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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2008
Volume 7 Issue 275



Santa Monica Daily Press

KEEPING HEARTS RACING
SEE PAGE 14

Since 2001: A news odyssey

THE CELEBRATING SINGLES ISSUE

Being single doesn't mean you're alone

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Santa Monica resident David Wright is single and proud of it.

And the 65-year-old entrepreneur wants all singles to share his pride and take no shame in checking the "single" box.

Wright is the founder of Singular Magazine, a locally-based journal that caters to the growing unmarried community in the Los Angeles area, a demographic that was previously untouched in the world of publications.

The magazine seeks to eliminate the social stigma against single Americans that the only way to live happily is with a life-long companion, promoting the unmarried lifestyle as one that can be just as fulfilling.

Approximately half of households across the nation are now headed by unmarried adults, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That figure is slightly higher in California and Los Angeles, where approximately 52 percent and 55 percent of households are headed by single adults, Wright said.

The inaugural issue was shipped earlier this month to 70,000 singles between the ages of 30-55 who live within a 14-mile radius of Santa Monica. All recipients of the first issue earn more than $100,000 a year for a combined spending power of more than $15 billion. The readers make up the upper 20-21 percent in income level, which is an attractive market for advertisers, Wright said.

"In a lot of cases like myself, we are the sole decision maker in the household," Wright said. "If I want to travel to the Virgin Islands, I don't have to get approval or consensus.

"Singles do have different buying habits than most married couples."

The magazine was born out of an idea to form an event company for people who are single. Wright first approached Kim Calvert — a freelance journalist whom he had commissioned for several jobs over the years — about the event company two years ago. Calvert, who had just gotten a print journalism degree, had little interest in the job until Wright mentioned that the events could be

SEE MAGAZINE PAGE 11



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

HARD AT WORK: **Stephan Roggenbuck, a custom furniture maker, sets up new panels made of recycled milk cartons at Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, which will be unveiling a new jellyfish exhibit when they open on Wednesday. The aquarium just completed a renovation that cost $150,000, money provided by a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy.**

Aquarium welcomes new look for fall

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA PIER Amid the zinging of power saws and pounding hammers was an undeniable enthusiasm building within the walls of Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium on Monday, an excitement over the anticipated reopening that no construction noise could drown out.

Work crews and volunteers are putting the finishing touches on a month-long renovation of the aquarium, which opens to the public on Wednesday afternoon after taking nearly the entire month of September off for a face lift.

The 4,500 square-foot aquarium, which is operated by nonprofit environmental organization Heal the Bay, temporarily shuts down a few weeks after Labor Day every year for minor maintenance and modifications to its educational curriculum. This year was a different story as more than $150,000 was put in for a larger capital project that includes the installation of a new exhibit.

"This year is the most ambitious work we've taken in a one-month period," Randi Parent, the aquarium's community outreach coordinator, said.

Funded through a piece of a $650,000 grant received from the California Coastal Conservancy two years ago, the makeover includes the renovation of the aquarium's southwestern corner from a simple informational exhibit on storm drain and trash to a new 180-gallon sea jelly kreisel, which is a round tank designed to protect the creature's fragility.

The new jellyfish section is perhaps the biggest undertaking in this year's project as the corner also features a mural that covers more than two walls. Painted by Cleo Vilett, an artist from the San Francisco Bay Area, the mural — which depicts an oceanic scene — ties itself in with the jellyfish kreisel and an adjacent tank that will contain floating

SEE AQUARIUM PAGE 9

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Seneca rocks the Temple Bar

1026 Wilshire Blvd., 8:30 p.m.

Pop band Seneca makes the long trip from Ireland to Santa Monica to rock the Temple Bar. Many compare the band to Snow Patrol and Arcade Fire.

Story time for two's

2601 Main St., 10 a.m. — 11 a.m.

Come and join Mr. Jesse for a lively session of music, rhymes, stories and puppets. Registration is required. Call (310) 392-3804 for more information.

Write away

2101 Ocean Park Blvd., noon — 2 p.m.

Inspiration, guidance, direction, and support are offered for all writers every Tuesday at the Fairview Branch Library. For more information, call (310) 450-0443.

Swing your partner

16th St. and Marine, 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

Enroll in a square and line dance class at the Marine Park auditorium sponsored by the Red Ribbons Square Dance Club of Santa Monica. The eight-week class costs $42 for residents and $46 for all others. For more information call (310) 312-0410 or (310) 395-4042. Enroll online at www.recenroll.smgov.net.

Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008

Something new to see

Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, 1600 Ocean Front Walk, 2 p.m.

The public will get its first look at the new moon jelly exhibit at Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. The 180 gallon tank is the centerpiece of the marine education center's Pollution Corner, a newly remodeled section of the aquarium with interactive, three-dimensional features and a mural depicting the Santa Monica Bay from the city to the shore and, ultimately, into the jellies' habitat. It illustrates the human impact on the environment.

Cooking that kicks cancer

Whole Foods, 2201 Wilshire Blvd., 6:30 p.m.

Chef Elisa Hunziker, a cancer survivor, will be hosting a free cooking class catering cancer survivors and their families. During and after treatment, people often find that the foods they've been eating may not taste as good or be as easily digested. Others consider modifying their eating habits to better support themselves during and after treatment. Chef Elisa will share her personal challenges and the solutions she discovered during her own journey. She will share ways you can customize your recipes based upon your individual food preferences and cooking skills. To RSVP: caroline.capizzano@wholefoods.com. For more information, call (310) 315-0662.

Get in the game

Santa Monica Family YMCA, 1332 Sixth St.

Kids looking to stay active during the school year can check out the YMCA's youth basketball/volleyball leagues running until Nov. 20. Boys and girls ages 7-12 are all welcome. Members pay $100 per league and non members $150. For more information contact Chris Crasta at ChrisSMFYMCA@yahoo.com or call (310) 393-2721.

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.

CORRECTION

In "The next generation takes over as leaders?" (Monday, Sept. 29), it should have stated that John Blakely attended a candidates forum last week and said he didn't know enough about Measure R to comment.



RESPECT

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Members of Viver Brasil honor the sea with flowers during the closing ceremony of the World Festival of Sacred Music at Santa Monica Beach on Sunday. Three hundred artists performed sacred traditions from seven cultures. One hundred dancers led by Keali'i Ceballos and Sissy Kaio chanted and danced on the sands in reverence of Kanaloa, the Hawaiian deity of the ocean.

On the hunt for a killer

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Police are continuing their search today for a gunman who killed a man and critically wounded a woman at a street fair in Venice.

The victims were shot about 9:20 p.m. Sunday in the 1200 block of Abbot Kinney Boulevard, as the festival was winding down.

Adam Pacheco, 31, who was standing in front of the Otheroom bar when he was shot, died at a hospital, said LAPD Officer Julianne Sohn.

The woman, who is about 25, was taken to a hospital for a gunshot wound to the face, but has since been released, according to police.

Officer Sam Park said it was not clear if there was a relationship between the two victims, who were shot about a block apart. Witnesses told police a gunman dressed in black "just walked up and started shooting" during the Abbot Kinney Street Festival. police said.

Fox11 reported that Pacheco may have been a street vendor at the festival.

Police are looking for a 17- or 18-year-old male Hispanic about 5 feet 9 inches tall, with a medium build, shoulder-length dark hair and dark clothing.

news@smdp.com

Mother, daughter combine talent to benefit Heal the Bay

BY CHRISTINA WALKER
Special to the Daily Press

OCEAN AVE Artist Christa Zinner, 88, looks remarkably calm as she sits in her easy chair listening to her daughter, Katina Zinner, describe for the first time the shark attack she experienced last year. Katina tells her Mom to cover her ears. She does, for about six seconds, and then uncovers them.

After three times of asking her mom to keep her ears covered, Katina gives up and proceeds to vividly narrate the way a shiny ring she wore while swimming attracted a 4 1/2 foot shark that tried to eat her hand. Luckily for her, Katina's hand, though bloodied and battered, survived intact. She was back, swimming in the Santa Monica Bay two weeks later.

Christa shakes her head in helpless dismay at her daughter's adventurous risk taking. She prefers to gaze at the ocean from the hillside of her Pacific Palisades home and would never think of swimming in the ocean like Katina.

Their approach to the ocean is like their approach to life. Although each may take a different path, both Katina and Christa can agree on one thing — their passion for art. Both mother and daughter are life-long artists who have decided to combine their sculpture and paintings in a two-woman exhibit called "Tides of Emotion," now showing at the James Coleman Gallery on 1431 Ocean Ave.

Keeping true to their love of nature, both women will donate a portion of the proceeds from the show to Heal the Bay.

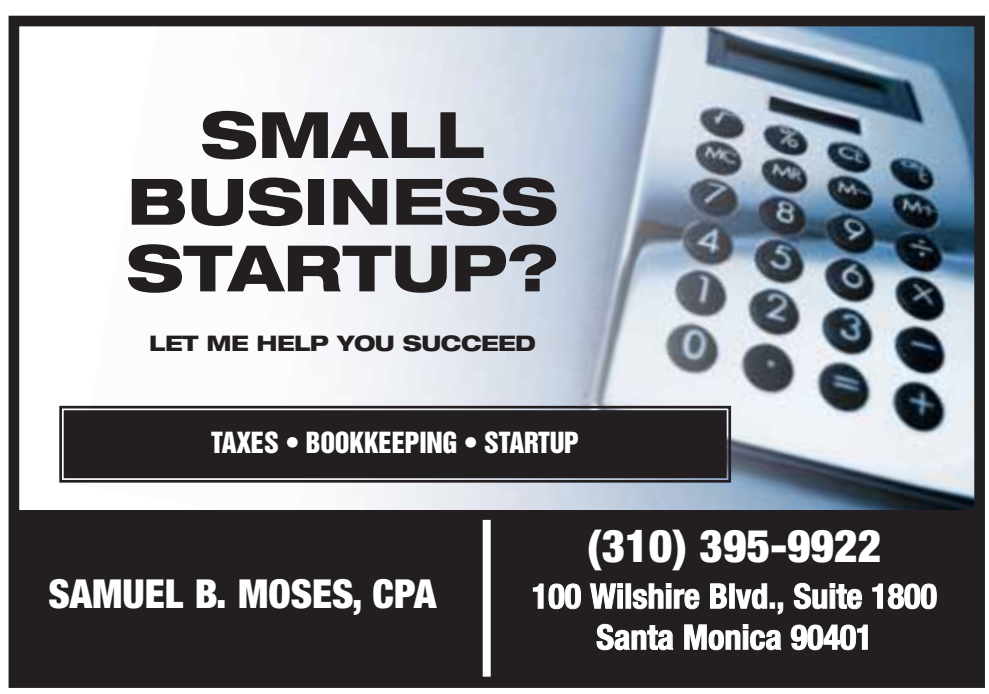
"It means a lot," Katrina said of the bay. "It's such a great resource and we can't lose that. Heal the Bay has raised consciousness exponentially."

