, Newfoundland, decided in August not to press charges against three boys whom they had previously believed had harassed a young moose so badly that it had to be put down. A final piece of evidence against prosecution came from the father of one of the boys, who vouched that the three could not have committed such a crime since they had been busy at the time, vandalizing a nearby church.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1907 The cornerstone is laid at Washington National Cathedral in the U.S. capital.

1911 Italy declares war on the Ottoman Empire.

1916 John D. Rockefeller becomes the first billionaire.

1918 World War I: The Hindenburg Line is broken by Allied forces. Bulgaria signs an armistice.

1941 World War II: Holocaust in Kiev, Ukraine: German Einsatzgruppe C starts Babi Yar massacre. According to the Einsatzgruppen Operational Situation Report No. 101, at least 33,771 Jews from Kiev and its suburbs are killed at Babi Yar on September 29 – 30, 1941.

1943 World War II: U.S. General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Italian Marshal Pietro Badoglio sign an armistice aboard the Royal Navy battleship HMS Nelson off Malta.

1949 The Communist Party of China writes the Common Programme for the future People's Republic of China.

1954 The convention establishing CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) is signed.

WORD UP!

sinuous \SIN-yoo-uhs\ , adjective: 1. Characterized by many curves or turns; winding.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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501 N. Venice 1+1, #29 $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 12 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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MAR VISTA near Marina. $1050/mo 1bd+den 1ba, carpet, blinds, stove, refrigerator, laundry, parking, no pets. 310-456-5659.

MAR VISTA: 12434 CULVER Blvd. units 3 1+1 stove, fridge, AC, carpets blinds, laundry room, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets.$1095/mo $500 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MARVISTA-LA $1550.00 2bdrms, 2 baths, no pets, balcony, stove, refrig, dshwshr, washr/dryr, 2-car garage 12048 Culver Blvd. #202 Open daily 8am-7pm. Additional info in unit

PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave #1 stove, blinds, tile flooring, carpets, ceiling fan, laundry,parking, AC, no pets. $1375/mo $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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PALMS 3540 Overland units 2 & 5 $900 Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, street parking, no pets. $700 off move-in special. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS ADJ/ LaCienga Hghts. $995.00 1 Bdrm, 1Bath, NO PETS, stove, refrg, parking 2009 Preuss Rd., #10 Open daily 8am-7pm . Additional info in unit

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

SANTA MONICA Condo. 1301 Franklin 2+1 stove, fridge, microwave, tile floors, dish washer hardood floors. Laundry. Intercom entry. Gated, shared garage parking. No pets. $2150 (310)578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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WLA 1457 Westgate #D 1+1 upper stove, fridge, blinds, wood/tile floors, carport parking no pets $1175/mo $750 off move-in special (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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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

Notices

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Sunset Prk Hm w 1,400 sq ft Basement
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5 Bed, 3.75 Bath
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Call for Appointment



1037 16th Street #8
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2254 21st Street
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	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$2,395,000	$4,810,000
North of Montana	$3,025,000	$1,474,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,948,500	$919,000
South of Wilshire	$859,000	$624,500
Sunset Park	$1,299,000	$669,250
Ocean Park	$1,488,000	$989,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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