The women connect so well as artists that they can finish one another's sentences while talking about the creative process.

"I go to paint," said Katina, "and you lay

SEE ART PAGE 10





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No endorsement here

Editor:

Recently representatives from the Santa Monica Red Cross chapter had the opportunity to meet with the proponents of Proposition T, known as RIFT, regarding our concern about the impact the initiative might have on our plans to upgrade our facility. We appreciate the effort made by T's authors (Santa Monican Coalition for a Livable City) to present their views regarding the potential impact of T on our renovation plans. We have also discussed the matter with opponents of the measure as well.

Prop. T's authors believe that the measure will not impede our ability to make a number of modest renovations to our facility – based on the 7,500-square-feet standard "by right" exemption allowed under current building codes as well as "traffic credits" allowed under the provisions of the measure. Our own initial review of this opinion seems to support this conclusion.

The measures affect on more extensive renovations that might include the acquisition of an adjacent property and the possible addition of an additional floor to our present building are less clear cut. That evaluation will require a much more in depth review of a proposed design and a better understanding of the details of the initiative.

As I indicated in my recent Daily Press "letter to the editor," our concerns were about the possible impact of the initiative relating to our ability to proceed with what we consider to be essential facility expansion as part of our overall catastrophic disaster planning. Until the clarifications discussed above are resolved, we believe we must put our plans on hold and trust that this will be a timely process.

As we indicated previously, the Red Cross appreciates the efforts being made to help improve the quality of life for our residents through a wide variety of initiatives including reducing future traffic congestion in the city. We do not believe that it was the intention of the authors to impede the work of the Red Cross or other nonprofits here in Santa Monica.

However, we also recognize that the possibility of abrupt changes in city policies can bring with them unintended consequences for nonprofit agencies with limited budgets, such as disruption of orderly planning processes and timely cultivation of prospective donors.

If Prop. T passes, we see the need to ensure that a procedure exists for evaluating and quite possibly creating additional exemptions that will allow community nonprofits the flexibility to respond to changes in human services needs. The manner by which these additional exemptions or considerations would be created needs to be explored by the City Council.

I am aware that in a recent mailer from the "No on T," Save our City organization that my name and our organization was erroneously listed as opposing Proposition T. I want to clarify that the National American Red Cross has strict prohibitions on use of our name to either endorse or oppose political candidates or ballot issues. I ask that both sides of the campaign respect this position. The concerns and clarifications I articulated in my original "letter to the editor" are, of course, in the public domain and as such available for comment.

As pointed out above, our concern was directed at the potential impact for community preparedness and is neither an endorsement of nor opposition to the initiative itself.

John Pacheco
Chief Executive Officer
American Red Cross, Santa Monica chapter



What's the Point?

David Pisarra — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

He's favoring the Godless heathens

THIS IS A RE-WRITE OF A COLUMN FROM 2005. I've cut a few paragraphs, and tightened the language, but the main point is likely truer today, in the face of the possible election of fundamentalist Sara Palin on the national stage, and the possible passage of Proposition 8 on the local stage.

America is under attack — again. This time though, the terrorists are not the Muslims, the Japanese or the Godless Communists. In fact, it is the God fearing, Bible waving, pontificating pupils of totalitarianism. Our most dangerous enemy is not, in fact, North Korea, (though they scare the heck out of me!), nor is it a man in a cave. The most dangerous threat comes from those nicely dressed, overly polite people who always seem to be carrying a casserole dish.

Our republic is under attack from the church lady and her biblically run household. They are the ones to fear. They who blindly follow what some self-aggrandizing preacher says, without rational investigation, are the scariest of scary creatures at this time in our history.

The Republicans have figured this blind following thing out, and are using it to their advantage to reconfigure our republic. With the federal government and most of the state governments firmly in the hands of the Republicans, they are quickly, and not quietly, turning our country into a theocracy.

President Bush is the head of the Republican party, as such, his faith based initiatives; his position on the death penalty/abortion debate; his force feeding of Jesus Christ by way of programs that the federal government is supporting; his miserable AIDS policies and contraception policies; his outright intolerance for people whose lives don't precisely mirror his own amoral, soulless life; and his pontifications of being "needed by his country and chosen by God," are all direct corollaries to the totalitarianism that we put away 60 years ago in Germany, and that our forefathers fled from in 1620.

Religion does not create a fabric of society. Religion creates a communal touchstone for arrogance, bigotry, intolerance, hatred, and creating "otherness." Religion creates a mechanism for people who are all abdicating their thought-life to others, to feel commonality, one-ness, and "part of."

Religious teaching blinds people to the wonders of the true fabric of our society, the warp and weave of the people who comprise our America, the differences that make us a strong country. There is a reason why inbreeding is bad for a species. The same rule applies to society. When we all think, act, and dress the same, breakdown is near.

There are people who think I am wrong, that the Republicans are only doing the "right" thing. That they are bringing America back to morality. I can only surmise that they lost no member of their family, extended or otherwise in the holocaust, or possibly, they don't believe the holocaust happened.

There are still others who believe that it couldn't happen again. They don't read much. It takes but a cursory examination of the first section of any large metropolitan newspaper to see that the atrocities continue, on the African continent, Central America, Asia, and the Middle East.

If you feel, or believe, that in America we do not have atrocities, and we never will, I would like to point out to you that we used black men in Tuskegee to study the long term effects of syphilis, without their knowing or consent.

Some will say that, "it was a different time," and "we've learned from then, not to do that." They would be wrong. In 2005 the Associated Press reported that children in foster care have been used by our government as guinea pigs for drug tests.

These would be the same children who are trotted out when the religious Republicans want to spout off about the value of life, and the importance of two heterosexual parents in a household.

The Republicans like to talk about their culture of life and their traditional family values. They are using that canard as a way to argue for the passage of Proposition 8, but I fail to see how letting my friends Dave and Alonzo, who have now had five commitment ceremonies, domestic partnership registrations, and finally a wedding, harms anyone.

The founding fathers knew what they were doing when they instituted a separation of church and state, they just didn't go far enough. There needs to be a great wall between the religious zealots on the one hand, and the leaders of our country on the other.

I believe there should be a religious test of faith for anyone who wants to be a leader. It should be that anyone who is a regular church member is barred from a position of leadership.

I'll take a Godless heathen over a religious zealot judging me any day.

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.

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The Libertarian Perspective

Ron Getty

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No longer the land of the free

THE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL HAS issued a moratorium banning new fast food restaurants in South Central Los Angeles for a year. This ban covers a 32-square-mile area with 500,000 low-income, racially-mixed minority group residents. According to the food fascists of the L.A. City Council, South Central L.A. has too many greasy fast food joints and not enough white-table-cloth healthy restaurants and locally grown organic grocers.

The L.A. City Council believes the adults of South Central can not make healthy food choices. Next, it will require all L.A. fast food places to show calories next to their menu items. Finally, the council is considering a ban on all outdoor smoking. The L.A. City Council has appointed itself to the questionable position of societal nanny. However, Angelinos aren't the only people facing a nanny. All Californians face nanny-state laws imposing safety, health, and morality.

Don't drink then drive. So far, there are no laws against driving while hung over. Wear a condom — don't have unprotected sex. Don't have sex with a sex worker, protected or not. Even better, don't multitask by having unprotected sex while you're driving, drinking an alcoholic beverage, and smoking pot. And don't smoke pot unless you have a doctor's prescription. Don't do drugs, but it's OK to drink a glass of wine a day.

Lysander Spooner, a 19th century libertarian, said this about what was happening in his era: "It is the assumption by one man, or body of men, of a right to abolish outright all the natural rights, all the natural liberty of all other men; to make all other men their slaves; to arbitrarily dictate to all other men what they may, and may not, do; what they may, and may not, have; what they may, and may not, be."

Those trenchant words from 150 years ago speak to our current abysmal state of affairs. We have become a nation of sheep-le, peacefully grazing while allowing the nanny-state to gradually tyrannize us through its dictates, one by one by one.

We are given stern warnings about what we should not eat or drink. Edicts delineate children's education as to what must be learned and what the test scores should be to prove they learned it. Decrees require us to buy state permits and licenses to fix our own homes, to open a business, to get married, or to become a beautician.

Government law requires forced "voluntary" taxation of our hard-earned incomes to fund redistribution to "those in need." Unfortunately, the people in need are politically selected by those doing the "Robbing Hood" plunder and redistribution, not the income earner whose wages are taken for this involuntary philanthropy.

A Latin phrase describes these intolerable situations: Non nobis, sed aliis, or, "Not for us, but for others." Which means, it's for your own good, and the legislators know what's best for your own good. They're the ruling elite, and rulers must be obeyed or else.

Our personal decisions should not be forced on us by government bullies with a badge, central committee command-and-control school educrats, food fascists, health Nazis, and prudish moralistic legislative puritans. This situation is further exacerbated by "public servant" red-tape bureaucrats who further stifle independent choice through their administrative rulings as to what we should or shouldn't do.

The California state constitution has no provisions for the state or a city legislature to presumptively enact laws that forcibly impose fiat morality, good health, or any other stricture against a free choice by an adult.

We need a new Spirit of 1776 to free ourselves from the tyrannical yoke of a neo-con socialistic liberal do-gooder nanny-state. California and its cities are hell-bent on using fiat legislation to permanently usurp our freedom of choice for our "benefit," even when we don't want the dubious benefit.

The founding fathers didn't voluntarily face a hangman's noose to form a government that would take our lives, property, and rights away from us for our own good. Californians shouldn't be tormented by malicious mandatory directives of a nanny state, by a nanny state, for a nanny state.

Give us back our freedom of choices, and get out of our personal lives, Madame Nanny!

RON GETTY is the senior staff member of a tax attorney in San Francisco. His background includes an electrical engineering degree and 30 years of sales, marketing and advertising with small to large corporations.

The Q Line

Popping questions

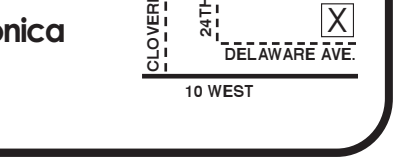
Some residents are concerned about development. Others are irked by homelessness. And seemingly everybody wants to know what can be done to ease traffic. The Daily Press is hosting a candidate's forum on Oct. 22 at the Main Library featuring both City Council and school board candidates. At the forum, dubbed Squirm Night, these topics will be discussed, among others.

So this week's Q-Line question asks:

What questions would you ask the candidates and why?

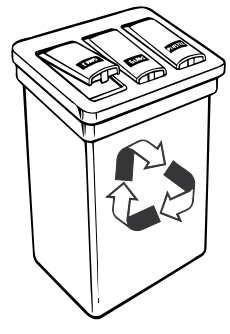
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING ISSUANCE OF MULTIFAMILY HOUSING REVENUE BONDS FOR BELMAR PLACE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, at 5:45 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, the City Council of the City of Santa Monica (the "City") will conduct a public hearing as required by Section 147(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, at which it will hear and consider information concerning a proposed plan of financing providing for the issuance by the California Statewide Communities Development Authority of multifamily housing revenue bonds in one or more series issued from time to time, including bonds issued to refund such revenue bonds in one or more series from time to time, and at no time to exceed $36,000,000 in outstanding aggregate principal amount, to finance the acquisition, construction and development of a 160-unit affordable multifamily rental housing project (within the "Civic Center Village"), to be located at the 1700 block of Ocean Avenue, north of Pico Blvd., west of Main Street, and south of a to-be-constructed extension of Olympic Drive, Santa Monica, California, and generally known as Belmar Place (the "Project"). The Project will be owned and operated by a limited partnership or other entity to be created by Santa Monica Housing Partners, L.P. or related entities.

Those wishing to comment on the proposed financing and the nature and location of the Project may either appear in person at the public hearing or submit written comments, which must be received by the City prior to the hearing. Written comments should be sent to the City of Santa Monica, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401, Attention: City Clerk.





Tornante
Steve Parker
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Credit crunch hurts local auto dealers

YOU CAN BE EXCUSED FOR HAVING missed the following news item (heck, when WaMu, our family's bank, went out of business last week, I didn't notice until two days later; there's been a lot going on). Sometime this week, the Detroit Three, General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, will see the first $7.5 billion of their $25 billion bailout, courtesy of we, the people. It's supposed to go for technology research and development and upgrading manufacturing plants to produce the fuel-efficient cars, trucks and crossovers Americans want.

But like you and I, the nation's 21,534 new car dealerships aren't getting a bailout, and they're finding credit just as tight as other businesses (by the way, if you are getting a bailout, drop me an e-mail).

Sven Sjodin, sales manager at Toyota Santa Monica, told us that, not surprisingly, the store has seen a "paradigm shift" in what customers have been asking for since gas went to $5 a gallon.

"Just a few months ago, we were the number one Land Cruiser dealer in the entire country," Sjodin said, referring to the big, thirsty Toyota V8 SUVs. "And now we're number two in the country in Prius sales. That's how fast and drastically things have changed."

> **JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO, WE WERE THE NUMBER ONE LAND CRUISER DEALER IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. AND NOW WE'RE NUMBER TWO IN THE COUNTRY IN PRIUS SALES. THAT'S HOW FAST AND DRASTICALLY THINGS HAVE CHANGED."**
>
> **Sven Sjodin**
> Sales manager at Toyota Santa Monica

The sales and service facility has been at the corner of Lincoln and Santa Monica boulevards for decades, and the company, like many dealerships, is heavily involved in supporting community activities, from charity walks to the Little League.

In the first eight months of this year, Toyota Santa Monica sold about 2,530 new cars and trucks. Now, class, keeping in mind that the average new car or truck sold in the U.S. costs about $30,000. That's a whole lot of money; over $75 million, in fact.

But like any successful business, most of what it makes never leaves the store, and along with civic involvement, this dealer also employs over 100 people from our local area. Anything which slows their business poses a danger to all those activities and, especially, to those employees and their families, and all the stores where they trade … and so on, and so on.

Dealers buy their cars from a carmaker, similarly to how we buy them from a dealer. They just buy a whole lot of them. And they finance those purchases, also like we do, but dealers need millions of dollars when they go car-shopping.

The world's largest Chevrolet dealer group, made-up of 13 dealerships, closed its doors last week and has filed bankruptcy. Its first family-owned store opened almost 90 years ago. Spread over several states, mostly in the Southeast, the group employed 2,700 and last year had sales of $2.13 billion. They cited problems getting credit with GMAC Finance as a large reason for its failure. Imagine the effect on all those local economies of the closures and lay-offs. Forget supporting the Little League; people will be losing their homes.

Similar credit problems because of the U.S.' dour economy are already hitting dealerships in Asia and Europe. They say, "When the U.S. sneezes, the world catches cold," and this economic virus is insidious.

Mazda, which is controlled by Ford, just announced that beginning next month their nearly-300 American dealers will stop using Ford Motor Credit and rely instead on Chase Auto Finance. One large Mazda dealer, from Dallas, said, "It's a good fit. Chase is financially sound, and their borrowing costs are much lower than Ford's."

Last week, Caterpillar Corp., the American maker of heavy equipment, engines and huge earth-moving vehicles, and one of the oldest, most-honored and successful manufacturers in the country, found itself in a serious financial fix.

To keep their doors open, their plants running, their vehicles delivered to buyers and their salespeople and service technicians flying around the globe, Caterpillar needed a $1 billion line of credit. They found it, but at twice the interest rate they could have gotten just days before (3.5 percent vs. 7 percent). That's the difference between $35 million and $70 million in interest payments. All for, "the cost of doing business."

In this credit market, which is not just tight but effectively closed to many businesses, local car dealers are having credit problems like Cat, though naturally on a smaller scale. But when the corner dealership starts laying-off people or shuts its doors, it's the local community which gets hit hardest.

It's always good to shop locally and support neighbors. But if the car dealer on the corner can't finance the new cars and trucks which customers want to buy, there could be slim pickings on the showroom floor.

STEVE PARKER has covered the world's auto industry for over 35 years. He's a two-time Emmy Award-winner who reported on cars for almost a decade at both KTLA/TV5 and KCBS/TV2. He is a consultant to the NBC-TV show Whipnotic and the show's companion website, www.Whipnotic.com. He created, writes and moderates the only all-automotive blog on The Huffington Post at www.huffingtonpost.com/steve-parker. Contact Steve through his own automotive issues Web site at www.SteveParker.com.



The Quackers

Phyllis Chavez
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Terror in a plastic bag

Editor's Note: Meet the "Quackers," three young surf ducks, born and raised in the canals of Venice. Their passion in life: surfing and saving the earth. Their mission: To spread the word about sustainability, cleaning up pollution and stopping global warming.

WE DO OTHER THINGS BESIDE SURF, really. I assure you we are not one dimensional ducks. I think, in fact, we are quite well rounded. Just last week, for example, we all participated in the "Beach Clean Up Day," sponsored by Heal the Bay and picked up hundreds of pounds of debris.

Also, my brother Richard is most generous with his time and talents, helping others with gardening and composting issues. I recently finished tutoring with the summer reading program at the Ocean Park Library and my other brother, Rusty, devotes a few hours a month teaching a self defense class to seniors, at Clover Park.

It just so happens that the most interesting and unusual events seem to take place while we are surfing.

Last Saturday we set out for a fund day at the beach. It was hot and humid, one of those days that pulls all the "starch" out of you and leaves you feeling like wiggly spaghetti. We walked to the park before Rusty's self-defense class, our surf boards in tow.

Richard settled under a tree with his headphones and CD player. Eyes closed and a far-away look on his face led me to believe he was listening to Pavarotti, singing one of his favorites, "O Soave Fanciulla," from "La Boheme." I looked for a comfy spot to put my feet up and read for a while. Not even the occasional "hee-yah!" from the class could disturb us in our peaceful setting. After the last student thanked Sensei Rusty, we headed out for the beach.

It felt so good to be on the water. We surfed for hours. As the day came to an end, Rusty managed to catch the biggest and best wave of the day. It was huge. He rode it forever, but at the end took a terrible spill. The white water grabbed him and sucked him down. We saw him tumbling upside down and then he could not stop going around and around. We were really getting scared. When he finally popped to the surface, a plastic bag was stuck on his head, covering his eyes so he couldn't see.

Extremely disoriented, he began swimming down instead of up, and out instead of in. No matter how hard he struggled and thrashed about it was impossible for him to pull the bag off with his wings. He couldn't breathe. Richard and I raced to him. Luckily we were able to reach him in time. We tried to calm him as we pulled the bag from his head with our bills. It took both of us to free him. His chest heaved as he gulped air. He was shaking and traumatized.

"I couldn't breathe! I was suffocating," he said, still breathless.

We both placed a wing on his board to guide him to shore. Still shaken but trying to be brave, he said, "As much as I love to fly, this is one day I would have traded my wings for a pair of hands."

After all that work we did at the coastal clean up, there was still trash in the surf. We walked home in silence, saddened by the day's events, but still determined to keep our beaches clean. There's so much work to be done.

Help the Quackers and other marine life, including your own, by going to www.healthebay.org to learn more about what you can do to keep trash out of the ocean.

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

Going with a plan for Disneyland

BY ANGIE WAGNER
For The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS We were off to Disneyland! The happiest place on Earth.

It had been two years since we had made the trek, and this time we were going to celebrate my 5-year-old's birthday.

On the last trip, we briefly lost my oldest daughter while standing around Downtown Disney trying to decide what we wanted to eat. She wandered off, in search of a large Mickey Mouse balloon, and my husband and I and my parents frantically tried to find her.

We decided then to come up with a plan for amusement parks or crowded areas. When one person is going to go a different direction — to ride a ride, or use the restroom — they are to say to another adult, "Do you have _____?" And then we wait for that person to respond: "Got her."

So we thought we were prepared.

All was well in mouseland until the end of the day. Everyone was tired and eager to get back to the hotel. We were heading out of the park when my mother told us she wanted to go into a jewelry store to look for a necklace for my 5-year-old.

All of us — Mom, Dad, husband, myself and two kids — headed into the store.

At first, my 2-year-old was content to view the jewelry from her stroller. But the shiny jewels were beckoning, so she got up and grabbed a few necklaces. At this point, my mother was watching my oldest and once Aubrey bailed from her stroller, the plan fell apart.

Everyone thought someone else had her.

People get distracted in stores. And toddlers don't like to shop.

All of a sudden, she bolted through the entryway to another store and she was gone.

The store on Disneyland's Main Street led into a larger store, which led into a larger store. They were all connected.

I saw Aubrey run out of the jewelry store, and I didn't see where she went after that. I entered the larger store and panic set in when I didn't see her. She was not on any of the aisles. I then gasped when I saw that the store just kept on going.

At that point, I informed an employee about our lost child and my husband headed to park security. My safety plan hadn't worked.

Nancy McBride, national safety director for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, said my plan wasn't that efficient because no one really had responsibility for the child. Just having one parent ask another if they have the child doesn't cut it.

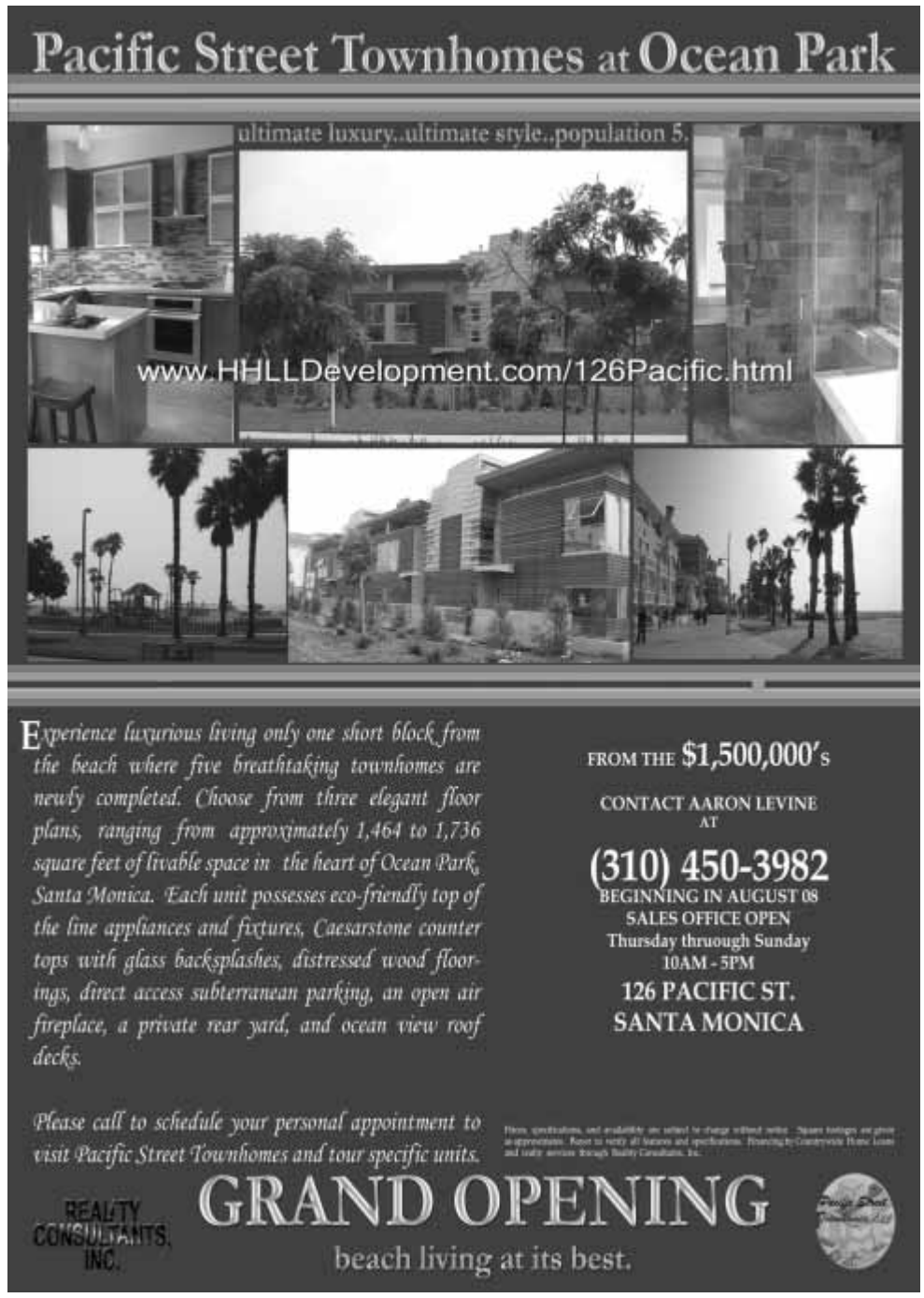
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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Mayor unveils housing plan

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa says he wants to build or preserve 20,000 homes for low- and moderate-income families in Los Angeles over the next five years. At a press conference Monday, Villaraigosa announced that the city will contribute $200 million a year to a planned $5 billion fund, and Enterprise Community Partners, an affordable-housing nonprofit, is investing $700 million as startup capital. The mayor says he'll raise the rest of the money from donations, private lenders and government funds. Part of the plan calls for developers to set aside a percentage of new projects for low- and moderate-income residents. The City Council is expected to introduce an ordinance to that effect on Wednesday. ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Pair involved in LaBeouf crash charged

Prosecutors have charged two people involved in an accident that injured Shia LaBeouf with giving police false information. The Los Angeles County district attorney's office said Monday it filed one misdemeanor count apiece for Herbert Simon, 22, and Kimberly Bent, 21. A spokeswoman for District Attorney Steve Cooley's office said Bent told police after the crash that she was driving, but that investigators suspect Simon was behind the wheel. LaBeouf was initially arrested on suspicion of drunken driving, but prosecutors announced Thursday that there was "insufficient evidence" to file a charge. Investigators had previously determined that LaBeouf was not at fault for the wreck. AP

SANTA ANA

More than 1,100 arrested in Cal immigration sweep

Federal immigration authorities said Monday they arrested more than 1,150 people in a three-week enforcement action in California. The sweep targeted immigration violators including those who have ignored deportation orders or returned to the U.S. illegally after being deported. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokeswoman Virginia Kice said it was the largest such action by fugitive enforcement teams in California since the squads were formed in 2003.

Kice said of the 1,157 immigrants arrested statewide, 595 had outstanding deportation orders and 346 had prior criminal convictions. Those arrested were from 34 countries, she said. The raids, which ended Saturday, produced 436 arrests in the San Francisco area, 420 in the Los Angeles area and 301 in the San Diego area. In recent years, ICE has heightened enforcement at factories, offices and homes. One of its major pushes has been to target illegal immigrants who have flouted deportation orders. AP

SEBASTOPOL

Two die in fiery car crash into Sonoma County home

Two men are dead after their car crashed into a home outside Sebastopol and burst into flames. The ensuing fire gutted the house, but the family of five that lived inside managed to escape without injury. California Highway Patrol investigators are working to identify the dead and determine why their 1993 Acura ran a stop sign on the rural road and plowed into the house around 3 a.m. Monday. Authorities say the car was going so fast that it severed a tree and pushed two large boulders off their settings. Neighbors say they've organizing an effort to gather items for the family while their home is under repair. AP

SACRAMENTO

Schwarzenegger vetoes voter-information bill

Reliable information may remain hard to come by for decline-to-state voters in California presidential primary elections. A bill that sought to ease the confusion experienced by poll workers and independent voters during February's presidential primary was vetoed over the weekend by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

It would have required poll workers to notify independents in writing of their right to a ballot from any party that allows decline-to-state voters. The Republican Party does not allow independents to vote in presidential primaries, while Democrats do.

Secretary of State Debra Bowen said many decline-to-state voters were mistakenly told they could not vote a Democratic ballot during the Feb. 5 presidential primary.

Schwarzenegger says the voter bill isn't a high priority because he has so many other bills to review after this year's long budget delay. The governor did sign a bill that will mandates reviewing potentially harmful chemicals used to make consumer products.

The bill sets up the state program. It could lead to an outright ban of chemicals in household items determined to have negative health effects.

Schwarzenegger says consumers are alarmed about the health and environmental hazards many chemicals pose. He says the bill by Democratic Assemblyman Mike Feuer of Los Angeles is a departure from the piecemeal approach often used by lawmakers to restrict or ban individual compounds. The governor also signed a companion bill by Sen. Joe Simitian that sets up an online registry for consumers, businesses and workers about chemicals. AP

TIJUANA

Dozen bodies found next to Tijuana school

The bodies of 11 men and one woman were found dumped in an empty lot next to a Tijuana elementary school Monday morning, an hour before children were scheduled to arrive. City officials suspended classes after finding the victims, most of whom had been bound and tortured. Some were only partially clothed, said Tijuana police spokeswoman Prisna Perez. Minutes after the grisly discovery, four other bodies were found in another empty lot in Tijuana, and two other bodies were discovered late Sunday in a lot next to a factory. Police have not determined whether the 18 killings were linked, or whether the city's drug gangs are responsible, Perez said.

Tijuana is among the cities hardest hit by violence as Mexico's drug cartels battle for lucrative smuggling routes past the border to supply illegal drug users in the United States. Nearly two years ago, President Felipe Calderon launched a nationwide battle to take back territory controlled by some of the world's most powerful drug gangs, and the cartels have responded with unprecedented violence. AP

Aquarium likes to switch it up

FROM **AQUARIUM** PAGE 1

plastic bags, illustrating the impact humans have on sea life. Plastic bags, which Heal the Bay is trying to get banned from local retailers, is often consumed by predators, mistaking them as jellyfish.

Other elements of the project include an expansion of the aquarist area where animals receive care, new paneling made out of recycled milk jugs on all the tanks, and an overhaul of the life support system, which consists of the chiller, filtration, water pumps and protein skimmers.

The aquarium closed to the public on Sept. 2, temporarily reopening during the Coastal Cleanup weekend earlier this month, and will open again to the public on Wednesday at 2 p.m.

One of the challenges the staff faces every year is keeping the aquarium fresh for repeat visitors.

"We want to continually change the exhibits and give them something to come back to because obviously if it's the same stuff all the time, people will not come back and visit," Vicki Wawerchak, the director of the aquarium, said. "We're making a concerted effort so when they come, we will have a new exhibit and education component."

Parent said that Heal the Bay has been gradually expanding the construction work scope every summer in order to best utilize the small space, which is located underneath the pier. The nonprofit spent about $70,000 last September for regular maintenance work. Part of the grant from the California Coastal Conservancy was spent on redoing the aquarium's roof.

"The goal is to have our visitors inspired by (the exhibits) so they can do their part to help clean up the environment," she said.

The aquarium was founded in 1996 as the UCLA Discovery Center and was handed to Heal the Bay in February 2003. After taking over, Heal the Bay shifted the focus of the aquarium to exhibiting habitats in the Santa Monica Bay.

In the past five years, the aquarium has hosted more than 290,000 visitors during regular public hours and 80,000 students for field trip programs. The space features three large touch tanks and several larger tanks that hold a kelp forest, different species of fish, sharks and eel.

A small staff of about 11 people and more than 100 volunteers keep the educational center running nearly year-round.

One of the longest-serving staff member is Jose Bacallao, a senior aquarist, who started when UCLA was still running the aquarium.

Bacallao was among the workers who were busy getting the aquarium ready for business on Monday, running around to make sure the last pieces were in place.

"We're increasing the diversity of organisms here so it more profoundly reflects the life out in the bay," he said.

melodyh@smdp.com

Everyone loves Manny in Los Angeles nowadays

BY JOHN NADEL
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES Amid the celebration in the Dodgers' clubhouse, first baseman James Loney wore a T-shirt that said it all: "We love Manny being Manny."

Who doesn't in L.A. these days?

Manny Ramirez came west from Boston two months ago with a sullied reputation, joining an underachieving team plugging along at .500, fortunate to be playing in one of baseball's weakest divisions. His impact has been remarkable in every way.

Almost immediately, the slugger added energy to a previously drab clubhouse and became a crowd favorite. And despite changing leagues, he began one of the best streaks of his career — or anyone's, for that matter — in leading Los Angeles to its first NL West title in four years.

"I just came to play the game and to show people I could play," he said. "I wasn't expecting anything out of myself. I wanted to show people I could run and play the outfield and that was it."

He's made a difference in the stands, too, as the fans at Dodger Stadium who traditionally arrive late and leave early spend more time in the seats. There are more people, too, with attendance going up about 4,300 per game since the trade.

By the time the Red Sox traded Ramirez on July 31, both sides were sick of each other. Playing in the final season of an eight-year, $160 million contract, Ramirez forced the move, saying the Red Sox didn't deserve a player of his caliber and displaying a purposeful lack of hustle at times.

When the split was final, all sides were glad. The defending World Series champion Red Sox wound up with Jason Bay in the three-team deal, and headed back to the playoffs.

Now, shocking as it might sound, Ramirez is a role model and team leader with the Dodgers, hustling at every turn.

"When I left Boston, it was great. A new life. My dream come true. I know a lot of people doubt me," he said. "Whatever people say out there, well, that's good because I came and I proved everybody wrong. It feels great. I'm just happy everything worked out great."

So now, it's on to Chicago for the start of the playoffs Wednesday against the Cubs.

The postseason begins earlier that day in Philadelphia when the NL wild-card Brewers visit. After the Dodgers-Cubs, the Red Sox visit the Los Angeles Angels.

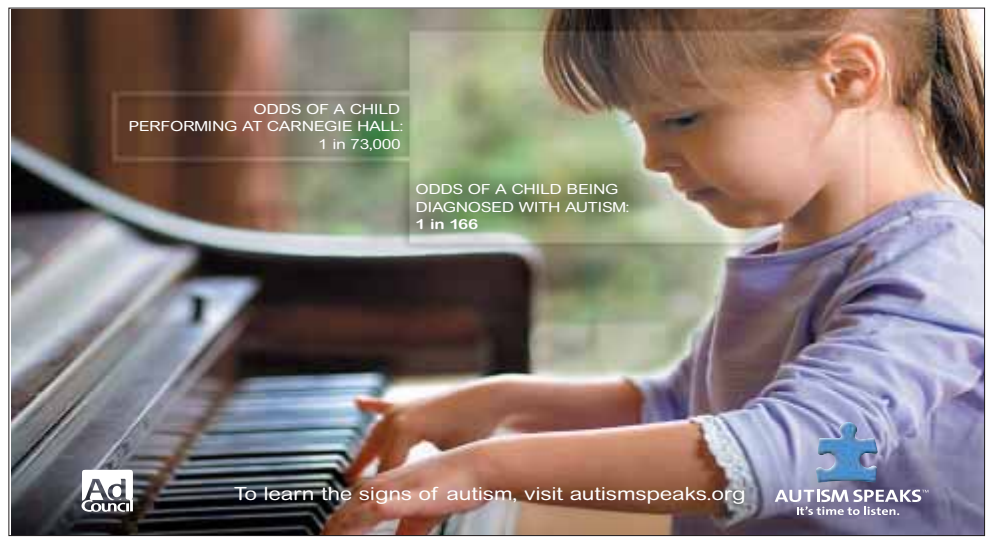
Dodgers third-base coach Larry Bowa, who's seen a lot in baseball in his 62 years, said he's never seen anything close to what Ramirez has done.

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A message from the Metropolitan Water District and San Diego County's Water Agencies
The 20 Gallon challenge



Christina Walker *news@smdp.com*

DYNAMIC DUO: **Katina Zinner (top) and her mother Christa Zinner have combined their artistic talents to benefit Heal the Bay. Katina's paintings and Christa's scultpures will be on display at the James Coleman Gallery on Ocean Avenue until Oct. 16.**

Show runs until Oct. 16

FROM **ART** PAGE 3

an egg," Christa finished.

When it comes to sculpting, Christa admits she is a late bloomer. She spent years as an iconic photographer while Katina was growing up, capturing such big names as Elizabeth Taylor, Fred Astaire, and Nancy and Ronald Reagan.

"I always felt I could do it," Christa said of sculpting. "If I got my hands on it I could do it."

Even though she dabbled a little as a child, other challenges in her life prevented her from sculpting. Finally, at the age of 70, Christa got her chance. Using models to keep her eyes sharp and ensure accuracy in her figurative works, Christa began to sculpt in clay and cast those works in bronze.

Christa remembered the first sculpture she made. As a child she sculpted a little girl figurine. The figurine had a skirt "blowing enormously" in one direction.

"The Hunt," is a piece in the current show that was based on a model close to home — Katrina.

Katina posed for the piece with a cougar on her shoulder. Although the cougar was fake, Christa was real in her intent to capture her daughter in bronze.

"That's the wild untamed part of you," Christa told daughter Katina during the interview. "She's the wild one because there is a cougar living in her."

One might well believe Christa is right. After all, Katina did survive that shark attack and lived to tell about it. As a child she wandered the Swiss Alps, making friends with neighbors and animals alike at a time and place gentler than the present. Katina, who is now a video editor by day, recently took a trip to Kenya by herself and documented the vacation by snapping 1,700 photos.

She credits her Mom with always being supportive of her art. Her first impromptu show was held at the age of 6 at home in France as a young girl. Her mother hung her drawings all over the kitchen walls.

Her father, Oscar winning film editor Peter Zinner, raised the family in both Europe and the United States. Katina said all of the castles and famous European art played their part in influencing her work.

As an artist, Katina is especially fascinated by light and color. She's been known to take her pet dogs with her into a rain storm to hike and relax. She admitted that at first her pets didn't like the rain all that much, but as she took them out they came to appreciate the heightened smells that come with the rain. Katina herself drew inspiration from the way the rain amplifies color and the aromatherapy that comes with the rain and immersing oneself in nature.

"How can you come back to your life in the city and feel the same?" Katina said.

A video showing how nature has inspired Katina's work can be seen at the gallery.

news@smdp.com



RIDE FOR LIFE

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Around 240 cyclists from across the globe arrive at the Yahoo! Center on Broadway Sunday afternoon with screaming family and friends around them. The cyclists were riding for the Arthritis Foundation in the eighth annual Amgen California Coast Classic Bike Tour, which began in San Francisco. The bikers traveled over 500 miles to raise $1.1 million for the foundation. "I was born with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and still suffer from it at age 36. I continue to ride in the ACCC to challenge myself and help all those suffering from arthritis," Jennifer Ramsey, a Santa Monica resident and third year rider.

Embracing the unmarried life

FROM **MAGAZINE** PAGE 1

publicized through a magazine.

"I heard the word magazine and my ears perked up," she said.

It was then when Calvert had her own epiphany about being single, realizing that if she wanted to get married, she would've done so by then.

"I just looked at other single friends and saw how they were leading these great lives, very fulfilling lives," she said. "One thing I did notice among all my friends is they felt they shouldn't be single.

"I thought, 'why are we thinking this?'"

The company slowly evolved from a concept of being a small publication listing events to a big glossy magazine. The company has also since launched Singularcity.com, a social networking arm of the magazine. Each issue includes a four-page calendar section.

In addition to events listings in the L.A. area, the bi-monthly journal includes articles about living the single life. The premiere issue features a cover article — "Myth of the Perfect Catch" — written by Edward Lewine, a contributor to Details and The New York Times.

Wright said he plans to slowly expand the magazine from the Westside and central Los Angeles to the entire county, perhaps branching out to Orange County in a few years. He has no intentions to go national at this point.

"We like the idea of unmarried adults in L.A. where the singles have relatively recently been the majority of adult households," he said.

Wright, who has lived in Santa Monica for about seven years, called the singles scene in the city "dismal."

"Right now it's limited to the Meetup group," Wright said, referring to the networking Web site. "We're going to change that."

Calvert said the idea of the magazine is to celebrate independence, whether being single is temporary or life-long.

"It's not that we're against marriage," Calvert, who serves as the editor, said. "It's that we're saying that single is also a viable choice."

melodyh@smdp.com



Stocks tumble as bailout plan fails

BY TIM PARADIS
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK Wall Street's worst fears came to pass Monday, when the government's financial rescue plan failed in Congress and stocks plunged precipitously — hurtling the Dow Jones industrials down nearly 7 percent. The almost 780-point decline was the largest one-day point drop ever for the index.

The percentage declines for the Standard & Poor's 500 and Nasdaq composite indexes were even larger. And credit markets, whose turmoil helped feed the stock market's angst, froze up further amid the growing belief that the country is headed into a spreading credit and economic crisis.

Stunned traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, their faces tense and mouths agape, watched on TV screens as the House voted down in midafternoon the administration's $700 billion plan to buy up distressed mortgage securities. Activity on the floor became frenetic as the "sell" orders blew in.

The Dow told the story of the market's despair. The blue chip index, dropped by hundreds of points in a matter of moments, and by the end of the day had passed by far its previous record for a one-day drop, 684.81, set in the first trading day after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

The selling was so intense that just 162 stocks rose on the NYSE — and 3,073 dropped.

It takes an incredible amount of fear to set off such an intense reaction on Wall Street, and the worry now is that with the rescue plan's fate uncertain, no one knows how the financial sector hobbled by hundreds of billions of dollars in bad mortgage bets will recover.

While investors didn't believe that the plan was a panacea, and understood that it would take months for its effects to be felt, most market watchers believed it was a start toward setting the economy right after a credit crisis that began more than a year ago and that has spread overseas.

"Clearly something needs to be done, and the market dropping 400 points in 10 minutes is telling you that," said Chris Johnson president of Johnson Research Group. "This isn't a market for the timid."

The plan's defeat came amid more reminders of how troubled the nation's financial system is — before trading began came word that Wachovia Corp., one of the biggest banks to struggle due to rising mortgage losses, was being rescued in a buyout by Citigroup Inc. It followed the recent forced sale of Merrill Lynch & Co. and the failure of three other huge banking companies — Bear Stearns Cos., Washington Mutual Inc. and Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.; all of them were felled by bad mortgage investments.

And it raised the question: Which banks are next, and how many? The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. has a list of over 110 banks that were in trouble in the second quarter, and that number surely has grown in the third.

Traders on the floor were stunned by the House vote.

"How could this have happened? Is there such a disconnect on Capitol Hill? This becomes a problem because Wall Street is very uncomfortable with uncertainty," said Gordon Charlop, managing director with Rosenblatt Securities. "The bailout not going through sends a signal that Congress isn't willing to do their part."

Wall Street is contending with all these issues against the backdrop of a credit market — where bonds and loans are bought and sold — that is barely functioning because of fears that anyone lending money will never be paid back.

The evidence of the credit markets' ills could again be found Monday in the Treasury's 3-month bill; investors were stashing money there, willing to take the tiniest of returns simply to be sure that their principal would survive in what's considered the safest investment. The yield on the 3-month bill was 0.15, down from 0.87, and approaching zero, a level reached last week when fear was also running high.

Analysts said the government needs to find a way to help restore confidence in the markets.

"It's probably fair to say that we are not going to see any significant stability in the credit markets or the stock market until we see some sort of rescue package passed," said Fred Dickson, director of retail research for D.A. Davidson & Co.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson indicated that the government would try again.

"We need to put something back together that works," Paulson said. "We need it as soon as possible."

On Wall Street, the Dow fell 777.68, or 6.98 percent, to 10,365.45. The decline also surpasses the 721.56-point intraday decline record also set during the first trading day after the terror attacks. Still, it was the 17th biggest percentage decline for the Dow and remained well below the more than 20 percent drops seen on Black Monday of October 1987 and the Depression.

Broader stock indicators also tumbled. The Standard & Poor's 500 index declined 106.85, or 8.81 percent, to 1,106.42. It was the S&P's largest-ever point drop and its biggest percentage loss since the Oct. 19, 1987, crash.

The Nasdaq composite index fell 199.61, or 9.14 percent, to 1,983.73, the third worst percentage decline for the index.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies fell 47.07, or 6.68 percent, to 657.72.

A huge drop in oil prices was another sign of the economic chaos that investors fear. Light, sweet crude fell $10.52 to settle at $96.36 on the New York Mercantile Exchange as investors feared that energy demand would continue to slide amid further economic weakness.

And gold, where investors flock when they need a relatively secure investment, rose $23.20 to $911.70 on the Nymex.

Marc Pado, U.S. market strategist at Cantor Fitzgerald, said investors are worried about the spread of troubles beyond banks in the U.S. to Europe and other markets.

"Things are dying and breaking apart," he said.

The federal Office of Thrift Supervision, one of the government's banking regulators, indicated that the market was overreacting to the House vote and that its fears about the financial system are misplaced.

"There is an irrational financial panic taking place today, and we support and applaud the continuing efforts of Secretary Paulson and congressional leadership to restore liquidity and public confidence," John Reich, Director of the federal Office of Thrift Supervision, said in a statement. "We will continue to work diligently with our institutions to ensure they operate safely and soundly, and to restore stability to the marketplace."

Spokesmen for the Treasury Department's Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Securities and Exchange Commission had no immediate comment after the House voted against the bailout package.

Lawmakers voted down a plan that was different than what the Bush administration had originally proposed. There were restrictions allowing Congress to limit how much of the money goes out the door at once. It also included caps on pay packages of top executives as well as assurances that the government also would ultimately be reimbursed by the companies for any losses. The Treasury would have been permitted to spend $250 billion to buy banks' risky assets, giving them a much-needed necessary cash infusion. There also would be another $100 billion for use at president's discretion and a final $350 billion if Congress signs off on it.

But Wall Street found further reason for worry overseas, as the fallout from U.S. economic problems kep spreading. Three European governments agreed to inject Fortis NV with a $16.4 billion bailout. Fortis, with has headquarters in Brussels, Belgium and Utrecht, Netherlands, is Belgium's largest retail bank.

The British government, meanwhile, said it is nationalizing mortgage lender Bradford & Bingley, which has a $91 billion mortgage and loan portfolio. It was the latest sign that the credit crisis has spread beyond the U.S.

The economic news in the U.S. only made matters worse. The Commerce Department said consumer spending fell in August to its lowest level in six months, while analysts expected it to edge up slightly. With consumers already uneasy and the uncertainty from the financial markets likely to spill over to the rest of the country, the outlook for spending remains bleak — and consumers are the biggest driver of economic growth.

Business Writers Joe Bel Bruno in New York and Christopher S. Rugaber in Washington contributed to this report.

Prosecution rests robbery case against O.J. Simpson

BY KEN RITTER
Associated Press Writer

LAS VEGAS The man who told a jury that O.J. Simpson asked him to bring guns and "look menacing" during a hotel room confrontation with two sports memorabilia dealers acknowledged Monday he didn't tell police that last October.

"You have a whole conversation with police and you never say 'O.J. said to bring guns?'" Simpson defense lawyer Gabriel Grasso asked the witness, Michael McClinton, during a lengthy cross-examination.

"It may have slipped my mind," McClinton responded. "But Mr. Simpson knew I had a gun. He read my concealed weapons permit."

McClinton, 50, a Las Vegas resident who worked as a security guard, was the last of four former co-defendants to testify against Simpson in the trial. After he finished two days of testimony, prosecutors rested their case against the former football star and co-defendant Clarence "C.J." Stewart.

Simpson and Stewart have pleaded not guilty to 12 criminal charges, including armed robbery and kidnapping, and could face five years to life in prison in the Sept. 13. 2007, confrontation in a Las Vegas casino hotel room. Simpson has said he only wanted to retrieve mementos of his storied career from the memorabilia dealers.

As the defense started its case, Simpson lawyer Yale Galanter called police Sgt. Rod Hunt back to the stand to describe how Simpson offered his immediate cooperation to police, including providing his personal cell phone number to a patrol officer. Hunt supervised the robbery detectives who investigated the case.

Earlier, McClinton told the jury he brought and displayed a .45-caliber handgun during the six-minute confrontation with memorabilia dealers Bruce Fromong and Alfred Beardsley and gave another gun to his friend and former co-defendant, Walter Alexander.

Simpson has claimed he saw no guns in the room. But McClinton said he had his gun drawn when he entered the room and that Simpson was close enough that their shoulders could have touched.

Grasso returned repeatedly to McClinton's failure to tell police on Oct. 15, 2007, that Simpson told him to bring weapons.

"You must've forgotten, right?" Grasso asked.

"Sometimes that happens," McClinton said.

Grasso noted that McClinton pleaded guilty to robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery in an agreement that called for him to testify against Simpson. He could get probation or up to 11 years in prison when he is sentenced after the trial. He also has surrendered his concealed weapons permit.

McClinton spent the entire morning on the witness stand while Grasso offered a defense transcript of an audio tape McClinton secretly recorded at a restaurant where he went with Simpson and others after the confrontation.

Grasso led McClinton, line-by-line, through a comparison of the defense transcript of the recording with a prosecution transcript used when McClinton was questioned by District Attorney David Roger.

McClinton acknowledged differences in the two transcripts and at one point said laughter that had been attributed to him was someone else's.

"There are numerous deletions and additions that you agreed that are not on the transcript," Grasso said after hours of replaying audio clips.

"Yes," McClinton responded.

Prosecutors had used the tape to bolster McClinton's testimony.

"This ain't no major crime," Simpson is heard saying on the tape.

AP Special Correspondent Linda Deutsch contributed to this report.

Ex-teacher gets 6 years in sex case

BY ANNA JO BRATTON
Associated Press Writer

OMAHA, Neb. A former teacher who fled to Mexico with a 13-year-old student so she could have sex with him was sentenced Monday to six years in federal prison.

Kelsey Peterson, 26, had pleaded guilty in July to a charge of transporting a minor across state lines to have sex and avoided a similar charge that would have carried a mandatory 10-year minimum sentence.

She will be credited for nearly one year she has already served and could get another year off for good behavior, said U.S. Attorney Joe Stecher.

The guilty plea doesn't mean Peterson is off the hook on state charges, which include kidnapping and first-degree sexual assault.

Her attorney, James Martin Davis, said he hoped those charges will be dropped, but Dawson County Attorney Elizabeth Waterman said she will proceed with a state case.

Peterson and her relatives and friends cried as they waved to each other across the courtroom and said, "I love you" after the hearing.

She started having sex with the boy when he was 12 years old and a student at the middle school where she taught in the south-central Nebraska town of Lexington.

Peterson's attorney, James Martin Davis, had publicly questioned the boy's birth certificate. Davis said the boy was likely at least 16, and that he was the aggressor.

Amy Peck, attorney for the boy and his family, bristled at the suggestion.

"He was a 12-year-old boy and the defendant knew it," Peck said in July, after Peterson's guilty plea.

Peterson was the boy's sixth-grade math teacher at Lexington Middle School during the 2005-06 school year, then started having sex with him in November 2006, according to court documents.

She and the boy disappeared in October, soon after the school district's superintendent confronted Peterson about allegations of an inappropriate relationship with the boy.

Peterson was arrested a week later in Mexico after the boy called his family.

The Associated Press previously named the boy as police were searching for him but stopped using his name after authorities charged Peterson with a sex crime.

The boy was an illegal immigrant at the time but has been granted humanitarian parole by the Department of Homeland Security.

Peck has said she plans to seek a visa that could put the boy and his parents on the path to citizenship.

She said there is no relationship between Peterson and the boy.

"I would fully doubt if there will be a relationship in the future," Peck said.

More foods getting labeled as U.S. or foreign-grown

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON No more wondering where your hamburger came from, or where your lettuce and tomatoes were grown: Starting this week, shoppers will see lots more foods labeled with the country of origin.

It's a law years in the making but timely, as China's milk scandal and the recent salmonella-tainted Mexican peppers prompt growing concern over the safety of imported foods.

Still, hold the import-bashing: Numerous outbreaks in recent years have come from U.S.-produced foods, like spinach grown in California.

Until now, shoppers have had little clue where many everyday foods — meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, certain nuts — originate. That's what the so-called COOL law, for country-of-origin labeling, changes.

Those who want to buy local — or who prefer, say, Chilean grapes and New Zealand lamb — can more easily exercise their purchasing power. Those worried about lax safety regulations in certain countries can avoid those imports. And the next time tomatoes are suspected of food poisoning, consumers may be able to tell investigators they bought only ones grown in a certain region, speeding the probe.

"We do see it as an important step on the road to a more comprehensive system for tracing food items" during outbreaks, says Caroline Smith DeWaal of the Center for Science in the Public Interest.

"It will be a very good thing because we'll have a lot more information," adds Jean Halloran of Consumers Union. But, "you can still be fooled by the COOL label."

How? There are bunches of exceptions. Fresh strawberries get a label but not chocolate-covered ones. Raw peanuts? Label. Roasted ones? No label. Those popular prewashed salad mixes? Sometimes.

Here are some common questions as shoppers navigate the change:

Q: What does the new law require?

A: That retailers notify customers of the country of origin — including the U.S. — of raw beef, veal, lamb, pork, chicken, goat, wild and farm-raised fish and shellfish, fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables, peanuts, pecans, macadamia nuts and whole ginseng. The aim was big agricultural commodities; ginseng was added for fear of imports masquerading as U.S.-grown.

Q: Where will I see the country of origin?

A: Anywhere it fits. The rubber band around asparagus; the plastic wrap on ground beef; the little sticker that says "Gala" on an apple. If a food isn't normally sold in any packaging — such as a bin of fresh green beans or mushrooms — then the store must post a sign.

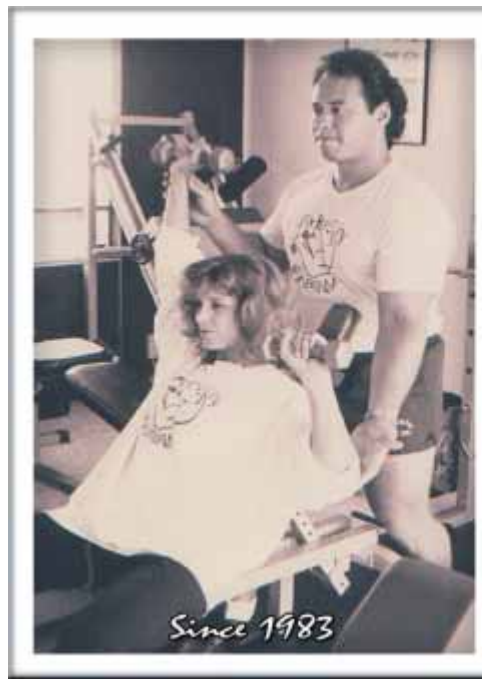
Q: Aren't many foods already labeled?

A: Some fresh produce already uses origin labeling as advertising. "Fresh from Florida" or "Jersey Grown" or "Vidalia Onion" tags don't have to be changed under the new rules; the shopper should realize they're all U.S. products.

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Community Meeting

The City of Santa Monica will present the results of the second Carob tree assessment and discuss the replacement process at a community meeting

Wednesday, October 1
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Santa Monica Public Library
MLK Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd.

Recommended replacement species for 10th and 12th Streets and Lincoln Blvd. will be presented, as well as the new timetable for the project.

Led by: Walt Warriner, Community Forester
City of Santa Monica

Cy Carlberg, Registered Consulting Arborist

Bill Spiewak, Registered Consulting Arborist

Parking in the Main Library structure is free for this public meeting. The Main Library is served by Big Blue Bus lines 1,2,3,7,8, 9 & 10 and is wheelchair-accessible. For other disability-related accommodations, please call (310) 458-8301 (TTY 917-6626) on or before September 29, 2008.

City of Santa Monica



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 67°

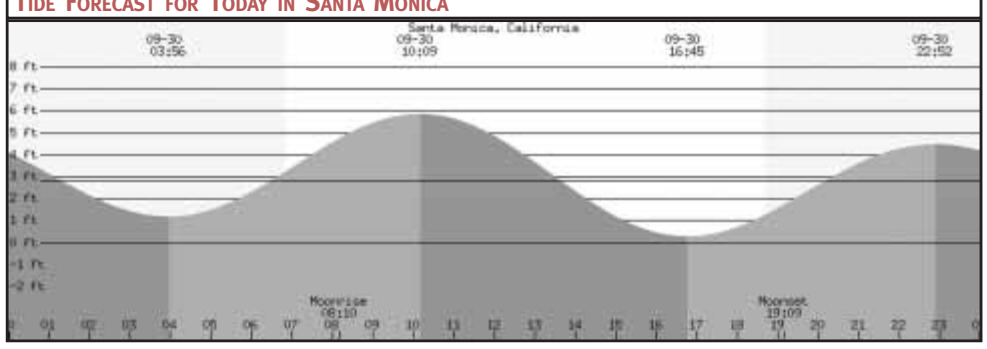
Swell Forecast (1-2 FT)

Tuesday the 30th a light swath of New Zealand swell should come up from 200 degrees to produce some waist high waves around south facing breaks, perhaps chest high from time to time at standouts.

Long Range Synopsis

Thursday the 2nd is the current ETA for some WNW swell.

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 23, 2008**

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 -- 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 -- 5 / ns

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Carrillo 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 Las Almos creeks	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth	A	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private)	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach	F	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	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily	B	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east	D	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero)	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain)	A+	ns

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	D	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain	D	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.	B	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth	D	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.

MLB

K-Rod's relief appearances more suspenseful

BY BETH HARRIS
Associated Press Writer

With two outs, runners on first and third and the Los Angeles Angels clinging to a ninth-inning lead, Francisco Rodriguez launches into his violent delivery. He falls off the side of the mound as his changeup approaches home plate.

Strike three. Ballgame over.

Rodriguez pumps his fists downward and then points both arms skyward in a V for victory.

The 26-year-old right-hander known as K-Rod did that enough times to become baseball's season saves leader with 62, five more than the old mark set by Bobby Thigpen in 1990 — but not without some heart-pounding moments for Angels fans.

Several of Rodriguez's ninth inning appearances turned suspenseful when he got himself into jams with runners in scoring position.

He blew seven saves during the regular season, including one this month against Oakland, when the tying and winning runs scored on his own throwing error.

"You're not always going to have a clean inning," Angels pitching coach Mike Butcher said. "Is it on your wish list? Yeah, it's on your wish list. But you know what? The bottom line is that when he gets guys on base, he gets out of it and gets the job done."

Rodriguez attributes his penchant for allowing runners on base more often to batters laying off pitches they used to swing at.

"They weren't chasing pitches out of the zone against me a whole lot this year," he said. "They really worked the count with me. They battle out there."

Rodriguez has heard the comments about being less than perfect every time out.

"People can say whatever they want to say. People always want to criticize," he said. "The bottom line is 62 saves."

His teammates have put him in some sticky situations, too.

Of Rodriguez's 62 saves, 23 came with one-run leads and 22 in two-run games. He went 2-3 with a 2.24 ERA in 76 games, striking out 77 and walking 34 in 68 1-3 innings.

Rodriguez was a major player in nearly two-thirds of the Angels' club-record 100 victories, and that's earned him manager Mike Scioscia's backing for the Cy Young Award, which almost always goes to a starting pitcher and is like to be won by Cleveland's Cliff Lee.

"That's a slam dunk right there. He should get an incredible amount of consideration," Scioscia said. "A reliever in Francisco's role has more to do with a team's standing than one starting pitcher does. He's influenced the outcome. That's a major impact to a team."

Rodriguez was a model of consistency from April 14 to June 11, converting 25 consecutive save opportunities to break his own club record of 22. And he was slowed by two ankle injuries in April that caused him to adjust his frenzied delivery.

His fastball slowed from its top speed of 95 mph to the low 90s, but Rodriguez improved his command and performance.

> **"PEOPLE CAN SAY WHATEVER THEY WANT TO SAY. PEOPLE ALWAYS WANT TO CRITICIZE. THE BOTTOM LINE IS 62 SAVES."**
>
> Francisco Rodriguez
> Closer Angels

"His resiliency has been tremendous this year," Butcher said. "When he goes out there, I feel like the game is over. I know he feels the same way, and the guys that are playing behind him feel the same way. So he has all of our support and I know that he is ready for the challenge. This guy is extremely strong mentally."

Rodriguez pitched three days in a row just four times this season, with Scioscia limiting him to one-inning appearances.

"That's one of the reasons that allow me to do what I'm doing right now," Rodriguez said. "I feel fresh and ready to go now for the second stage."

Rodriguez's 194 saves since the start of the 2005 season are the most in the majors. He burst into the majors as a flame-throwing 20-year-old during the Angels' run to their first and only World Series title in 2002.

Rodriguez plans to test the free agent market this winter, with the New York Mets among the likely candidates for his services — no surprise considering their bullpen miseries. He'd prefer a five-year deal and probably will command $75 million or more. He hasn't ruled out staying in Anaheim.

"I'm not thinking about it right now," he said before cutting off further questions on the matter. "Right now, I'm focusing on the playoffs. After the playoffs, I'm going to focus on spending time with my family. I already did my job. My agent has to do it."

Rather than wipe the slate clean for the playoffs that begin Wednesday night at home against the Boston Red Sox, Butcher hopes Rodriguez remembers what he's already accomplished.

"It's something to fall back on," the pitching coach said. "Gosh, if anything, it gives you a tremendous amount of confidence. I already know he has confidence, but his confidence level should be off the charts."

In Game 2 of last year's first-round series, Rodriguez gave up a winning three-run homer to Manny Ramirez in the ninth inning of Game 2. No matter how crowded the bases may get in the ninth during the playoffs, first baseman Mark Teixeira wants Rodriguez finishing off the game.

"We have incredible confidence in Frankie. He did it as a young player in 2002, so he's had the playoff experience," Teixeira said. "There's one stat, and that's saves. Frankie's got 62 this year, so that says a lot."

MOVIE TIMES

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AMC LOEWS BROADWAY 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
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Towelhead (R) 1hr 56min
2:05, 4:35, 7:20, 9:55

Vicky Cristina Barcelona (PG-13) 1hr 36min
2:30, 4:50, 7:05, 9:25

The Women (PG-13) 1hr 54min
2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

Igor (PG) 1hr 26min
2:55, 5:05, 7:10, 9:15

AMC 7 SANTA MONICA
1310 Third St.
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Lakeview Terrace (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:30

Tropic Thunder (R) 1hr 47min
2:10, 4:35, 7:10, 9:35

Miracle at St. Anna (R) 2hrs 46min
2:45, 6:15, 9:40

Righteous Kill (R) 1hr 41min
2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45

Appaloosa (R) 1hr 48min
1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55

Ghost Town (PG-13) 1hr 42min
2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:20

Burn After Reading (R) 1hr 37min
2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

LAEMMLE'S MONICA FOURPLEX
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Choke (R) 1hr 29min
1:00, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:15

The Duchess (PG-13) 1hr 45min
1:20, 2:40, 4:00, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00, 9:40

Man on Wire (PG-13) 1hr 30min
4:30, 9:50

Frozen River (R) 1hr 37min
1:40, 7:20

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Dark Knight, The (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
12:20, 3:50, 7:10, 10:20

Eagle Eye (PG-13) 1hr 58min
11:30am, 1:20, 2:20, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 10:00

My Best Friend's Girl (R) 1hr 41min
12:10, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30

Nights in Rodanthe (PG-13) 1hr 37min
12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:10

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

Capricorn, zero in

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Defer once more to others. Though events do not always happen as planned, you discover once more that nothing replaces your follow-through. Only then will a situation or project be exactly as you wish. A change might be inevitable at work or with an older parent. Tonight: Go with the flow.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Following an easy and relaxed pace works well for you. If you need to do something differently, do. Right now, not everyone is of the same opinion, but how often are they? Go with what might appear to be a harder course but one that's more worthwhile. Tonight: Listen to the other side.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Be sensitive to a child or a loved one. This person might be having a harder time than you originally thought. At the same time, gauge your risks with care. You could be overwhelmed by possibilities. Tonight: Having fun should be a pleasure.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You see life far differently as the result of someone taking a stand. You might need to slow down and rethink a personal matter. Being overwhelmed might be the byproduct of this discussion. Tonight: Easy does it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might be surprised by someone's irritation at the words you choose. Stay consistent; keep talk prevalent and updated. Discussion takes an animated turn. Tonight: Out and about, a force to be dealt with.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Use care with spending, even if a risk seems to be inevitable. You can back out and feel free to do so. Realize just how much you offer and honor what you do offer in the most positive manner possible. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You smile, and so do others. Your ability to move a situation could change because of your high energy. How you say "enough" could be radically different than norm. If you get a strange reaction or two, do not be surprised! Tonight: It's your decision. You are top dog.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Slow down and take your time. Investigate, and discover more of what might be needed. Get to the bottom of a problem now, without making a decision. Touch base with friends. Tonight: Take some personal time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Knowing what you want and knowing where you are heading and for what reason could redefine your actions. Others finally can respond in a new and dynamic manner to your concepts. Tonight: Zero in on what you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Follow from a position of leader, as you know what is happening and what needs to occur. If you get your personal wishes involved, you might not like the end result. A must appearance is likely. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

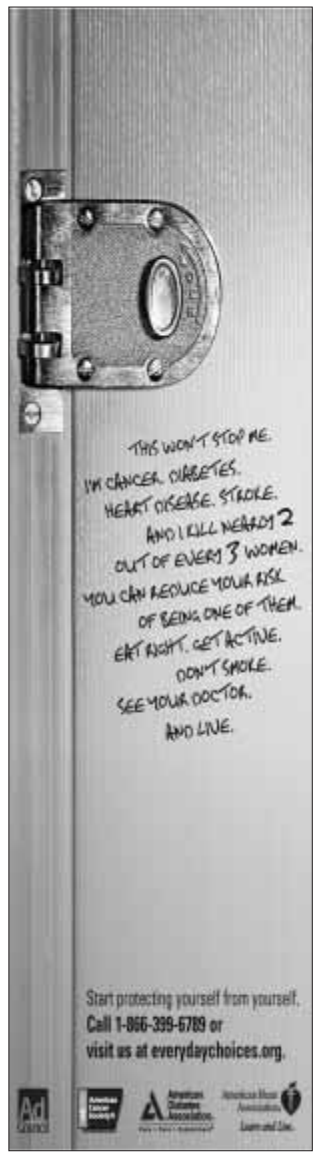
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You have possibilities coming forward. Explore your options rather than say "no." Being the fixed Aquarian does not always serve you well. Consider your options far more carefully. Find other opinions, but do rely on your own as well. Tonight: Follow music.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Work closely with a partner. You will find that as a duo you have much clout, energy and flex. Discover the power of two minds. Use these abilities more often. Know what you want or need. Tonight: A close encounter.

Happy birthday

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

You discover that much more than you could dream will happen this year. If you challenge yourself to go past the norm, then the more you know and the more you understand, the better off you will be. You could make a difference in any area of your life you so choose. Do not hesitate to get on your high horse and follow through on a key heartfelt desire or goal. If you are single, you could be delighted by what happens this winter. Are you ready to have your socks knocked off? You certainly will have the opportunity for Cupid's arrow to hit. If you are attached, you will warm up the love temperature in your nest by being slightly less me-oriented. Enjoy! LIBRA gets you fiery sometimes!



Locals are more likely to surf.

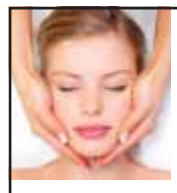
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Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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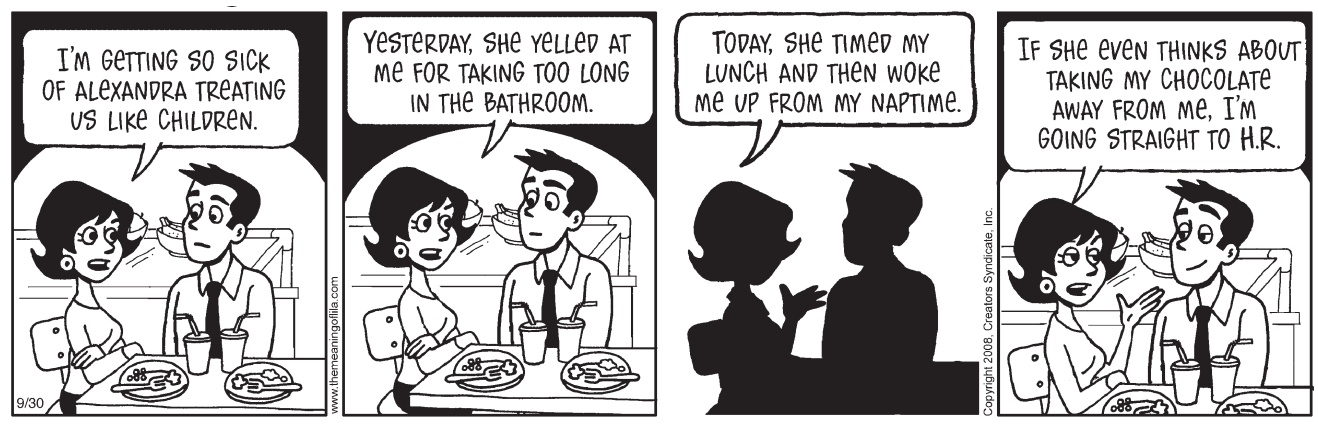
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



The Other Coast

By Adrian Raeside



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Dog eat Doug

By Brian Anderson



The Dinette Set by Julie Larson



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Chums
5 Taj —
10 Top players
12 Letter after psi
13 Truman Capote book
15 That lady
16 Squealer
17 Neckline shape
18 Catches
20 Tankard fill
21 Brief job
22 Completes
23 Rocker setting
25 Application form field
28 "Butterfield 8" writer
31 Harrow rival
32 Completely untainted
34 Court
35 Bing's frequent co-star
36 Letter before psi
37 Truman Capote book
40 Get a run
41 "— the Top"
42 Chopped down
43 Monkey's uncles

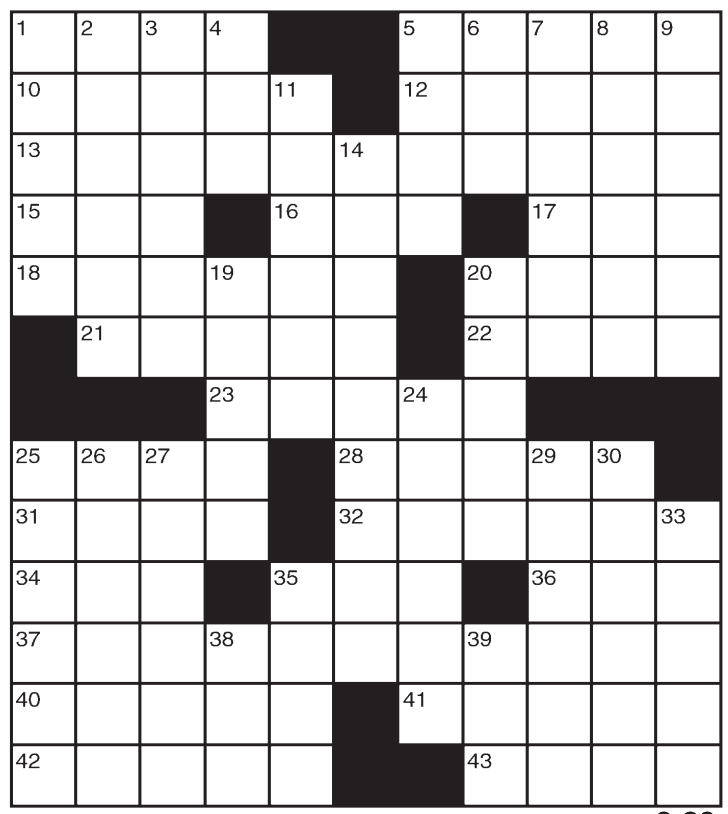
DOWN

1 Ways to go
2 Acropolis setting
3 Ogle
4 Despondent
5 Majority
6 Diplomatic rep.
7 Angel's home
8 Concurred
9 2002 NBA champs
11 Entertainer Rita
14 Snail, for one
19 Turn red, perhaps
20 Joy of TV
24 Plump
25 Somewhat original
26 Right away
27 Milk maker, to a tot
29 Get back
30 On the beach
33 Ocean motions
35 Ran, as color
38 Metal source
39 Mauna —

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

Yesterday's answer

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Fantasy 5: 1 2 4 33 37

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

DAILY DERBY:
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2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 06 Whirl Win
RACE TIME: 1.44.87

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Some dermatologists have created significant divides between their "medical" patients (acne, cancer) and their beauty-treatment patients (plastic surgery, Botox), with the latter offered luxurious waiting rooms, frequent telephone contacts and more personalization of treatment. One doctor told The New York Times in July, "You have to class it up for those patients," who pay their own way and with minimal paperwork. Besides, said another, "If you do an extreme makeover on someone, you are a hero."

■ In a July Newsweek review of "faith-based" mutual funds (whose managers invest only in companies whose work does not offend their particular spiritual values), big short-term losers included one Mennonite fund emphasizing pacifism (eschewing high-performing military and energy stocks), but big winners lately were Islamic funds. Not only do they screen out the "sin" companies (tobacco, alcohol) and sellers of pork products, but they avoid financial-services stock (based on the Quran's prohibition against borrowing or lending if interest is charged) and thus were unscathed by the initial mortgage-market meltdown.

■ Ian Brady, now age 70 and perhaps the most famous British murderer of the 20th century, complained recently that the psychiatric inmates housed with him in Ashworth Hospital still qualify for government allowances up to the equivalent of about $200 per week whereas prison transfers like him receive "only" one-fourth that amount.

■ After completing a six-year sentence for aggravated burglary in 2006, an unidentified male inmate at Peterborough prison has for two years refused to leave, for fear of being deported, and will continue to remain behind bars indefinitely, costing the government the equivalent of about $60,000 a year to house him.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1846 Boston dentist William Morton used ether as an anesthetic for the first time as he extracted an ulcerated tooth from merchant Eben Frost.

WORD UP!

verbiage \VUR-bee-ij\, *noun*:
1. An overabundance of words; wordiness.
2. Manner or style of expression; diction.

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3 + 2 Single Family Home

$2,449,000

Franklin School District

Lot Size +/- 7,500 sq ft



1030 Chelsea Avenue
Reduced $1,299,000
Traditional 3 +1.75 Home
Open Sunday
October 5th
2 - 5 pm



629 Pico Place
$1,799,000
2 + 2
Architectural Home / Art Gallery
Easy to Show,
Call for an Appointment



1135 Berkeley Street
$1,899,000
Traditional, 5 +3 Home
Open Sunday
October 5th
2 - 5 pm



1255 26th Street
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Triplex - Income Property
Main House & Two Units
Easy to Show,
Call for an Appointment



2470 Hill Street
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Easy to Show,
Call for an Appointment

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Open Tuesday



848 Lincoln Blvd Unit N
$459,000
Top Floor, Corner
1 + 1 Condo
Open Tuesday, September 30th
11 - 2 pm

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

	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$ 3,219,667	$ 5,730,000
North of Montana	$ 3,644,880	$ 2,072,265
Between Wilshire & Montana	$ 3,357,100	$ 950,248
South of Wilshire	$ 1,280,857	$ 720,915
Sunset Park	$ 1,357,964	$ 626,077

Statistics Updated Every Monday



Kate Bransfield

Estates Director
Society of Excellence
Previews Properties Specialist
310.395.1133
1608 Montana Avenue
Santa Monica, CA

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